

# Citizens Review Board For Children



Fourth QUARTER  
FISCAL YEAR 2016 REPORT  
(April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 – June 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

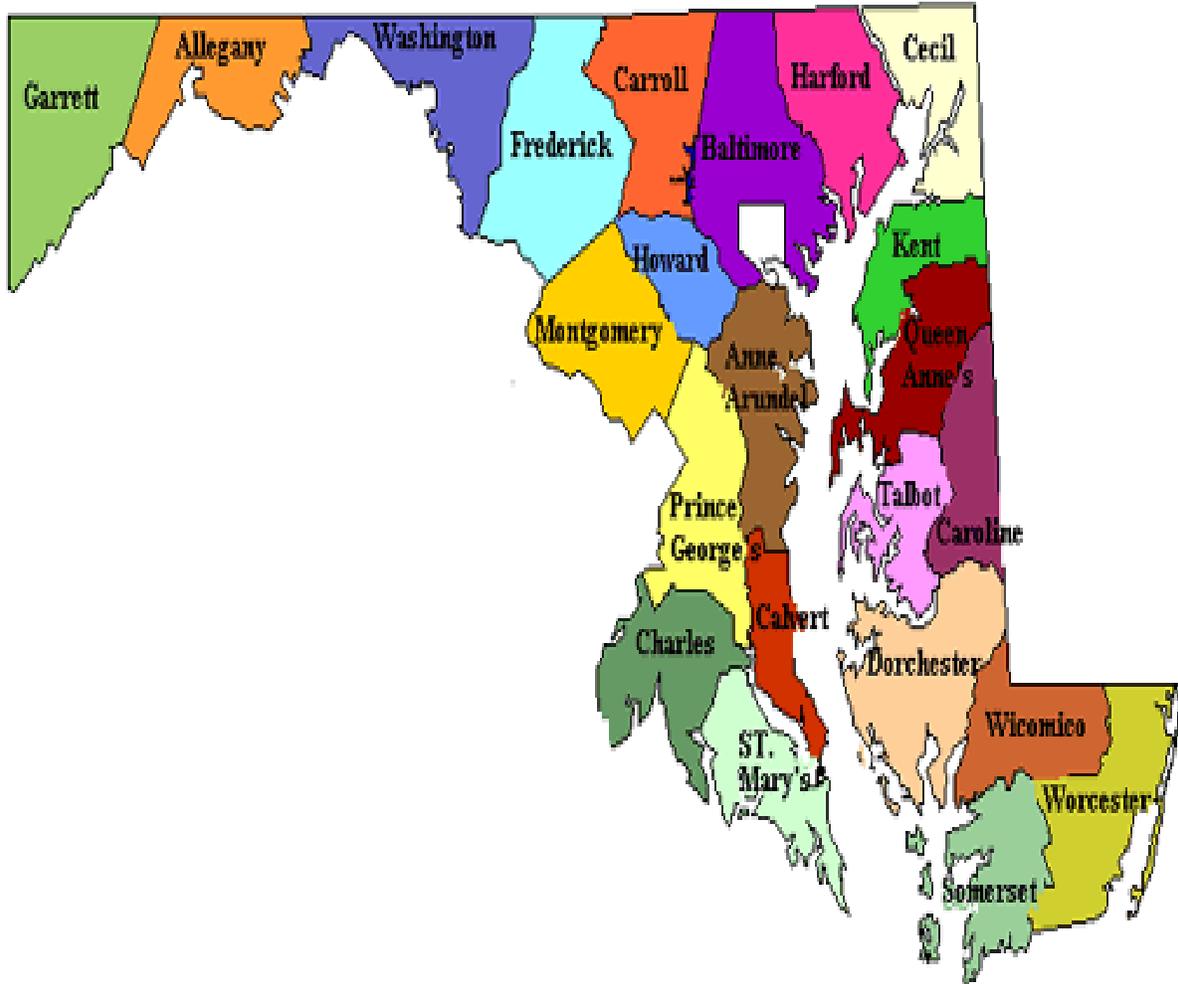
CRBC would like to acknowledge the commitment, dedication, passion and service of all stakeholders on behalf of Maryland's most vulnerable children including:

- ★ 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 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Fiscal Year 2016.



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: Allegany, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot and Worcester counties. Therefore, this report only contains review findings and recommendations for the 18 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).

## 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Custody	Adoption	Guardianship	APPLA	TOTAL	Boards Held
02	Anne Arundel	4	0	5	3	4	16	2
03	Baltimore County	10	0	10	0	9	29	5
04	Calvert	1	0	4	0	2	7	1
05	Caroline	7	0	0	0	1	8	1
06	Carroll	6	0	0	0	2	8	1
07	Cecil	1	2	4	0	1	8	1
08	Charles	2	0	2	0	2	6	1
10	Frederick	5	0	5	2	6	18	3
11	Garrett	7	0	0	0	0	7	1
12	Harford	5	0	9	3	4	21	3
13	Howard	4	0	0	0	4	8	1
15	Montgomery	9	1	5	0	17	32	6
16	Prince George's	7	0	3	6	21	37	6
18	Saint Mary's	5	0	0	0	0	5	1
19	Somerset	0	0	4	0	2	6	1
21	Washington	3	0	3	1	7	14	2
22	Wicomico	0	1	5	1	2	9	2
49	Baltimore City	31	13	26	6	72	148	24
18	<b>Statewide Totals</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>62</b>
	<b>Percentages</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

CRBC conducted a total of 387 individual out-of-home case reviews (each case reviewed represents 1 child/youth) in 18 Jurisdictions on 62 boards that held reviews during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. 9 of the 387 reviews were follow-up re-reviews to determine the progress made by the local DSS agencies.

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 (387)**

**Gender Totals**

Male	Female
210 (54%)	177 (46%)

**Gender By Plan**

Male(210):

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Guardianship	APPLA
64 (30%)	8 (4%)	57 (27%)	8 (4%)	73 (35%)

Female(177):

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Guardianship	APPLA
43 (24%)	9 (5%)	28 (16%)	14 (8%)	83 (47%)

**Ethnicity Overall (387)**

African American	Caucasian	Asian	Native American	Other
248 (64%)	124 (32%)	2 (1%)	1 (<1%)	12 (3%)

## Jurisdictional Case Reviews

### Anne Arundel County



Anne Arundel County had a total of 16 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Adoption: 5 cases
- Custody/Guardianship: 3 cases
- Reunification: 4 cases
- APPLA: 4 cases

#### Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 16 of the cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan in 1 of the cases reviewed

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

#### Category of APPLA plan

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

- Emancipation/Independence

#### Permanent Connections (APPLA)

A permanent connection was identified for 2 of the 4 cases and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 2 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months			5		2
7 to 11 months				3	
1 to 2 years	4				
2 to 3 years					
3 years or more					2

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in 14 out of the 16 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
3	Pre-finalized Adoptive Home
5	Regular Foster Care
3	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
3	Residential Treatment Center
1	Restricted (Relative) Foster Care
1	Other

Placement Stability

In 11 of the 16 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 16 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review and 6 of the 16 cases had at least 2 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 16 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 16 cases reviewed and to the birth family in 10 cases. Appropriate services were being offered to only 1 of the foster/kin families out of the 12 cases reviewed where a child was placed in a foster home.

### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 5 out of 16 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 10 out of 16 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 16 of The children reviewed had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 7 out of 16 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 6 out of 16 children were on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: 1 child had an identified plan to obtain mental health services in the adult mental health system. For 15 of the 16 cases reviewed this was not applicable.
- Substance Abuse: 1 out of 16 children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: The substance abuse problem was being addressed for the one child.
- Behavioral Issues: 9 out of 16 children had behavioral issues.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of 10 out of the 16 children were being met.

## Education

15 out of 16 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. For 1 child this was not applicable due to age.

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 none of 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 16 cases reviewed had a CASA.

### Risk and Safety

There were indicators of risk in 1 of the 16 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
Child did not want to be Adopted	7
N/A under age of consent	5
Unknown	2
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	1
Yes, with conditions	

## **Adoptive Placement**

### Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

All 5 of the children with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure in 4 cases comprised of a married couple for each case and a single female for 1 case.

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

- 2 cases were from 4 to 6 months
- 2 cases were from 10 to 12 months
- 1 case was 21 months or longer

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

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for all 5 of the cases.

### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in all 5 cases.

The post-adoptive service that was needed was medical in all 5 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	5
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	11
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

### Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/Issues were identified:

- No Service Agreement With Youth
- Behavior Problems In The Home
- Appeal By Birth Parents
- Disrupted Pre-Adoption Placement
- Youth Non-Compliant With Medication

### **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 15 out of 16 children reviewed.

## **Baltimore County**



Baltimore County had a total of 29 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Adoption: 10 cases
- Reunification: 10 cases
- APPLA: 9 cases

### Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 28 of the 29 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 2 out of the 29 cases reviewed.

The local department was implementing the concurrent plan set by the court for the 2 cases.

### Category of APPLA plan

The cases with a plan of APPLA (9) had the following categories of APPLA:

- Emancipation/Independence

### Permanent Connections (APPLA)

5 out of the 9 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 5 cases.

### Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	1		1		2
7 to 11 months					1
1 to 2 years	3		9		
2 to 3 years	5				3
3 years or more	1				3

### Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in all 29 cases reviewed.

### Placement

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

### Placement Stability

In 26 out of 29 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 20 out of 29 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review and 6 cases with at least 2 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in 28 out of the 29 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 28 out of 29 cases reviewed and to the birth family in 13 cases.

### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 5 out of 29 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 25 out of 29 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 29 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 12 out of 29 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 12 out of 29 children were on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: None of the children had an identified plan to obtain mental health services in the adult mental health system. This was not applicable .
- Substance Abuse: None of the 29 children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: This was not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 out of the 29 children had behavioral issues.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of 28 out of the 29 children were being met.

### Education

21 out of the 29 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. Four were not enrolled due to age.

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 – 15 cases)

2 out of the 15 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. The local board agreed that 14 of the youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 15 cases)

The local board agreed that there were 11 out of the 15 youths receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had been specified for 2 youths that were transitioning out of care.

The local board did not agree with the housing. However, the local board found that the 2 youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

4 out of the 29 cases had a CASA.

### Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the 29 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	2
Child did not want to be Adopted	19
N/A under age of consent	7
Unknown	0
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	1
Yes, with conditions	0

### **Adoptive Placement**

#### Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

1 out of the 10 children with an adoption plan was placed in a pre-adoptive home.

Documented efforts to find an adoptive resource was made in 2 cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources were needed in 9 out of the 10 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	
Less than twice a month, but at least once	29
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

#### Barriers to Permanency

Pre-Adoptive placement resources were not identified in 9 out of 10 cases reviewed.

## **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 27 out of 29 children reviewed.

## Calvert County



Calvert County had a total of 7 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Adoption: 3 cases
- Reunification: 1 case
- APPLA: 3 cases

### Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 7 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court had no concurrent permanency plan identified for any of the 7 cases reviewed.

### Category of APPLA plan

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

- 3 cases: 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 3 cases.

### Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	1				
7 to 11 months					1
1 to 2 years					
2 to 3 years	1		4		1

## Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in all 7 cases reviewed.

## Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
3	Pre-Finalized Adoptive home
1	Formal Kinship Care
1	Treatment Foster Care
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Non-Relative

## Placement Stability

In all 7 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 4 out of 7 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, and 2 placement changes for 3 of the children reviewed.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 7 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 7 cases reviewed and to the birth family in 3 cases.

## Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 child had a developmental or special need.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that all 7 of the children reviewed had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 7 of the children reviewed had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 4 out of 7 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 out of 7 children were on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: None of children had an identified plan to obtain health services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Behavioral Issues: None of the children had behavioral issues.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of all 7 children were being met.

## Education

6 out of 7 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)  
  
2 out of the 4 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that both youths were 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)

Housing had not been specified for any of the youths because none were transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 7 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the 7 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	2
Child did not want to be Adopted	4
N/A under age of consent	1
Unknown	0
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	0
Yes, with conditions	0

**Adoptive Placement**

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

3 out of the 4 children with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure in the 3 cases comprised of 1 married couple for 1 case, and 1 single female for the other 2 cases. The pre-adoptive resource was a foster parent in all 3 cases.

The lengths of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows:

- 3 cases were 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 family to meet identified needs in 2 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 4 cases.

The post-adoptive service that was needed was medical in all 4 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	7
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

##### Barriers to Permanency

- Pre-Adoptive Resource not Identified
- Child/Youth Related Barriers

#### **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 6 out of the 7 children reviewed.

## Caroline County



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

- Reunification: 7 cases
- APPLA: 1 case

### Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 7 of the cases reviewed.

### Category of APPLA plan

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

- 1 case: Placement in long-term facility until transition to Adult facility

### Permanent Connections (APPLA)

A permanent connection was identified for the 1 case and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate for the youth.

### Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months					
7 to 11 months					
1 to 2 years	2				
2 to 3 years	2				1
3 years or more	3				

### 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	Regular Foster Care
2	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Independent Living Program
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Other

### Placement Stability

In 5 out 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 6 out of the 8 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review and 2 out 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 and the birth family in all 8 cases reviewed, and to the foster/kin family in 3 cases.

## Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 out of 8 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that none of the 8 children reviewed had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that 2 out of 8 children reviewed had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 7 out of 8 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 6 out of 8 children were on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: 5 out of 8 children had an identified plan to obtain mental health services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: None of the 8 children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: N/A.
- Behavioral Issues: All 8 of the children reviewed had behavioral issues.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of 7 out of the 8 children were being met.

## Education

7 out of the 8 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 child was not applicable due to age

The local board agreed that the 7 children enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

## Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 6 cases)

1 out of the 6 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that 5 of the youth were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 6 cases)

The local board agreed that 4 out of the 6 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing was specified for all 7 youths who were transitioning out of care.

### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

1 out of the 8 cases had a CASA.

### Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in all 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	
Child did not want to be Adopted	6
N/A under age of consent	
Unknown	2
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
Yes, with conditions	0

### Adoptive Placement

#### Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not Applicable. None of the 8 cases reviewed had a plan of Adoption.

#### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not Applicable. None of the 8 cases reviewed had a plan of Adoption.

## 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:

- No Service Agreement With Youth
- No Service Agreement With Parents
- 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 8 children reviewed.

## Carroll County



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

- Reunification: 6 cases
- APPLA: 2 cases

### Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 2 out of the 8 cases reviewed.

### Category of APPLA plan

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

- 2 cases: Emancipation/Independence

### Permanent Connections (APPLA)

A permanent connection was identified for 1 case and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate for the youth.

### Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months					1
7 to 11 months					1
1 to 2 years	6				
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 8 cases reviewed.

## Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
3	Regular Foster Care
3	Private Treatment Foster Care
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Independent Living Program

## Placement Stability

In 5 out 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 6 out of the 8 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 1 case with 2 placement changes and 1 with four or more placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in 7 out of the 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, to the birth family in 5 cases reviewed, and to the foster/kin family in 4 cases.

## Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 4 out of 8 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 7 out of the 8 children reviewed had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 8 children reviewed had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 5 out of 8 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 5 out of 8 children were on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: None of the children had an identified plan to obtain mental health services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: The substance abuse problem was not being addressed.
- Behavioral Issues: 4 out of the 8 children reviewed had behavioral issues.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of 6 out of the 8 children were being met.

## Education

All 8 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. The local board agreed that all 8 of the children enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

### Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

None of the 3 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

The local board agreed that 2 out of the 3 youths were 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)

All 8 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in all 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	
Child did not want to be Adopted	3
N/A under age of consent	2
Unknown	3
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
Yes, with conditions	

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not Applicable. None of the 8 cases reviewed had a plan of Adoption.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not Applicable. None of the 8 cases reviewed had a plan of Adoption.

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:

- No service agreement with youth
- Child has behavior problems in the home
- Vision not current
- Inadequate preparation for independence
- Youth non-compliant with medication

**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 7 out of 8 children reviewed.

## Cecil County



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

- Adoption: 2 cases
- Reunification: 4 cases
- APPLA: 2 cases

### Permanency

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

The local juvenile court had no concurrent permanency plan identified for any of the 8 cases reviewed.

### Category of APPLA plan

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

- 1 case: Emancipation/Independence
- 1 case: Placement in a long term care facility until transition to an adult facility

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 children)

Both 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	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months					
7 to 11 months		2			
1 to 2 years	1		3		
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 8 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Regular Foster Care
2	Restricted (Relative) Foster Care
3	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Other

Placement Stability

In 2 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 no placement changes for 3 of the children reviewed.

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

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 6 cases.

### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 out of 8 children had developmental or special needs.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 5 out of 8 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that 7 out of 8 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 5 out of 8 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 out of 8 children were on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: 5 out of 8 children had an identified plan to obtain health services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Behavioral Issues: 5 out of 8 children reviewed had behavioral issues.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of all 8 children were being met.

### Education

6 out of the 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 – 2 cases)

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

### ➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

The local board agreed that 1 out of the 2 youths was receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

### ➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had been specified for 1 of the youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed with the housing and found that the 4 youth was being appropriately prepared for transitioning out of care.

## Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 8 cases 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	
Child did not want to be Adopted	5
N/A under age of consent	
Unknown	2
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	1
Yes, with conditions	

## **Adoptive Placement**

### Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

None of the 2 children with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home.

Documented efforts to find an adoptive resource was made in both adoptive cases.

### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in both 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	1
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	7
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

### Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers to permanency/issues were found.

- No service agreement with parents
- 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 all 8 children reviewed.

## Charles County



Charles County had a total of 6 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Reunification: 2 cases
- APPLA: 2 cases
- Adoption: 2 cases

### Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 6 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court had no concurrent permanency plan identified for any of the 6 cases reviewed.

### Category of APPLA plan

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

- 2 cases: Emancipation/Independence

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 cases)

Both of the APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were not appropriate for the 2 cases.

### Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months					
7 to 11 months					
1 to 2 years	1				2
2 to 3 years	1		2		
3 years or more					

## Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in all 6 cases reviewed.

## Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
3	Treatment Foster Care
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Residential Group Home
1	Therapeutic Group Home

## Placement Stability

In 5 of the 6 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 4 of the 6 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, and 3 cases with 2 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 6 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 5 cases reviewed and to the birth family in 1 cases.

## Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 6 children had developmental or special needs.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 6 out of 6 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 6 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 5 out of 6 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 5 out of 6 children were on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: None of the children had an identified plan to obtain health services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 out of 6 children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: The substance abuse problem was being addressed for the 1 child.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 out of 6 children had behavioral issues.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of all 6 children were being met.

## Education

5 out of the 6 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 being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

## Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 5 cases)

None of the 5 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. However, the local board agreed that the 5 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

The local board agreed that 5 out of the 6 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had not been specified for any of the youths because none were transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

2 of the 6 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the 6 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
Child did not want to be Adopted	4
N/A under age of consent	
Unknown	1
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
Yes, with conditions	

## 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	6
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

### Barriers to Permanency

#### Interstate Compact Issues

### **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 6 children reviewed.

## Frederick County



Frederick County had a total of 18 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Adoption: 5 cases
- Custody/Guardianship: 2 case
- Reunification: 5 case
- APPLA: 6 case

### Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 16 out of the 18 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court had concurrent permanency plans identified for 2 out of the 18 cases reviewed.

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

### Category of APPLA plan

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

- 3 cases: Emancipation/Independence
- 3 cases: Placement in a long term care facility until transition to an adult facility.

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 6 cases)

4 out of the 6 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the cases.

### Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months			2		1
7 to 11 months	2			2	
1 to 2 years	2				2
2 to 3 years			3		1
3 years or more	1				2

### Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in 17 out of the 18 cases reviewed.

### Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Pre-Finalized Adoption
4	Regular Foster Care
3	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
5	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Residential Treatment Center
3	Other

### Placement Stability

In 6 of the 18 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 18 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 5 cases with 2 placement changes and 2 cases with 4 or more.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in 16 out of the 18 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 16 cases reviewed, were being offered in 2 cases to the foster/kin family, and in 10 cases to the birth family.

### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 12 out of 18 children had developmental or special needs.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 8 out of 18 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that 16 out of the 18 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 13 out of 18 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 11 out of 18 children were on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: 2 out of 18 children had an identified plan to obtain health services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 3 of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: The substance abuse problem was being addressed for 1 out of 3 children.
- Behavioral Issues: 11 out of 18 children had behavioral issues.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of 8 out of 18 children were being met.

### Education

13 out of the 18 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 2 out of the 18 were not enrolled due to age. The local board agreed that 12 of the 13 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 – 8 cases)

4 out of the 8 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that the youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 8 cases)

The local board agreed that 5 out of the 8 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.

The local board agreed with the housing and found that the youth was being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

7 out of the 18 cases had a CASA.

### Risk and Safety

There were indicators of risk in 4 out 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	
Child did not want to be Adopted	7
N/A under age of consent	3
Unknown	4
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	4

## Adoptive Placement

### Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

All 5 children were placed in a pre-adoptive home.

The pre-adoptive family structure in the cases comprised of 5 married couples for each of the cases.

The pre-adoptive resources were all non-relative foster parents.

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

- 1 case was from 10 to 12 months
- 1 case was from 12 to 15 months
- 1 case was from 16 to 20 months
- 2 cases were from 21 months or longer

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.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for all 5 cases.

### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in 4 cases.

The post-adoptive service that was needed was medical in 1 case and various services in 4 cases.

## Miscellaneous Findings

### Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	2
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	11
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

## Barriers/ Issues

The following barriers to permanency/Issues were found:

- No service agreement with parents
- No service agreement with youth
- Other child/youth barrier

## **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 15 out of 18 children reviewed.

## Garrett County



Garrett County had a total of 7 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Reunification: 7 cases

### Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 3 out of the 7 cases reviewed. The local juvenile court identified a concurrent plan for 4 out of the 7 cases reviewed. The local department was not implementing the concurrent plan identified by the court.

### Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months					
7 to 11 months					
1 to 2 years	7				
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 7 cases reviewed.

### Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
5	Treatment Foster Care
2	Therapeutic Group Home

## Placement Stability

In 6 out of the 7 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 4 out of the 7 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review and 3 cases with 2 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 7 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 7 cases, and to the birth family in 6 cases.

## Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 out of 7 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that all 7 children reviewed had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 7 children reviewed had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 4 out of 7 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 out of 7 children were on psychotropic medication.

- Mental Health Services/System: None of the 7 children had an identified plan to obtain mental health services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: The substance abuse problem was being addressed.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 out of the 7 children reviewed had behavioral issues.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of all 7 children were being met.

### Education

All 7 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. The local board agreed that all 7 of the children enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

### Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

None of the 2 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

The local board agreed that both youths were 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 7 cases had a CASA.

### Risk and Safety

There was one case with an indicator of risk, however all safety protocols were followed in all 7 cases reviewed.

### 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	
Child did not want to be Adopted	3
N/A under age of consent	3
Unknown	1
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
Yes, with conditions	

### **Adoptive Placement**

#### Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not Applicable. None of the 7 cases reviewed had a plan of Adoption.

#### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not Applicable. None of the 7 cases reviewed had a plan of Adoption.

### **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	7
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

### **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 3 out of 7 children reviewed.

## Harford County



Harford County had a total of 21 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Adoption: 9 cases
- Reunification: 5 cases
- APPLA: 4 cases
- Guardianship: 3 cases

### Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 20 out of 21 cases reviewed. The local juvenile court identified a concurrent plan for 7 out of the 21 cases reviewed. The local department was implementing the concurrent plans set by the court.

### Category of APPLA plan

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

- 4 cases: Emancipation/Independence

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 4 cases)

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

### Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months			7		
7 to 11 months			1	2	
1 to 2 years	3			1	1
2 to 3 years					2
3 years or more	2		1		1

## Case Planning

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

## Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Formal Kinship Care
9	Regular Foster Care
5	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home
3	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Residential Treatment Center

## Placement Stability

In 14 of the 21 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 20 of the 21 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review and 2 placement changes in 1 case.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 21 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 21 cases reviewed, were being offered to the foster/kin family in 15 cases, and to the birth family in 13 cases.

## Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 4 out of 21 children had developmental or special needs.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 11 out of 21 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that 19 out of 21 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 7 out of 21 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 out of 21 children were on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: 1 out of 21 children had an identified plan to obtain health services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: This is not applicable because none of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Behavioral Issues: 10 children had behavioral issues.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of 14 out of the 21 children were being met.

## Education

14 out of the 21 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 - 7 cases)

2 out of the 7 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that both youths were being appropriately

prepared to meet employment goals.

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

The local board agreed that 4 out of the 7 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had been specified for 17 of the youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed with the housing and found that the youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

13 out of 21 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were indicators of risk in 1 of the 21 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	
Child did not want to be Adopted	15
N/A under age of consent	4
Unknown	2
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
Yes, with conditions	

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

7 out of the 9 children with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure comprised of a married couple for each of the 7 cases.

The pre-adoptive resource was with a non-relative or foster parent in all 7 cases.

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

- 1 case was from 1 to 3 months
- 2 cases were from 16 to 20 months
- 4 cases were from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved in 5 out of the 7 cases.

The local board agreed appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre- adoptive family to meet identified needs in 5 out of 7 of the cases.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for all 7 of the cases.

#### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in 7 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	21
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

#### Barriers/Issues

The following barriers to permanency/issues were found:

- Other Coordination Barrier
- No Service Agreement With Parents
- 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 20 of the 21 children reviewed.

## Howard County



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

- Reunification: 4 cases
- APPLA: 4 cases

### Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 6 out of the 8 cases reviewed. The local juvenile court identified a concurrent plan for 2 out of the 8 cases reviewed. The local department was implementing the concurrent plan in both cases.

### Category of APPLA plan

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

- 3 cases: Emancipation/Independence
- 1 case: Placement in long-term care facility until transition to adult facility

### Permanent Connections (APPLA)

A permanent connection was identified for all 4 cases and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for all the youths.

### Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months					4
7 to 11 months					
1 to 2 years					
2 to 3 years					
3 years or more	4				

## 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	Private Treatment Foster Care
2	Alternative Living Units
1	Independent Living Program
1	Residential Treatment Center

## Placement Stability

In 2 out 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 4 out of the 8 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review and 4 cases with 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 all 8 cases, to the birth family in 2 cases reviewed, and to the foster/kin family in 1 case.

## Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 4 out of 8 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 6 out of the 8 children reviewed had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 8 children reviewed had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 4 out of 8 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 out of 8 children were on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: 3 out of 8 children had an identified plan to obtain mental health services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: The substance abuse problem was not being addressed.
- Behavioral Issues: 4 out of the 8 children reviewed had behavioral issues.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of 6 out of the 8 children were being met.

## Education

7 out of 8 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. The local board agreed that all 7 of the children enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

### Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 8 cases)

3 out of the 8 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 8 cases)

The local board agreed that 6 out of the 8 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had been specified for 3 youths who were transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

5 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in all 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	
Child did not want to be Adopted	6
N/A under age of consent	
Unknown	
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	2
Yes, with conditions	

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not Applicable. None of the 8 cases reviewed had a plan of Adoption.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not Applicable. None of the 8 cases reviewed had a plan of Adoption.

## Miscellaneous Findings

### Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	
More than once a week	1
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	3
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	4
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

### Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/Issues were identified:

- Annual physicals not current
- Vision not current
- Dentals 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 8 children reviewed.

## Montgomery County



Montgomery County had a total of 32 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Adoption: 5 cases
- Reunification: 9 cases
- APPLA: 17 cases
- Relative Placement: 1 case

### Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 29 out of 32 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent plan for 2 out of the 32 cases reviewed.

### Category of APPLA plan

The cases with a plan of APPLA (17) had the following categories of APPLA:

- 15 cases: Emancipation/Independence
- 2 cases: Placement in long term care facility until transition to adult facility

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 17 cases)

14 out of the 17 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	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	1		5		2
7 to 11 months	2	1			1
1 to 2 years	6				5
2 to 3 years					3
3 years or more					6

## Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in 28 out of the 32 cases reviewed.

## Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
4	Pre-finalized Adoptive Home
2	Regular Foster Care
1	Refugee Child
9	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
8	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Independent Living Program
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Non Relative
2	Own Dwelling
3	Other

## Placement Stability

In 16 of the 32 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 15 of the 32 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 16 cases with 2 placement changes and 1 case with 3 changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in 30 of the 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 31 cases reviewed, to the foster/kin family in 7 cases, and to the birth family in 17 cases.

### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 12 out of 32 children had developmental or special needs.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 22 out of 32 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that 31 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 14 out of 32 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 11 out of 32 children were on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: None of the children had an identified plan to obtain health services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 4 children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: None of the children with a substance abuse problem were having it addressed.
- Behavioral Issues: 16 of the children had behavioral issues.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of 20 out of 32 children were being met.

### Education

26 out of the 32 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program.

The local board agreed that 25 of the 26 children enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet their educational goals.

## Ready by 21

### ➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 23 cases)

6 out of the 23 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that none of the youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

### ➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 23 cases)

The local board agreed that 9 out of the 23 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

### ➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had been specified for 2 of the youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed with the housing and found that the youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

## Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

14 out of 32 cases had a CASA.

## Risk and Safety

There were indicators of risk in 1 of the 32 cases reviewed and 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	
Child did not want to be Adopted	23
N/A under age of consent	5
Unknown	1
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	3
Yes, with conditions	

## Adoptive Placement

### Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

All 5 children with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure in the 5 cases comprised of a married couple in each case.

The pre-adoptive resource was a non-relative or foster parent in all 5 cases.

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

- 1 case was from 4 to 6 months
- 2 cases were from 10 to 12 months
- 1 case was from 12 to 15 months
- 1 case was from 16 to 20 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.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for all 5 cases.

### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in both 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	1
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	26
Less than once a month	1
Quarterly	

## Barriers to Permanency/Issues

The following barriers to permanency/issues were found:

- Court-Ordered Permanency Plan
- No Service Agreement With Parents
- No Service Agreement With Youth
- Non-Compliant With Service Agreement
- Other Child/Youth Related Barrier
- Youth Engages In Risky Behavior

## **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 28 out of 32 children reviewed.

## Prince George's County



Prince George's County had a total of 37 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Adoption: 3 cases
- Reunification: 7 cases
- APPLA: 21 cases
- Guardianship: 6 cases

### Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 37 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court had concurrent permanency plans identified for 3 of the cases reviewed.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the court in all 3 cases.

### Category of APPLA plan

The cases with a plan of APPLA (21) had the following categories of APPLA:

- 21 cases: Emancipation/Independence

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 21 cases)

8 of the 21 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 8 cases.

### Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months				6	6
7 to 11 months					3
1 to 2 years	2		1		
2 to 3 years	3		1		6
3 years or more	2		1		6

### Case Planning

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

### Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
2	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
17	Treatment Foster Care
6	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Teen Mother Program
2	Therapeutic Group Home
3	Residential Treatment Center
1	Non-Relative
1	Own Dwelling
4	Other

### Placement Stability

In 27 of the 37 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 10 of the 37 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review and 20 cases with 2 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in 31 of the 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 34 of the 37 of the cases reviewed, and to the birth family in 9 cases.

## Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 5 out of 37 children had developmental or special needs.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 30 out of 37 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that 36 out of the 37 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 10 out of 37 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 9 out of 37 children were on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: None of the children had an identified plan to obtain health services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 4 children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Substance abuse was being addressed for only 1 of the 4 children.
- Behavioral Issues: 8 children had behavioral issues.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of 28 out of the 37 children were being met.

### Education

26 out of the 37 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. This was not applicable for 9 of the children due to age.

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 – 27 cases)

9 out of the 27 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that the 9 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 27 cases)

The local board agreed that 24 out of the 27 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had not been specified for any of the youths, because none were transitioning out of care.

### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

5 out of 37 cases had a CASA.

### Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the 37 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
Child did not want to be Adopted	28
N/A under age of consent	3
Unknown	
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
Yes, with conditions	

## Adoptive Placement

### Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

2 out of the 3 children with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home.

The pre-adoptive family structure in the 1 case comprised of a married couple.

The pre-adoptive resource was with a former foster parent in the 1 case.

The lengths of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows:

- 1 case was 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.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for the 1 case.

### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in all 3 adoptive 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	37
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

### Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers to permanency were found.

- TPR Not Granted
- Appeal by Birth Parent

### **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 37 children reviewed.

## Saint Mary's County



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

- Reunification: 5 cases

### Permanency

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

The local juvenile court had not identified a concurrent permanency plan for any of the cases.

### Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months					
7 to 11 months					
1 to 2 years	4				
2 to 3 years					
3 years or more	1				

### 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	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Residential Treatment Center
3	Other

## Placement Stability

In 4 of the 5 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 1 of the 5 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review and 4 cases with 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 3 cases reviewed, and to the birth family in 1 case.

## Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 out of 5 children had developmental or special needs.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that all 5 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: 3 out of 5 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 out of 5 children were on psychotropic medication.

- Mental Health Services/System: None of the 5 children had an identified plan to obtain health services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: This was not applicable because none of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Behavioral Issues: None of the children had behavioral issues.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of all 5 children were not being met.

### Education

4 out of the 5 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 – 2 cases)

None of the children were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. However, the board agreed that the youths were being prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

The local board agreed that 1 out of the 2 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had been specified for the youths that were transitioning out of care.

### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 5 cases had a CASA.

### Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the 5 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	
Child did not want to be Adopted	2
N/A under age of consent	2
Unknown	1
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
Yes, with conditions	

### 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

There were no barriers to permanency found.

### **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 5 children reviewed.

## Somerset County



Somerset County had a total of 6 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Adoption: 4 cases
- APPLA: 2 cases

### Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 6 cases reviewed. The local juvenile court identified a concurrent plan for 2 out of the 6 cases reviewed. 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 (2) had the following categories of APPLA:

- 2 cases: Emancipation/Independence

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 cases)

In both APPLA cases a permanent connection had been 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	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months					
7 to 11 months					
1 to 2 years			4		1
2 to 3 years					1
3 years or more					

## Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in all 6 cases reviewed.

## Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Regular Foster Care
5	Treatment Foster Care (Private)

## Placement Stability

In 1 of the 6 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 6 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review and 1 case with 2 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 6 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, to the foster/kin family and to the birth family in all 6 cases.

## Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 6 children had developmental or special needs.

- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 4 out of 6 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that 5 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: All 6 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 5 out of the 6 children were on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: None of the children had an identified plan to obtain health services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: This was not applicable because none of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Behavioral Issues: 5 of the 6 children had behavioral issues.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of all 6 children were being met.

### Education

All 6 children reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program.

The local board agreed that 5 of the 6 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 – 3 cases)
  - 1 of the 3 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 – 3 cases)

The local board agreed that 2 out of the 3 youths were receiving appropriate

services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had been specified for the youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed with the housing and found that the youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 6 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in all 6 cases reviewed and 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
Child did not want to be Adopted	2
N/A under age of consent	1
Unknown	1
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	
Yes, with conditions	

## Adoptive Placement

### Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

None of the 4 children with a plan of Adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home.

### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

None of the 4 children with a plan of Adoption 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	6
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

### Barriers to Permanency/Issues

The following barriers to permanency/issues were found:

- Pre-Adoptive resources not identified
- No Service Agreement With Youth
- Missing or lack of documentation
- Disrupted Pre-Adoptive placement
- Educational barriers
- Annual physicals 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 6 children reviewed.

## Washington County



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

- Reunification: 3 cases
- Adoption: 3 cases
- Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 7 cases

### Permanency

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

The local juvenile court did not identify any concurrent permanency plans for any of the 14 cases reviewed.

### Category of APPLA plan

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

- 7 cases: Emancipation/Independence

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 7 cases)

3 of the 7 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 3 cases.

### Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months			1	1	3
7 to 11 months	1				
1 to 2 years			1		
2 to 3 years	2		1		3
3 years or more					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
2	Pre-Finalized Adoption
4	Treatment Foster Care
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
2	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Residential Treatment Center
1	Own Dwelling
1	Relative
1	Other

## Placement Stability

In 11 of the 14 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 14 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review and 6 cases with 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 13 out of 14 children reviewed and to the birth family in 3 cases.

## Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 out of 14 children had developmental or special needs.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that all 14 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 14 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 5 out of 14 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 5 out of 14 children were on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: None of the 14 children had an identified plan to obtain health services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: This was not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 children had behavioral issues.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of all 14 children were being met.

## Education

9 out of the 14 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 – 10 cases)

3 out of the 10 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 – 10 cases)

The local board agreed that 8 out of the 10 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had not been specified because none of the youths were transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

2 out of the 14 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in any of the 14 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	
Child did not want to be Adopted	11
N/A under age of consent	1
Unknown	1
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	1
Yes, with conditions	

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

2 out of the 3 children with a permanency plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home.

The pre-adoptive family structure in both cases comprised of a married couple.

The pre-adoptive resource relationship was a former foster parent in both cases.

The lengths of time in the pre-adoptive placements were as follows:

- 1 case was from 7 to 9 months
- 1 case was from 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 family 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 all 3 adoptive cases. The post-adoptive services that was most 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	14
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

#### Barriers to Permanency

- Pre-Adoptive Resource 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 of the 14 children reviewed.

## Wicomico County



Wicomico County had a total of 9 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Adoption: 5 cases
- Relative Placement: 1 case
- Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 2 cases

### Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 9 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 1 case and the local department of social services was implementing the plan.

### Category of APPLA plan

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

- 1 case: Emancipation/Independence
- 1 case: Placement in long term care facility until transition to adult facility

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 cases)

In both APPLA cases a permanent connection had been 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	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months					
7 to 11 months			2		
1 to 2 years				1	
2 to 3 years		1			1
3 years or more			3		1

### Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in all 9 cases reviewed.

### Placement

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

### Placement Stability

In 4 of the 9 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 all 9 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 9 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 9 cases reviewed, to the foster/kin family in 4 cases, and to the birth family in 4 cases.

### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 out of 9 children had developmental or special needs.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 6 out of 9 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that all 9 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 8 out of 9 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 7 out of 9 children were on psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Services/System: 2 children had an identified plan to obtain health services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: None of the 9 children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: This was not applicable because none of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Behavioral Issues: 6 children had behavioral issues.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of 6 out of 9 children were being met.

### Education

6 out of the 9 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 – 5 cases)

None of the 5 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

➤ 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 had been specified for the youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed with the housing and found that the youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 9 cases had a CASA.

### Risk and Safety

There were no indicators of risk in all 9 cases reviewed and 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
Child did not want to be Adopted	6
N/A under age of consent	2
Unknown	
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	

Yes, with conditions	
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**Adoptive Placement**

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

3 out of the 5 children with a plan of Adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure in the 3 cases comprised of a married couple in 2 cases and a single male in 1 case. The pre-adoptive resource was a non-relative or foster parent in all 3 cases.

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

- 1 case was from 10 to 12 months
- 2 cases were from 21 months or longer

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 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 1 case. 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	9
Less than once a month	
Quarterly	

### Barriers to Permanency/Issues

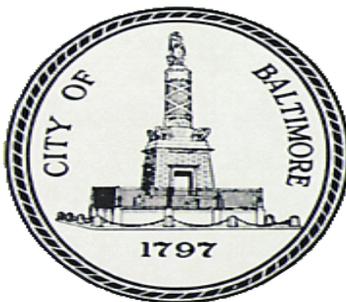
The following barriers to permanency/issues were found:

- Caseload too high
- No service agreement with youth
- Non-Compliant With Service Agreement
- Child does not consent too adoption
- Child has behavior problems in the home
- Family related barriers

### **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 9 children reviewed.

## Baltimore City



Baltimore City had a total of 139 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans.

- Reunification: 31 cases
- Relative Placement: 13 cases
- Adoption: 25 cases
- Custody/Guardianship: 6 cases
- APPLA: 68 cases

In addition, 9 cases with the following plans were re-reviewed in Baltimore City as follow-ups to determine the progress made by the local DSS.

- Reunification: 5 cases
- APPLA: 4 cases

Adequate progress was made in 6 out of the 9 cases re-reviewed. The board's recommendations were followed in 1 case, partially followed in 6 cases and not followed in 2 cases.

### Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 118 out of 139 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court had concurrent permanency plans identified for 12 of the cases reviewed.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the court in 5 out of 12 cases.

### Category of APPLA plan

The cases with a plan of APPLA (68) had the following categories of APPLA:

- 64 cases: Emancipation/Independence
- 4 cases: Placement in long-term care facility until transition to adult facility

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 68 cases)

51 of the 68 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 51 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative	Adoption	Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months		5	9	3	8
7 to 11 months	2	6	2		10
1 to 2 years	8		9	1	19
2 to 3 years	8	1	2		20
3 years or more	8	1	3	6	11

Case Planning

The local department made efforts to involve the family in the case planning process in 93 of the 139 cases reviewed.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
5	Emergency Foster Care
2	Formal Kinship Care
8	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
10	Regular Foster Care
8	Relative Foster Care (Restricted)
4	Treatment Foster Care
48	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home
2	Teen Mother Program
3	Therapeutic Group Home
18	Independent Living Program
3	Residential Treatment Center
4	Relative
2	Non Relative
7	Own Dwelling
14	Other

Placement Stability

In 93 of the 139 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 105 of the 139 cases reviewed there was at least 1 change in placement within the 12 months prior to the review, 27 cases with 2 placement changes, 3 cases with 3 placement changes and 4 cases with 4 or more changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in 132 out of 139 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 129 cases reviewed, to the foster/kin family in 44 cases, and to the birth family in 61 cases.

### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 30 out of 139 children had developmental or special needs.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 47 out of 139 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Comprehensive Health Assessment: The local department reported that 113 out of 139 children had received a comprehensive health assessment.
- Prescription Medication: 71 out of 139 children were on prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 46 out of 139 children were on psychotropic medication.

- Mental Health Services/System: 11 children had an identified plan to obtain health services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 18 children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: 4 of the 18 children with a substance abuse problem were having it addressed.
- Behavioral Issues: 66 children had behavioral issues.

The local board agreed that the health and mental health needs of 79 out of 139 children were being met.

### Education

93 out of 139 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 – 87 cases)

29 out of the 87 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that the 29 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 87 cases)

The local board agreed that 53 out of the 87 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth age 17 and older)

Housing had been specified for 60 of the youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed with the housing and found that the 60 youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

## Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

9 out of the 139 cases had a CASA.

## Risk and Safety

There were 3 cases with indicators of risk and the local board agreed that safety protocols were followed in all of the 3 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	4
Child did not want to be Adopted	97
N/A under age of consent	24
Unknown	11
No, Medically Fragile/Mental Health Issue	3
Yes, with conditions	

## Adoptive Placement

### Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

22 out of the 26 children with a plan of Adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure in the 21 cases comprised of the following: 10 cases each with a married couple, 1 case with an unmarried couple and 11 cases each with a single female.

The pre-adoptive resource relationships were 4 cases with a former foster parent, 4 cases with a relative/kin and 18 cases with a non-relative.

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

- 1 case was from 1 to 3 months
- 2 cases were from 12 to 15 months
- 3 cases were from 16 to 20 months
- 15 cases were 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved in 17 out of the 22 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for

the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs in 20 cases.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for 20 of the 22 cases.

### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in all 21 cases.

The post-adoptive service that was most needed in all 21 cases was medical.

### Miscellaneous Findings

#### Frequency of Caseworker Visits (as reported by caseworker)

Frequency	Cases
Daily	
Once a week	9
More than once a week	
Less than once a week, but at least twice a month	6
Less than twice a month, but at least once a month	120
Less than once a month	2
Quarterly	2

### Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers to permanency were found.

- No Service Agreement With Parents.
- No Service Agreement With Child.
- Inadequate Casework Services.
- Inadequate Preparation For Independence.
- Poor Coordination Within LDSS.
- Other Coordination Barrier.
- Other Service Resource Barrier.
- Lack Of Housing.
- Lack Of Employment.
- Lack Of Transportation.
- Lack Of Concurrent Planning.
- No Service Agreement With Parents.
- No Service Agreement With Youth.
- Youth Placed Outside Of Home Jurisdiction.
- Missing Or Lack Of Documentation.
- Child Has Behavior Problems In The Home.

- Non-Compliant With Service Agreement.
- Other Child/Youth Related Barrier.
- TPR Not Granted.
- Appeal By Birth Parents.
- Child In Pre-Adoptive Home, But Adoption Not Finalized.
- Home Study Not Approved.
- Youth Not Receiving Adequate Services.
- Other Physical Health Barrier.
- Transitional Housing Has Not Been Identified.
- Inadequate Preparation For Independence (General).
- Other Independence Barrier.
- Other Placement Barrier.
- Youth's Psychotropic Medications Should Be Adjusted.
- Youth Non-Compliant With Medication.
- Other Mental Health Barrier.

### **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 124 out of 139 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.

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter  
CRBC Metrics

FY2016	
Total # of Children - Scheduled on the Preliminary:	619
Total # of Children - Not Received & Rescheduled:	178
Total # of Children - Eligible for Review:	441
Total # of Children - Reviewed at the Board:	387
Total # of Children - Not Reviewed at the Board:	54
Percentage of Children Reviewed for the Period:	88%
Percentage of Children Not Reviewed for the Period:	12%
Recommendation Reports - Number Sent	387
Recommendation Reports - Number Sent on Time	369
Recommendation Reports - Percent Sent on Time	95%
Recommendation Reports - Number Received	302
Recommendation Reports - Percent Received %	78%
Recommendation Reports - Number Received on Time	118
Recommendation Reports - Percent Received on Time %	39%
Number of Boards Held	62
Recommendation Reports - # of DSS Agreement	287
Recommendation Reports - Percent of DSS Agreement	95%
Recommendation Reports - # of DSS Disagreement	12
Recommendation Reports - Percent of DSS Disagreement	4%
Recommendation Reports - # Blank/Unanswered	3
Recommendation Reports - Percent # Blank/Unanswered	1%
Percentage of ADOPTION Children Reviewed for the Period:	22%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT Children Reviewed for the Period:	4%
Percentage of CUSTODY/GUARDIANSHIP Children Reviewed for the Period:	6%
Percentage of REUNIFICATION Children Reviewed for the Period:	28%
Percentage of APPLA Children Reviewed for the Period:	40%

## **The State Board**

Nettie Anderson-Burrs (Chairperson)

Circuit 4: Representing Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties

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

Susan Gross

Circuit 6: Representing Frederick and Montgomery Counties

Denise Joseph

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

Sheila Jessup, PhD

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

Sylvia Smith

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

Sarah Walker

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

## CRBC Staff

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Administrator

Crystal Young, MSW  
Assistant Administrator

Debbie Ramelmeier, LCSW-C, J.D.  
Director of Child Welfare Policy

Jerome Findlay  
Information Technology Officer

Marlo Palmer-Dixon  
Volunteer Activities Coordinator Supervisor

Sandy Colea  
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Michele Foster, MSW  
Staff Assistant

Eric Davis, MSW  
Staff Assistant

Cindy Hunter-Gray  
Lead Secretary

Vacant  
Office Clerk II

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Issued - Pursuant to Family Law Article Section §5-539.1(b)(3)