

Citizens Review Board For Children



FIRST QUARTER
FISCAL YEAR 2017 REPORT
(July 1st 2016 – September 30th 2016)

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Our Mission Statement

To conduct case reviews of children in out-of-home care case reviews, make timely individual case and systemic child welfare recommendations; and advocate for legislative and systematic child welfare improvements to promote safety and permanency.

Our Vision Statement

We envision the protection of all children from abuse and neglect, only placing children in out-of-home care when necessary; and providing families with the help they need to stay intact; children will be safe in a permanent living arrangement.

Discrimination Statement

The Citizens Review Board for Children (CRBC) renounces any policy or practice of discrimination on the basis of race, gender, national origin, ethnicity, religion, disability, or sexual orientation that is or would be applicable to its citizen reviewers or staff or to the children, families, and employees involved in the child welfare system (CRBC, 2013).

Confidentiality

CRBC local board members are bound by strict confidentiality requirements. Under Article 88A, § 6, all records concerning out-of-home care are confidential and unauthorized disclosure is a criminal offense subject to a fine not exceeding \$500 or imprisonment not exceeding 90 days, or both. Each local board member shall be presented with the statutory language on confidentiality, including the penalty for breach thereof, and sign a confidentiality statement prior to having access to any confidential information.

CRBC Acknowledgements

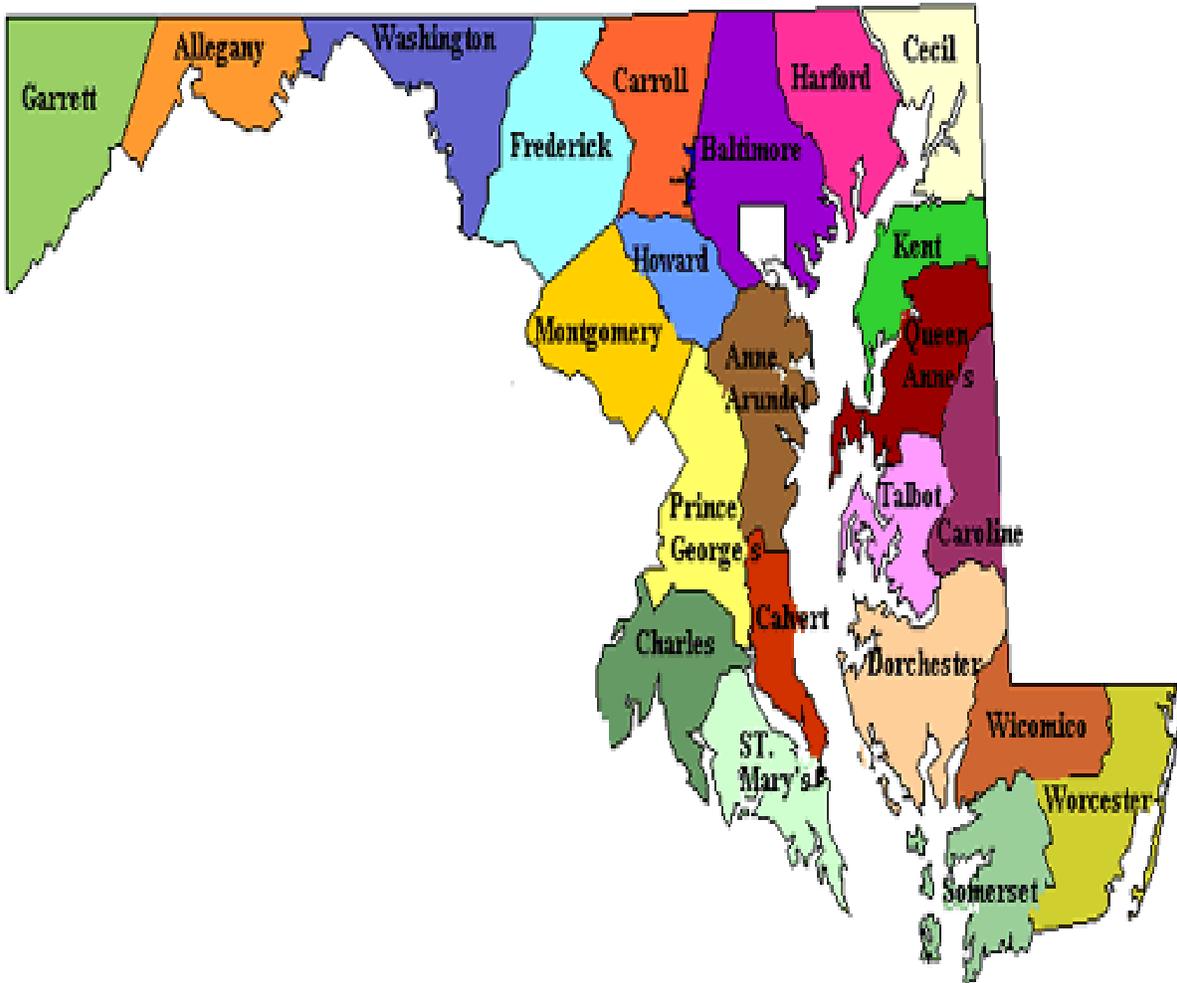
CRBC would like to acknowledge the commitment, dedication, passion and service of all stakeholders on behalf of Maryland's most vulnerable children including:

- ★ CRBC Governor Appointed Volunteers
- ★ The Department of Human Resources (DHR)
- ★ The Social Services Administration (SSA)
- ★ The Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS) and (DHHS) Montgomery County
- ★ The Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children(CPMC)
- ★ The State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (SCCAN)
- ★ The State Child Fatality Review Team (SCFRT)
- ★ The Local Juvenile Courts of Maryland
- ★ All community partners

*Thank
You*

Introduction

The following pages contain data from CRBC's out-of-home-placement case review findings, and recommendations for the 1st quarter Fiscal Year 2017.



CRBC conducts regular out-of-home placement case reviews in all 24 Maryland jurisdictions including Baltimore City throughout the year. For this quarterly report, the following counties did not have regularly scheduled case reviews during the quarter: Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Dorchester, Garrett, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot and Worcester counties. Therefore, this report only contains review findings and recommendations for the 13 counties and Baltimore City that had regularly scheduled reviews.

Targeted Review Criterion

The Social Services Administration (SSA) and the Citizens Review Board for Children (CRBC) together have created a review work plan for targeted reviews of children in out-of-home-placement. This work plan contains targeted review criteria based on out-of-home-placement permanency plans.

Reunification:

- ★ Already established plans of Reunification for youth 10 years of age and older. CRBC will conduct a review for a child 10 years of age and older who has an established primary permanency plan of Reunification, and has been in care 12 months or longer.

Adoption:

- ★ Existing plans of Adoption. CRBC will conduct a review of a child that has had a plan of Adoption for over 12 months. The purpose of the review is to assess the appropriateness of the plan and identify barriers to achieve the plan.
- ★ Newly changed plans of Adoption. CRBC will conduct a review of a child within 5 months after the establishment of Adoption as a primary permanency plan. The purpose is to ensure that there is adequate and appropriate movement by the local departments to promote and achieve the Adoption.

Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA):

- ★ Already established plans of APPLA for youth 16 years of age and younger. CRBC will conduct a full review of a child 16 years of age and younger who has an established primary permanency plan of APPLA. The primary purpose of the review is to assess appropriateness of the plan and review documentation of the Federal APPLA requirements.
- ★ Newly established plans of APPLA. CRBC will conduct a review of a child within 5 months after the establishment of APPLA as the primary permanency plan. Local Boards will review cases to ensure that local departments have made adequate and appropriate efforts to assess if a plan of APPLA was the most appropriate recourse for the child.

Older Youth Aging Out

- ★ Older youth aging-out or remaining in out-of-home care at age 17 and 20 years old. CRBC will conduct reviews of youth that are 17 and 20 years of age. The primary purpose of the review is to assess if services were provided to prepare the youth to transition to adulthood.

Re-Review Cases:

- ★ Assessment of progress made by LDSS. CRBC will conduct follow-up reviews during the fourth quarter of the current fiscal year of any cases wherein the Local Board identified barriers that may impede adequate progress. The purpose of the review is to assess the status of the child and any progress made by LDSS to determine if identified barriers have been removed.

Permanency Plan Hierarchy

In 2005, Maryland House Bill 771 adjusted the state permanency goals to align with the federal standards. The permanency plan hierarchy in Maryland is as follows: (Social Services Administration, 2012):

- Reunification with parent(s) or guardian
- Placement with a relative for adoption or custody/guardianship
- Adoption by a non-relative
- Custody/Guardianship with a non relative
- Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)

Family Centered Practice Model

According to the Social Services Administration, Family Centered Practice assures that the entire system of care engages the family in helping them to improve their ability to adequately plan for the care and safety of their children. The safety, well-being and permanence of children are paramount. The strengths of the entire family are the focus of the engagement (2010).

1st Quarter Case Review Statistics

The following table shows the jurisdictions where reviews were conducted, the total number of children reviewed, permanency plans and the number of boards held.

| Jurn # | County | Reunification | Relative Placement for Adoption | Relative Placement for C & G | Non Relative Adoption | Non Relative Custody Guardianship | APPLA | TOTAL | Boards Held |
|--------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 01 | Allegany | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 1 |
| 02 | Anne Arundel | 7 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 13 | 2 |
| 03 | Baltimore County | 26 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 11 | 45 | 6 |
| 07 | Cecil | 8 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 14 | 2 |
| 08 | Charles | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| 10 | Frederick | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 1 |
| 12 | Harford | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 8 | 22 | 3 |
| 15 | Montgomery | 17 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 15 | 37 | 6 |
| 16 | Prince Georges | 19 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 12 | 35 | 6 |
| 18 | Saint Mary's | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| 21 | Washington | 7 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 17 | 2 |
| 22 | Wicomico | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| 49 | Baltimore City | 19 | 0 | 2 | 25 | 2 | 71 | 119 | 18 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | Statewide Totals | 120 | 3 | 3 | 65 | 4 | 137 | 332 | 50 |
| | Percentages | 36% | 1% | 1% | 20% | 1% | 41% | 100% | |

CRBC conducted a total of 332 individual out-of-home case reviews (each case reviewed represents 1 child/youth) in 13 Jurisdictions on 50 boards that held reviews during the 1st quarter of fiscal 2017.

Although CRBC collects data on a number of data elements, this report will focus on the following:

- Permanency Plan - (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (E))
- Placement Plan - (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (I))
- Progress towards Permanent Placement - (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F))
- Case Planning
- Supportive Services
- Health/Mental Health (family article 5-545)
- Education (family article 5-545)

- Ready by 21
- Independent Living Skills (14 and older)
- Employment (14 and older)
- Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)
- Permanent Connections
- Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
- Pre-Adoption Services
- Post-Adoption Services
- Barriers to Permanency
- Miscellaneous Findings

Total Reviewed
(332)
Gender Totals

| Male | Female |
|-----------|-----------|
| 164 (49%) | 168 (51%) |
| | |

Gender By
Plan

Male(164):

| Reunification | Relative Placement | Adoption | Guardianship | APPLA |
|---------------|--------------------|----------|--------------|----------|
| 58 (35%) | 2 (2%) | 38 (23%) | 3 (2%) | 63 (38%) |
| | | | | |

Female(168):

| Reunification | Relative Placement | Adoption | Guardianship | APPLA |
|---------------|--------------------|----------|--------------|----------|
| 62 (37%) | 4 (2%) | 27 (16%) | 1 (1%) | 74 (44%) |
| | | | | |

Ethnicity Overall
(332)

| African American | Caucasian | Asian | Other |
|------------------|-----------|--------|--------|
| 216 (65%) | 104 (31%) | 3 (1%) | 9 (3%) |
| | | | |

Jurisdictional Case Reviews

Allegany County



Allegany County had a total of 8 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Reunification: 3 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 3 cases
- APPLA: 2 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 8 of the cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify any concurrent permanency plans.

Category of APPLA plan

The cases with a plan of APPLA (2) had the following categories of APPLA:

- Emancipation/Independence

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

A permanent connection was identified for 1 of the cases and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

| LENGTH | Reunif | Relative for Adoption | Relative for C & G | Non-Rel Adoption | Non-Rel Cust/Guad | APPLA |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 0 to 6 months | | | | 2 | | 1 |
| 7 to 11 months | | | | | | |
| 1 to 2 years | 1 | | | 1 | | |
| 2 to 3 years | | | | | | 1 |
| 3 years or more | 2 | | | | | |

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in all 8 cases reviewed.

Placement

| Number of Cases | Placement |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 3 | Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home |
| 3 | Treatment Foster Care |
| 1 | Residential Treatment Center |
| 1 | Therapeutic Group Home |

Placement Stability

In 6 of the 8 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 5 of the 8 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review and 3 of the 8 cases had at least 2 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 8 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment

- Visitation with family or referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to the children in 7 out of the 8 cases reviewed and to the birth family in 5 out of the 8 cases. Appropriate services were being offered to the foster/kin families in 1 out of the 8 cases reviewed where a child was placed in a foster home.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 out of 8 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 8 children had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 8 children had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 8 children had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that all 8 out of children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 8 of the children reviewed had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 5 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 5 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: Not applicable. None of the 8 children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable
- Behavioral Issues: None of the 8 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Not applicable.
- Mental Health Issues/Services/System: 4 children had a mental health issue.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of all 8 children were being met and none of the children had refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

6 out of the 8 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 child had already graduated high school and 1 was under the age of 5.

The local board agreed that the children enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 5 cases)

1 out of the 5 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 5 cases)

The local board agreed that 4 out of the 5 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing was specified for the 1 youth who was transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

1 out of the 8 cases reviewed had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the 8 cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

| Child's Consent to Adoption | Cases |
|---|-------|
| Yes | 1 |
| Yes, with conditions | |
| Child did not want to be Adopted | 2 |
| No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue | |
| No, Mental Health Reasons | |
| N/A under age of consent | 2 |
| No, Reunification | 3 |
| No, Relative Placement | |
| Unknown | |

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

All 3 children with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure in all 3 cases comprised of a married couple for each case.

Lengths of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows;

- 2 case(s) were from 4 to 6 months
- 1 case(s) was 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved in all 3 of the cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs in all 3 cases.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for all 3 cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in all 3 cases.

The post-adoptive service that was needed was medical in all 3 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

| Frequency | Cases |
|--|-------|
| Daily | |
| Once a week | |
| More than once a week | |
| Less than once a week, but at least twice a month | |
| Less than twice a month, but at least once a month | 8 |
| Less than once a month | |
| Quarterly | |

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Lack of Local Residential Treatment Facilities
- Youth Placed outside of home Jurisdiction

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 8 children reviewed.

Anne Arundel County



Anne Arundel County had a total of 13 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Reunification: 7 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 1 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 2 cases
- APPLA: 3 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 11 of the 13 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan in 1 case.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the court for the 1 case.

Category of APPLA plan

The cases with a plan of APPLA (3) had the following categories of APPLA:

- Emancipation/Independence

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

A permanent connection was identified for all 3 cases and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

| LENGTH | Reunif | Relative for Adoption | Relative for C & G | Non-Rel Adoption | Non-Rel Cust/Guad | APPLA |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 0 to 6 months | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 |
| 7 to 11 months | | | | 1 | | |
| 1 to 2 years | 4 | | | | | 1 |
| 2 to 3 years | 3 | | | | | 1 |
| 3 years or more | | | | | | |

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in 10 out of the 13 cases reviewed.

Placement

| Number of Cases | Placement |
|-----------------|--|
| 3 | Regular Foster Care |
| 2 | Treatment Foster Care (Private) |
| 1 | Residential Treatment Center |
| 3 | Therapeutic Group Home |
| 1 | Independent Living Residential Program |
| 3 | Other |

Placement Stability

In 9 of the 13 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 8 of the 13 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review and 5 of the 13 cases had at least 2 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 13 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family or referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to the children in all 13 cases reviewed and to the birth family in 8 out of the 13 cases. Appropriate services were being offered to the foster/kin families in 1 out of the 5 cases reviewed where a child was placed in a foster home.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 7 out of 13 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 11 children had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 11 children had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 10 children had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 8 out of 13 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 13 children reviewed had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 9 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 9 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 2 out of 13 children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: The substance abuse problem was being addressed for 1 of the 2 children.
- Behavioral Issues: 4 out of 13 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: All 4 children were having their behavioral issues addressed.
- Mental Health Issues/Services/System: 9 children had a mental health issue.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 8 children were being met, and the mental health needs of 9 children. 5 children refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

10 out of the 13 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 child was refusing to attend school and 2 children were under the age of 5.

The local board agreed that the children enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 7 cases)

2 out of the 7 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that the 2 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 7 cases)

The local board agreed that 6 out of the 7 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing was specified for the 1 youth who was transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

9 out of the 13 cases reviewed had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the 13 cases reviewed and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

| Child's Consent to Adoption | Cases |
|---|-------|
| Yes | |
| Yes, with conditions | |
| Child did not want to be Adopted | 5 |
| No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue | |
| No, Mental Health Reasons | |
| N/A under age of consent | 5 |
| No, Reunification | 2 |
| No, Relative Placement | |
| Unknown | 1 |

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Both of the children with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure in both cases comprised of a married couple for each case, and the relationship to the pre-adoptive child was 1 relative/kin and 1 non-relative.

Lengths of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows;

- 1 case(s) was from 10 to 12 months
- 1 case(s) was 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved in both cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive families to meet identified needs in both cases.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for both cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in both cases.

The post-adoptive service that was needed was medical in both of the cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

| Frequency | Cases |
|--|-------|
| Daily | |
| Once a week | |
| More than once a week | |
| Less than once a week, but at least twice a month | 3 |
| Less than twice a month, but at least once a month | 10 |
| Less than once a month | |
| Quarterly | |

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No Service Agreement with Youth
- Lack of Group Home Placements
- Annual Physical not current
- Dental not current

- Vision not current

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 12 out of the 13 children reviewed.

Baltimore County



Baltimore County had a total of 45 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Reunification: 26 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 7 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 11 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 45 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 5 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent plan set by the court for the 5 cases.

Category of APPLA plan

The cases with a plan of APPLA (11) had the following categories of APPLA:

- Emancipation/Independence

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

7 out of the 11 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for all 7 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

| LENGTH | Reunif | Relative for Adoption | Relative for C & G | Non-Rel Adoption | Non-Rel Cust/Guad | APPLA |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 0 to 6 months | 1 | | | 1 | | 1 |
| 7 to 11 months | | | | 4 | | |
| 1 to 2 years | 13 | | | | | 2 |
| 2 to 3 years | 7 | | | 2 | | 4 |
| 3 years or more | 5 | | | | 1 | 4 |

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in 43 out of the 45 cases reviewed.

Placement

| Number of Cases | Placement |
|-----------------|--|
| 3 | Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home |
| 25 | Treatment Foster Care |
| 1 | Therapeutic Group Home |
| 3 | Independent Living Residential Program |
| 4 | Residential Treatment Center |
| 1 | Teen Mother Program |
| 1 | Formal Kinship Care |
| 7 | Other |

Placement Stability

In 43 out of the 45 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 27 out of the 45 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review and 18 cases with at least 2 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in 44 out of the 45 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family or referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to the children in all 45 cases reviewed and to the birth family in 18 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 out of the 45 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 39 children had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 35 children had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 35 children had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 33 out of the 45 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 45 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 18 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 19 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: The substance abuse problem was being addressed for the 1 child.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Both children were having their behavioral issues addressed.
- Mental Health Issues/Services/System: 23 children had a mental health issue. 1 child with a mental health issue was transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the mental health care system.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of 44 out of the 45 children were being met and 5 children refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

39 out of the 45 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 5 children had graduated high school, and 1 child was refusing to attend school.

The local board agreed that the children enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 25 cases)

9 out of the 25 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. The local board agreed that all 9 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 25 cases)

The local board agreed that 23 out of the 25 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Not applicable. None of the youths were transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

14 out of the 45 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the 45 cases and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

| Child's Consent to Adoption | Cases |
|---|-------|
| Yes | 2 |
| Yes, with conditions | |
| Child did not want to be Adopted | 15 |
| No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue | 1 |
| No, Mental Health Reasons | 2 |
| N/A under age of consent | 4 |
| No, Reunification | 21 |
| No, Relative Placement | |
| Unknown | |

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

3 out of the 7 children with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was 1 case with a married couple, and 2 cases with a single male in each case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a foster parent in all 3 cases.

Lengths of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows;

- 3 case(s) from 16 to 20 months

A home study was completed and approved in all 3 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive families to meet identified needs in all 3 cases.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for all 3 cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in all 3 cases.

The post-adoptive service that was needed was medical in all cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

| Frequency | Cases |
|--|-------|
| Daily | |
| Once a week | |
| More than once a week | |
| Less than once a week, but at least twice a month | |
| Less than twice a month, but at least once a month | 45 |
| Less than once a month | |
| Quarterly | |

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No Service Agreement with Youth
- Pre Adoptive Resources not identified
- Vision not current

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 45 children reviewed.

Cecil County



Cecil County had a total of 14 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Reunification: 8 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 2 cases
- APPLA: 4 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 14 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 9 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent plan set by the court for 5 cases.

Category of APPLA plan

The cases with a plan of APPLA (4) had the following categories of APPLA:

- Emancipation/Independence

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

All 4 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for all 4 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

| LENGTH | Reunif | Relative for Adoption | Relative for C & G | Non-Rel Adoption | Non-Rel Cust/Guad | APPLA |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 0 to 6 months | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| 7 to 11 months | | | | | | |
| 1 to 2 years | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| 2 to 3 years | 5 | | | 2 | | 1 |
| 3 years or more | 1 | | | | | 1 |

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in all 14 cases reviewed.

Placement

| Number of Cases | Placement |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 5 | Regular Foster Care |
| 4 | Treatment Foster Care (Private) |
| 1 | Residential Group Home |
| 1 | Residential Treatment Center |
| 3 | Other |

Placement Stability

In 11 out of the 14 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 8 out of the 14 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review and 3 cases with at least 2 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 14 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family or referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to the children in all 14 cases reviewed, to the foster/kin family in 9 cases and to the birth family in 10 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 out of the 14 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 11 children had a current physical exam.

- Current Vision: 9 children had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 10 children had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 7 out of the 14 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 10 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 9 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 10 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: The substance abuse problem was not being addressed for the 1 child.
- Behavioral Issues: 10 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: 9 children were having their behavioral issues addressed.
- Mental Health Issues/Services/System: 7 children had a mental health issue, and an identified plan to obtain services in the mental health care system.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 12 children were being met, and the mental health needs of all 14 children. 2 children refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

11 out of the 14 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 2 children had graduated high school, and 1 child was refusing to attend school.

The local board agreed that the children enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 5 cases)

3 out of the 5 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. The local board agreed that all 3 youths were being appropriately

prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 5 cases)

The local board agreed that all 5 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had been specified for all 5 youths transitioning out of care, and the local board agreed that the housing was appropriate.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

1 case had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the 14 cases and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

| Child's Consent to Adoption | Cases |
|---|-------|
| Yes | 1 |
| Yes, with conditions | |
| Child did not want to be Adopted | 6 |
| No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue | |
| No, Mental Health Reasons | |
| N/A under age of consent | |
| No, Reunification | 5 |
| No, Relative Placement | 1 |
| Unknown | 1 |

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

1 out of the 2 children with an adoption plan was placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was a married couple, and the relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a non-relative.

Lengths of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows;

- 1 case(s) from 16 to 20 months

A home study was completed and approved in the 1 case.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs in the 1 case, and that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in both adoptive cases.

The post-adoptive service that was needed was mental health in both cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

| Frequency | Cases |
|--|-------|
| Daily | |
| Once a week | |
| More than once a week | |
| Less than once a week, but at least twice a month | |
| Less than twice a month, but at least once a month | 14 |
| Less than once a month | |
| Quarterly | |

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No Service Agreement with Youth
- No Service Agreement with Parent
- Non-Compliant with service agreement
- Not following up with referrals
- Physicals not current
- Vision not current
- Dental not current
- Youth Non-Compliant with medication
- Youth Not attending School or in GED Program
- No Current Safe-C/G
- Pre-Adoptive Resources Not Identified.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 13 out of the 14 children reviewed.

Charles County



Charles County had a total of 5 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Reunification: 2 cases
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 3 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 5 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 1 case.

The local department was implementing the concurrent plan set by the court.

Category of APPLA plan

Not Applicable

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

Not Applicable

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

| LENGTH | Reunif | Relative for Adoption | Relative for C & G | Non-Rel Adoption | Non-Rel Cust/Guad | APPLA |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 0 to 6 months | 1 | | | | | |
| 7 to 11 months | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| 1 to 2 years | | 2 | | | | |
| 2 to 3 years | | | | | | |
| 3 years or more | | | | | | |

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in all 5 cases reviewed.

Placement

| Number of Cases | Placement |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Pre-Finalized Adoption |
| 4 | Treatment Foster Care |

Placement Stability

In all 5 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 2 out of the 5 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review and 3 cases with at least 2 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 5 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family or referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to the children in all 5 cases reviewed, and to the birth family in 3 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 5 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 5 children had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 4 children had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 4 children had a current dental exam.

- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 4 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 5 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 1 child was taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child was taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: None of children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not Applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: None of children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Not Applicable.
- Mental Health Issues/Services/System: 1 child had a mental health issue , was transitioning out of care and had no identified plan to obtain services in the mental health care system.

The local board agreed that the health needs of all 5 children and mental health needs of the 1 child were being met and none of children refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

2 out of the 5 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program, and the other 3 were under age 5.

The local board agreed that the children enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 1 case)

None of the youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 1 case)

The local board agreed that the 1 child/youth was receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Not applicable, youth was not transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the 5 cases and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

| Child's Consent to Adoption | Cases |
|---|-------|
| Yes | 1 |
| Yes, with conditions | |
| Child did not want to be Adopted | |
| No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue | |
| No, Mental Health Reasons | |
| N/A under age of consent | 3 |
| No, Reunification | 1 |
| No, Relative Placement | |
| Unknown | |

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

1 out of the 3 children with a plan of relative placement for adoption was placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was a single female and the relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a relative/kin.

Lengths of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows;

- 1 case(s) from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved in the 1 case.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs in the 1 case, and that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in 2 out of the 3 cases.
The post-adoptive service that was needed was medical.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

| Frequency | Cases |
|--|-------|
| Daily | |
| Once a week | |
| More than once a week | |
| Less than once a week, but at least twice a month | |
| Less than twice a month, but at least once a month | 5 |
| Less than once a month | |
| Quarterly | |

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- TPR not granted
- Legal representation for child
- Pre-Adoptive Resources Not Identified.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 5 children reviewed.

Frederick County



Frederick County had a total of 8 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Reunification: 1 case
- Non Relative Adoption: 6 cases
- APPLA: 1 case

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 8 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 1 case.

The local department was implementing the concurrent plan set by the court for the 1 case.

Category of APPLA plan

The cases with a plan of APPLA (1) had the following categories of APPLA:

- Emancipation/Independence

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

The 1 APPLA case had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the case.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

| LENGTH | Reunif | Relative for Adoption | Relative for C & G | Non-Rel Adoption | Non-Rel Cust/Guad | APPLA |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 0 to 6 months | | | | 2 | | |
| 7 to 11 months | 1 | | | | | |
| 1 to 2 years | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 to 3 years | | | | 2 | | |
| 3 years or more | | | | 2 | | |

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in all 8 cases reviewed.

Placement

| Number of Cases | Placement |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 4 | Regular Foster Care |
| 3 | Treatment Foster Care (Private) |
| 1 | Therapeutic Group Home |

Placement Stability

In 4 out of the 8 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 2 out of the 8 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review and 5 cases with at least 2 placement changes, and 1 case with 4 or more changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 8 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family or referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to the children in all 8 cases reviewed, to the foster/kin family in 7 cases and to the birth family in 7 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 5 out of the 8 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 8 children had received a current physical exam.

- Current Vision: 8 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 8 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that all 8 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 8 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 6 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 6 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: 7 children who were not transitioning out of care had a mental health issue.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 1 child had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Behavioral issues were being addressed for the 1 child.
- Mental Health Issues/Services/System: 7 children had a mental health issue.

The local board agreed that the health needs of all 8 children and the mental health needs of the 7 children were being met and none of children refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

All 8 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program.

The local board agreed that the children enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

1 out of the 4 youths was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. The local board agreed that the 1 youth was being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

The local board agreed that all 4 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Not applicable. None of the youths were transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

7 out of the 8 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the 8 cases and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

| Child's Consent to Adoption | Cases |
|---|-------|
| Yes | 5 |
| Yes, with conditions | |
| Child did not want to be Adopted | 1 |
| No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue | |
| No, Mental Health Reasons | 1 |
| N/A under age of consent | 1 |
| No, Reunification | |
| No, Relative Placement | |
| Unknown | |

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

4 out of the 6 children with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was a married couple for all 4 cases, and the relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a foster parent in all 4 cases.

Lengths of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows;

- 4 case(s) from 1 to 3 months

A home study was completed and approved in all 4 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs in all 4 cases, and that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in all 6 adoption cases.

The post-adoptive services that were needed were medical in 2 cases, mental health in 1 case, educational in 2 cases and respite in 1 case.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

| Frequency | Cases |
|--|-------|
| Daily | |
| Once a week | |
| More than once a week | |
| Less than once a week, but at least twice a month | |
| Less than twice a month, but at least once a month | 8 |
| Less than once a month | |
| Quarterly | |

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified: None.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 8 of the children reviewed.

Harford County



Harford County had a total of 22 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Reunification: 7 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 7 cases
- APPLA: 8 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 19 out of 22 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 2 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent plan set by the court for both cases.

Category of APPLA plan

The cases with a plan of APPLA (8) had the following categories of APPLA:

- [6] Emancipation/Independence
- [2] Placement in Long-Term Care Facility until transition into an adult facility

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

All 8 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for all the cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

| LENGTH | Reunif | Relative for Adoption | Relative for C & G | Non-Rel Adoption | Non-Rel Cust/Guad | APPLA |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 0 to 6 months | | | | | | 1 |
| 7 to 11 months | | | | 1 | | |
| 1 to 2 years | 5 | | | 1 | | 4 |
| 2 to 3 years | 2 | | | 1 | | 1 |
| 3 years or more | | | | 4 | | 2 |

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in 21 out of the 22 cases reviewed.

Placement

| Number of Cases | Placement |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 6 | Regular Foster Care |
| 6 | Treatment Foster Care (Private) |
| 1 | Therapeutic Group Home |
| 1 | Residential Group Home |
| 2 | Residential Treatment Center |
| 2 | Non-Relative |
| 1 | Own Dwelling |
| 3 | Other |

Placement Stability

In 15 out of the 22 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 16 out of the 22 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 5 cases with at least 2 placement changes, and 1 case with 3 changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 22 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family or referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to the children in all 22 cases reviewed, to the foster/kin family in 14 cases and to the birth family in 12 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 5 out of the 22 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 18 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 13 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 17 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 13 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that 18 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 15 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 15 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 2 children had a substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Substance abuse problems were being addressed for both children.
- Behavioral Issues: 16 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Behavioral issues were being addressed for all 16 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Services/System: 10 children had a mental health issue. 9 children with a mental health issue were transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the mental health care system.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of 21 children were being met and 7 children refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

16 out of 22 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 2 children had graduated high school, 3 refused to attend school, and 1 was under age 5.

The local board agreed that the children enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 13 cases)

3 out of the 13 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. The local board agreed that the 3 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 13 cases)

The local board agreed that 8 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had been specified for 7 youths transitioning out of care, and the local board agreed that the housing was appropriate.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

9 out of the 22 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the 22 cases and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

| Child's Consent to Adoption | Cases |
|---|-------|
| Yes | 5 |
| Yes, with conditions | |
| Child did not want to be Adopted | 12 |
| No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue | 1 |
| No, Mental Health Reasons | |
| N/A under age of consent | 2 |
| No, Reunification | 2 |
| No, Relative Placement | |

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

5 out of the 7 children with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was a married couple for all 5 cases, and the relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a foster parent in 1 case, and non-relatives in 4 cases.

Lengths of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows;

- 1 case(s) from 1 to 3 months
- 1 case(s) from 16 to 20 months
- 3 case(s) from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved in 4 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs in all 5 cases, and that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in 4 out of the 7 adoption cases.

The post-adoptive services that were needed were medical in 2 cases, mental health in 1 case, and educational in 1 case.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

| Frequency | Cases |
|--|-------|
| Daily | |
| Once a week | |
| More than once a week | |
| Less than once a week, but at least twice a month | |
| Less than twice a month, but at least once a month | 21 |
| Less than once a month | |
| Quarterly | |
| Undocumented | 1 |

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified.

- No Service Agreement With Parents.
- No Service Agreement With Child.
- Other Service Resource Barrier.
- Pre-Adoptive Resources Not Identified.

- No Service Agreement With Parents.
- No Service Agreement With Youth.
- Need For Sibling To Be Placed Together.
- Non-Compliant With Service Agreement.
- Appeal By Birth Parents.
- Child In Pre-Adoptive Home, But Adoption Not Finalized.
- Other Family Related Barrier.
- Youth Not Attending School Or In Ged Program.
- Other Education Barrier.
- Board Does Not Agree With Current Permanency Plan.
- Annual Physicals Not Current.
- Dentals Not Current.
- Vision Not Current.
- No Follow Up On Medical Referrals.
- Other Physical Health Barrier.
- Inadequate Preparation For Independence (General).
- Other Independence Barrier.
- Youth Needs More Restrictive Placement.
- Other Placement Barrier.
- Youth Refuses Mental Health Treatment Including Therapy.
- Other Mental Health Barrier.
- No Current Safe-C/G.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 21 out of the 22 children reviewed.

Montgomery County



Montgomery County had a total of 37 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Reunification: 17 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 5 cases
- APPLA: 15 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 36 out of 37 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 2 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent plan set by the court for both cases.

Category of APPLA plan

The cases with a plan of APPLA (15) had the following categories of APPLA:

- [10] Emancipation/Independence
- [05] Placement in Long-Term Care Facility until transition into an adult facility

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

All 15 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for all the cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

| LENGTH | Reunif | Relative for Adoption | Relative for C & G | Non-Rel Adoption | Non-Rel Cust/Guad | APPLA |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 0 to 6 months | 3 | | | 4 | | 3 |
| 7 to 11 months | 1 | | | | | 2 |
| 1 to 2 years | 7 | | | 1 | | 1 |
| 2 to 3 years | 4 | | | | | 4 |
| 3 years or more | 2 | | | | | 5 |

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in 34 out of the 37 cases reviewed.

Placement

| Number of Cases | Placement |
|-----------------|--|
| 5 | Regular Foster Care |
| 1 | Restricted Relative Foster Care |
| 16 | Treatment Foster Care (Private) |
| 4 | Therapeutic Group Home |
| 2 | Independent Living Residential Program |
| 2 | Residential Treatment Center |
| 2 | Own Dwelling |
| 5 | Other |

Placement Stability

In 23 out of the 37 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 25 out of the 37 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 10 cases with at least 2 placement changes, and 2 cases with 3 changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in 36 out of the 37 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family or referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to 36 of the children reviewed, to the foster/kin family in 8 cases and to the birth family in 15 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 11 out of the 37 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 31 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 31 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 27 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 25 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 37 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 14 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 11 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 4 children had a substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Substance abuse problems were being addressed for 1 Child.
- Behavioral Issues: 17 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Behavioral issues were being addressed for 15 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Services/System: 19 children had a mental health issue. 2 children with a mental health issue were transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the mental health care system, and 4 children transitioning out of care did not have a plan.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 28 children and the mental health needs of 25 children were being met, and 16 children refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

30 out of 37 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 5 children had graduated high school, 1 refused to attend school, and 1 was under age 5.

The local board agreed that the children enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 24 cases)

9 out of the 24 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. The local board agreed that the 9 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 24 cases)

The local board agreed that 18 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had been specified for 2 youths transitioning out of care, and the local board agreed that the housing was appropriate.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

23 out of the 37 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There was 1 case with indicators of risk and all safety protocols were followed in all 37 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

| Child's Consent to Adoption | Cases |
|---|-------|
| Yes | 2 |
| Yes, with conditions | 2 |
| Child did not want to be Adopted | 15 |
| No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue | 2 |
| No, Mental Health Reasons | 2 |
| N/A under age of consent | 5 |
| No, Reunification | |
| No, Relative Placement | 1 |
| Unknown | 6 |

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

5 out of the 5 children with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was a married couple for 3 cases, and a single female for each of the other 2 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a foster parent in 4 cases, and a former foster parent in 1 case.

Lengths of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows;

- 1 case(s) from 4 to 6 months
- 4 case(s) from 12 to 15 months

A home study was completed and approved in all 5 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs in all 5 cases, and that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in all 5 adoption cases.

The post-adoptive services that were needed were medical and mental health.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

| Frequency | Cases |
|--|-------|
| Daily | |
| Once a week | 1 |
| More than once a week | |
| Less than once a week, but at least twice a month | 5 |
| Less than twice a month, but at least once a month | 30 |
| Less than once a month | |
| Quarterly | 1 |
| Undocumented | |

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified.

- No Service Agreement With Child.
- Other Policy Barrier.
- Other Legal Barrier.
- No Service Agreement With Parents.
- No Service Agreement With Youth.
- Youth Placed Outside Home Jurisdiction.

- Appeal By Birth Parents.
- Pre-Adoptive Family Cannot Decide To Adopt.
- Other Family Related Barrier.
- Board Does Not Agree With Current Permanency Plan.
- Annual Physicals Not Current.
- Dentals Not Current.
- Vision Not Current.
- No Follow Up On Medical Referrals.
- Transitional Housing Has Not Been Specified.
- Inadequate Preparation For Independence (General).
- Youth Not Employed And Transitioning Out Of Care.
- Other Independence.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 36 out of the 37 children reviewed.

**Prince George's
County**



Prince George's County had a total of 35 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Reunification: 19 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 3 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 12 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 33 out of 35 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 6 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent plan set by the court in 5 cases.

Category of APPLA plan

The cases with a plan of APPLA (12) had the following categories of APPLA:

- [11] Emancipation/Independence
- [01] Long-Term Out of Home Care with a Non-Relative

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

9 of the 12 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for all the cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

| LENGTH | Reunif | Relative for Adoption | Relative for C & G | Non-Rel Adoption | Non-Rel Cust/Guad | APPLA |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 0 to 6 months | 6 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 7 to 11 months | | | | 1 | | |
| 1 to 2 years | 4 | | | 1 | | 2 |
| 2 to 3 years | 4 | | | | | 5 |
| 3 years or more | 5 | | | | | 4 |

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in 31 out of the 35 cases reviewed.

Placement

| Number of Cases | Placement |
|-----------------|--|
| 1 | Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home |
| 12 | Treatment Foster Care |
| 4 | Treatment Foster Care (Private) |
| 1 | Teen Mother Program |
| 2 | Therapeutic Group Home |
| 2 | Independent Living Residential Program |
| 4 | Residential Treatment Center |
| 3 | Relative |
| 6 | Other |

Placement Stability

In 25 out of the 35 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 21 out of the 35 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 13 cases with at least 2 placement changes, and 1 case with 4 or more changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in 34 out of the 35 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family or referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to 32 of the children reviewed, and to the birth family in 12 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 8 out of the 35 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 29 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 28 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 28 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 26 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 35 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 15 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 16 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 5 children had a substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Substance abuse problems were being addressed for 3 children.
- Behavioral Issues: 8 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Behavioral issues were being addressed for 6 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Services/System: 23 children had a mental health issue. 1 child with a mental health issue was transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the mental health care system.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of 34 children were being met and 1 child refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

28 out of 35 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 4 children had graduated high school, and 3 refused to attend school.

The local board agreed that the children enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 25 cases)

9 out of the 25 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. The local board agreed that the 9 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 25 cases)

The local board agreed that 20 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had been specified for 1 youth transitioning out of care, and the local board agreed that the housing was appropriate.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

11 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were 4 cases with indicators of risk and 32 cases where all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

| Child's Consent to Adoption | Cases |
|---|-------|
| Yes | |
| Yes, with conditions | |
| Child did not want to be Adopted | 16 |
| No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue | 1 |
| No, Mental Health Reasons | 2 |
| N/A under age of consent | 2 |
| No, Reunification | 10 |
| No, Relative Placement | |
| Unknown | 4 |

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

1 out of the 3 children with an adoption plan was placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was a single female for the 1 case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a foster parent in the 1 case.

Lengths of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows;

- 1 case(s) from 12 to 15 months

A home study was completed and approved in the 1 case.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs in the 1 case, and that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in all 3 adoption cases.

The post-adoptive services that were needed were medical and mental health.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

| Frequency | Cases |
|--|-------|
| Daily | |
| Once a week | |
| More than once a week | |
| Less than once a week, but at least twice a month | |
| Less than twice a month, but at least once a month | 35 |
| Less than once a month | |
| Quarterly | |
| Undocumented | |

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified.

- No Service Agreement With Parents.
- No Service Agreement With Youth.
- Youth Placed Outside Home Jurisdiction.
- TPR Not Granted.
- Pre-Adoptive Resources Not Identified.
- Other Child/Youth Related Barrier.
- Annual Physicals Not Current.

- Dentals Not Current.
- Vision Not Current.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 32 out of the 35 children reviewed.

Saint Mary's County



St. Mary's County had a total of 5 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Reunification: 3 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 2 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 5 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 1 case.

The local department was not implementing the concurrent plan set by the court instead was pursuing reunification for 1 of the adoption cases.

Category of APPLA plan

Not Applicable

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

Not Applicable

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

| LENGTH | Reunif | Relative for Adoption | Relative for C & G | Non-Rel Adoption | Non-Rel Cust/Guad | APPLA |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 0 to 6 months | 1 | | | | | |
| 7 to 11 months | | | | | | |
| 1 to 2 years | 1 | | | | | |
| 2 to 3 years | | | | | | |
| 3 years or more | 1 | | | 2 | | |

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in 2 out of the 5 cases reviewed.

Placement

| Number of Cases | Placement |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 3 | Treatment Foster Care |
| 1 | Treatment Foster Care (Private) |
| 1 | Other |

Placement Stability

In 2 out of the 5 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 3 out of the 5 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, and 2 cases with at least 2 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 5 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family or referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to all 5 children reviewed, and to the birth family in 2 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 out of the 5 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 4 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 3 children had received a current vision exam.

- Current Dental: 3 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 3 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 5 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 1 child was taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: None of the 5 children had a substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Behavioral issues were being addressed for 1 child.
- Mental Health Issues/Services/System: 3 children had a mental health issue.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of 4 children were being met and 1 child refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

4 out of 5 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program, and 1 child refused to attend school.

The local board agreed that the children enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 2 cases)
None of the children were employed.
- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 2 cases)
The local board agreed that 1 youth was receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.
- Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)
None of the youths were transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 5 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no cases with indicators of risk and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

| Child's Consent to Adoption | Cases |
|---|-------|
| Yes | |
| Yes, with conditions | 2 |
| Child did not want to be Adopted | 1 |
| No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue | |
| No, Mental Health Reasons | |
| N/A under age of consent | 1 |
| No, Reunification | 1 |
| No, Relative Placement | |
| Unknown | |

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Neither of the 2 children with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

| Frequency | Cases |
|--|-------|
| Daily | |
| Once a week | |
| More than once a week | |
| Less than once a week, but at least twice a month | |
| Less than twice a month, but at least once a month | 5 |
| Less than once a month | |

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified.

- Pre-Adoptive Resources Not Identified.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 4 out of the 5 children reviewed.

Washington County



Washington County had a total of 17 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Reunification: 7 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 3 cases
- APPLA: 7 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 17 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 5 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent plan set by the court in the 5 cases.

Category of APPLA plan

The cases with a plan of APPLA (7) had the following categories of APPLA:

- [06] Emancipation/Independence
- [01] Long-Term Out of Home Placement with a Specified Relative

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

2 out of the 7 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for both cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

| LENGTH | Reunif | Relative for Adoption | Relative for C & G | Non-Rel Adoption | Non-Rel Cust/Guad | APPLA |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 0 to 6 months | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| 7 to 11 months | | | | | | |
| 1 to 2 years | 5 | | | 2 | | 3 |
| 2 to 3 years | 1 | | | | | 2 |
| 3 years or more | 1 | | | | | 1 |

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in 15 out of the 17 cases reviewed.

Placement

| Number of Cases | Placement |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 5 | Formal Kinship Care |
| 1 | Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home |
| 2 | Treatment Foster Care |
| 2 | Treatment Foster Care (Private) |
| 1 | Therapeutic Group Home |
| 1 | Residential Treatment Center |
| 3 | Own Dwelling |
| 2 | Other |

Placement Stability

In 11 out of the 17 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 13 out of the 17 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, and 4 cases with at least 2 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 17 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family or referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to 15 of the children reviewed, and to the birth family in 7 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 out of the 17 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 14 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 12 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: The local department reported that 10 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 9 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 17 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 8 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 8 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 2 children had substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Substance abuse problems were being addressed for 1 child.
- Behavioral Issues: 1 child had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Behavioral issues was not being addressed for the 1 child.
- Mental Health Issues/Services/System: 3 children had a mental health issue. 1 child with a mental health issue was transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the mental health care system.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of 16 children were being met and 3 children refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

9 out of 17 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 5 children had graduated high school, 2 refused to attend school, and 1 child was under age 5.

The local board agreed that the children enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 10 cases)

3 out of the 10 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. The local board agreed that the 3 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 10 cases)

The local board agreed that 8 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Not applicable. None of the youths were transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

3 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no cases with indicators of risk and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

| Child's Consent to Adoption | Cases |
|---|-------|
| Yes | |
| Yes, with conditions | |
| Child did not want to be Adopted | 8 |
| No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue | |
| No, Mental Health Reasons | |
| N/A under age of consent | 1 |
| No, Reunification | 7 |
| No, Relative Placement | |
| Unknown | 1 |

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

1 out of the 3 children with an adoption plan was placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was a married couple for the 1 case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a foster parent in the 1 case.

Lengths of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows;

- 1 case(s) from 12 to 15 months

A home study was completed and approved in the 1 case.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs in the 1 case, and that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in all 3 adoption cases. The post-adoptive services that were needed were medical and educational.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

| Frequency | Cases |
|--|-------|
| Daily | |
| Once a week | |
| More than once a week | |
| Less than once a week, but at least twice a month | |
| Less than twice a month, but at least once a month | 17 |
| Less than once a month | |
| Quarterly | |
| Undocumented | |

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified.

- Pre-Adoptive Resources Not Identified.
- Annual Physicals Not Current.
- Dentals Not Current.
- Vision Not Current.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 17 children reviewed.

Wicomico County



Wicomico County had a total of 4 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Reunification: 1 case
- APPLA: 3 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 4 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any cases.

Category of APPLA plan

The cases with a plan of APPLA (3) had the following categories of APPLA:

- [3] Emancipation/Independence

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

All 3 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for all the cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

| LENGTH | Reunif | Relative for Adoption | Relative for C & G | Non-Rel Adoption | Non-Rel Cust/Guad | APPLA |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 0 to 6 months | | | | | | |
| 7 to 11 months | | | | | | |
| 1 to 2 years | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| 2 to 3 years | | | | | | 1 |
| 3 years or more | | | | | | 1 |

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in all 4 cases reviewed.

Placement

| Number of Cases | Placement |
|-----------------|--|
| 2 | Treatment Foster Care (Private) |
| 1 | Independent Living Residential Program |
| 1 | Relative |

Placement Stability

None of the 4 cases reviewed were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

None of the 4 cases reviewed had at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review. 1 case had at least 2 placement changes, and 3 cases had 4 or more changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 4 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family or referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to all 4 children reviewed, to the foster/kin family in 3 cases, and to the birth family in 1 case.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 4 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 4 children had received a current physical exam.

- Current Vision: 3 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: The local department reported that 3 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 3 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 4 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 1 child was taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child was taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: The substance abuse problem was being addressed for the 1 child.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Behavioral issues were being addressed for both children.
- Mental Health Issues/Services/System: 3 children had a mental health issue. 1 child with a mental health issue was transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the mental health care system.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of all 4 children were being met and 2 children refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

1 out of 4 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 2 children had graduated high school, and 1 refused to attend school.

The local board agreed that the children enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

1 out of the 4 youths was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. The local board agreed that the 1 youth was being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

The local board agreed that the 4 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had been specified for 2 youths transitioning out of care, and the local board agreed that the housing was appropriate.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no cases with indicators of risk and all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

| Child's Consent to Adoption | Cases |
|---|-------|
| Yes | |
| Yes, with conditions | |
| Child did not want to be Adopted | 4 |
| No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue | |
| No, Mental Health Reasons | |
| N/A under age of consent | |
| No, Reunification | |
| No, Relative Placement | |
| Unknown | |

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not applicable, no adoption cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not applicable, no adoption cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

| Frequency | Cases |
|--|-------|
| Daily | |
| Once a week | |
| More than once a week | |
| Less than once a week, but at least twice a month | 1 |
| Less than twice a month, but at least once a month | 3 |
| Less than once a month | |
| Quarterly | |
| Undocumented | |

Barriers to Permanency

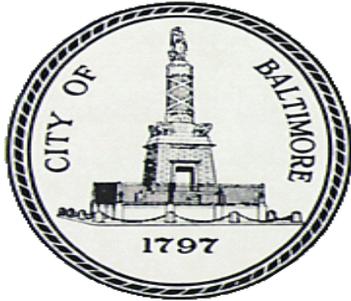
The following barriers/issues were identified.

- Issues Related to Substance Abuse.
- Other Child/Youth Related Barrier.
- Youth Not Attending School or in GED Program.
- Youth Engages in Risky Behavior.
- Other Educational Barrier.
- Dentals Not Current.
- Vision Not Current.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 4 children reviewed.

Baltimore City



Baltimore City had a total of 119 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Reunification: 19 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 2 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 25 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 2 cases
- APPLA: 71 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 108 out of 119 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 4 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent plan set by the court in 3 of the 4 cases.

Category of APPLA plan

The cases with a plan of APPLA (71) had the following categories of APPLA:

- [65] Emancipation/Independence
- [03] Long-Term Out of Home Care with a Non-Relative
- [03] Placement in Long-Term Care Facility until Transition into an Adult Facility.

Permanent Connections (APPLA)

67 of the 71 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for all 67 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

| LENGTH | Reunif | Relative for Adoption | Relative for C & G | Non-Rel Adoption | Non-Rel Cust/Guad | APPLA |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 0 to 6 months | 2 | | 1 | 12 | 2 | 12 |
| 7 to 11 months | | | | 2 | | 8 |
| 1 to 2 years | 5 | | | 5 | | 17 |
| 2 to 3 years | 8 | | 1 | | | 15 |
| 3 years or more | 4 | | | | | 19 |

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in 78 out of the 119 cases reviewed.

Placement

| Number of Cases | Placement |
|-----------------|--|
| 1 | Intermediate Foster Care |
| 5 | Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home |
| 11 | Regular Foster Care |
| 7 | Restricted Foster Care (Relative) |
| 8 | Treatment Foster Care |
| 36 | Treatment Foster Care (Private) |
| 1 | Emergency Group Shelter Care |
| 1 | Residential Group Home |
| 3 | Teen Mother Program |
| 10 | Therapeutic Group Home |
| 20 | Independent Living Residential Program |
| 1 | Relative |
| 2 | Non-Relative |
| 6 | Own Dwelling |
| 7 | Other |

Placement Stability

In 80 out of the 119 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 76 out of the 119 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 26 cases with at least 2 placement changes, 3 cases with at least 3 placement changes, and 4 cases with 4 or more changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in 111 out of the 119 cases reviewed.

Supportive Services

The local board looked at services offered to the child, the birth family and the foster/kin family in the following areas:

- Housing
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Employment
- Special needs
- Substance abuse treatment
- Visitation with family or referrals to needed resources

The local board agreed that appropriate services were being offered to 118 of the children reviewed, to the foster/kin family in 40 cases, and to the birth family in 32 cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 28 out of the 119 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 71 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 50 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 57 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 39 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that 103 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 46 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 38 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 14 children had a substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Substance abuse problems were being addressed for 4 children.
- Behavioral Issues: 42 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Behavioral issues were being addressed for 35 children.

- Mental Health Issues/Services/System: 47 children had a mental health issue. 12 children with a mental health issue were transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the mental health care system, and 10 children transitioning out of care did not have a plan.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 71 children and mental health needs of 69 children were being met and 30 children refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

63 out of 119 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 30 children had graduated high school, 10 refused to attend school, and 16 were under age 5.

The local board agreed that the children enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 91 cases)

36 out of the 91 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. The local board agreed that the 36 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 91 cases)

The local board agreed that 57 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had been specified for 25 youths transitioning out of care, and the local board agreed that the housing was appropriate.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

3 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were 11 cases with indicators of risk and 100 cases where all safety protocols were followed.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

| Child's Consent to Adoption | Cases |
|---|-------|
| Yes | 7 |
| Yes, with conditions | 8 |
| Child did not want to be Adopted | 66 |
| No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue | 4 |
| No, Mental Health Reasons | 4 |
| N/A under age of consent | 20 |
| No, Reunification | 3 |
| No, Relative Placement | 3 |
| Unknown | 4 |

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

25 out of the 25 children with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home.

The pre-adoptive family structure was a married couple for 12 cases, an unmarried couple for 2 cases, a single female for 9 cases, and a single male for 2 cases.

The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a foster parent in 11 cases, a relative/kin in 3 cases, and a non-relative in 9 cases.

Lengths of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows;

- 1 case(s) from 1 to 3 months
- 1 case(s) from 4 to 6 months
- 8 case(s) from 12 to 15 months
- 2 case(s) from 16 to 20 months
- 13 case(s) from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved in 19 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs in all 25 cases, and that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in all 25 adoption cases. The post-adoptive services that were needed were medical, mental health and special needs.

Miscellaneous Findings

Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

| Frequency | Cases |
|--|-------|
| Daily | 3 |
| Once a week | |
| More than once a week | 3 |
| Less than once a week, but at least twice a month | 11 |
| Less than twice a month, but at least once a month | 98 |
| Less than once a month | 4 |
| Quarterly | |
| Undocumented | |

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified.

- No Service Agreement With Parents.
- No Service Agreement With Child.
- Other Planning Barrier.
- Other Service Resource Barrier.
- No Service Agreement With Parents.
- No Service Agreement With Youth.
- Need For Sibling To Be Placed Together.
- Non-Compliant With Service Agreement.
- Appeal By Birth Parents.
- Child In Pre-Adoptive Home, But Adoption Not Finalized.
- Other Family Related Barrier.
- Youth Not Attending School Or In GED Program.
- Other Education Barrier.
- Board Does Not Agree With Current Permanency Plan.
- Annual Physicals Not Current.
- Dentals Not Current.
- Vision Not Current.
- No Follow Up On Medical Referrals.
- Other Physical Health Barrier.
- Inadequate Preparation For Independence (General).
- Other Independence Barrier.
- Youth Needs More Restrictive Placement.
- Other Placement Barrier.

- Youth Refuses Mental Health Treatment Including Therapy.
- Other Mental Health Barrier.
- No Current Safe-C/G.
- Issues Related to Substance Abuse.
- Missing or Lack of Documentation.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 103 out of the 119 children reviewed.

Required Supporting Documentation for CRBC Reviews

The following are reminders of the materials required in accordance with the work plan agreement created between the Department of Human Resources (DHR), Social Services Administration and the Citizens Review Board for Children.

- Each (LDSS) is required to continue to bring the child's complete case records and/or records containing requested supportive documentation to all CRBC case reviews.
- Each (LDSS) should continue supplying CRBC with the most recent and current contact information for all interested parties, including professionals and family members.

Recommendations to All Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS)

- Each (LDSS) should encourage the attendance of children and youth who are 10 years of age and older to attend his/her scheduled CRBC case review.
- Each (LDSS) should encourage foster parent attendance at scheduled CRBC case reviews.
- Each (LDSS) should improve their efforts with documenting concurrent permanency plans.
- Each (LDSS) should improve their efforts with getting parents to sign service agreements for those youth with a permanency plan of reunification.
- Each (LDSS) is required to include the paternal family members as possible resources for all youth who are in out-of-home-placement care.

Independent Living:

- Each (LDSS) is required to improve their efforts with preparing youth that have a plan of APPLA to meet their employment goals.

Permanent Connections:

- Each (LDSS) is encouraged to improve their efforts with identifying permanent connections for those youth with a plan of APPLA.

Adoption:

- Each (LDSS) should ensure that age appropriate youth with a permanency plan of Adoption are linked with adoption counseling services.

1st Quarter 2017
CRBC Metrics

| FY2017 | |
|--|-----|
| Total # of Children - Scheduled on the Preliminary: | 554 |
| Total # of Children - Not Received & Rescheduled: | 177 |
| Total # of Children - Eligible for Review: | 377 |
| Total # of Children - Reviewed at the Board: | 332 |
| Total # of Children - Not Reviewed at the Board: | 45 |
| | |
| Percentage of Children Reviewed for the Period: | 88% |
| Percentage of Children Not Reviewed for the Period: | 12% |
| | |
| Recommendation Reports - Number Sent | 332 |
| Recommendation Reports - Number Sent on Time | 303 |
| Recommendation Reports - Percent Sent on Time | 91% |
| | |
| Recommendation Reports - Number Received | 164 |
| Recommendation Reports - Percent Received % | 49% |
| Recommendation Reports - Number Received on Time | 14 |
| Recommendation Reports - Percent Received on Time % | 9% |
| | |
| Number of Boards Held | 50 |
| | |
| Recommendation Reports - # of DSS Agreement | 140 |
| Recommendation Reports - Percent of DSS Agreement | 85% |
| Recommendation Reports - # of DSS Disagreement | 2 |
| Recommendation Reports - Percent of DSS Disagreement | 1% |
| Recommendation Reports - # Blank/Unanswered | 23 |
| Recommendation Reports - Percent # Blank/Unanswered | 14% |
| | |
| Percentage of REUNIFICATION Children Reviewed for the Period: | 36% |
| Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT – Adoption Children Reviewed: | 1% |
| Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT – C & G Children Reviewed: | 1% |
| Percentage of ADOPTION Children Reviewed for the Period: | 20% |
| Percentage of CUSTODY/GUARDIANSHIP Children Reviewed for the Period: | 1% |
| Percentage of APPLA Children Reviewed for the Period: | 41% |
| | |

The State Board

Nettie Anderson-Burrs (Chairperson)

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Delores Alexander (Vice Chairperson)

Circuit 3: Representing Baltimore and Harford Counties

Doretha Henry

Circuit 1: Representing Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties

Vacant

Circuit 2: Representing Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne, and Talbot Counties

Vacant

Circuit 5: Representing Anne Arundel, Carroll, and Howard Counties

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Circuit 6: Representing Frederick and Montgomery Counties

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Circuit 7: Representing Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's Counties

Sheila Jessup, PhD

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Sylvia Smith

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

Sarah Walker

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Eric Davis, MSW
Staff Assistant

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Office Clerk II

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