



## Citizens Review Board for Children

### INSIDER

Fall-Winter 2013

Issue 1

## A Message from the Chairperson and Administrator

### New Beginnings

When we think about the Fall and Winter seasons we think about change; leaves changing on the trees, children returning to school, new beginnings of the season, and a new year approaching. What a wonderful time to begin many new chapters within CRBC! We hope you enjoy the kick off of our quarterly newsletter the CRBC Insider; we hope you will find the information helpful.

Over the past several years CRBC has had many new beginnings as we have evolved as an agency to ensure that we remain relevant in child welfare oversight and being effective advocates for the children and families we serve.

We are very optimistic with where CRBC is going and our recent new beginnings from our office location move, to the appointment of our new State Board member Sheila Jessup, new Assistant Administrator George Randall and, soon to be new Staff Assistant. We anticipate new growth in CRBC with the addition of many new volunteers and with your help the continued recruitment of volunteers.

In this addition of the CRBC insider, you will find information on recruitment efforts and a feature on a volunteer(s) and staff person of the quarter which you will see in each newsletter. You will also find information on upcoming events such as our Holiday Open House on December 13th 12-2pm that we hope you all will be able to attend.

As we approach the beginning of a new season and year very soon, we hope you all know just how much we value you and your dedicated contribution to the children of this State and CRBC.

*With a Servants Heart,*

*Nettie Anderson-Burrs, Chairperson*

*Sabrena Barnes-McAllister, LGSW*

*Administrator*

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## State Board

### **Doretha "Dee" Henry, Circuit I**

(Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, & Worcester)

### **Mary MacClelland, Circuit II**

(Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, & Talbot)

### **Delores Alexander, Circuit III**

(Baltimore & Harford)

### **Nettie Anderson-Burrs, Circuit IV**

#### **Chairperson**

(Allegany, Garrett, & Washington)

### **Heidi Busch, Circuit V**

(Anne Arundel, Carroll, & Howard)

### **Helen Diane Johnson, MSW Circuit VI**

(Frederick & Montgomery)

### **James Trent, Circuit VII**

#### **Vice-Chairperson**

(Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, & Saint Mary's)

### **Sheila Jessup, PhD Circuit VIII**

(Baltimore City)

### **Sylvia Smith, Circuit VIII**

(Baltimore City)

### **Sabrena Barnes-McAllister, LGSW**

#### **Administrator**

## Welcome Dr. Sheila Jessup to CRBC State Board Serving Baltimore City Circuit VIII



Dr. Sheila Jessup has been appointed to serve as one of three State Board Representatives serving Baltimore City. Sheila is currently the Chairperson of the Baltimore City Panel. Sheila will serve for the 2013-2015 term. Sheila comes to the State Board with 38 years of special education experience working with DHMH teaching severely emotional youth. She received a Bachelor in Sociology from Morgan State University, Master of Education from Coppin State University, Masters in Divinity and Doctorate in Ministry both from Faith Theological Seminary.

Sheila also did doctoral studies in education psychology at Howard University. She is very active in the community and has been a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority for 15 years and Lambda Kappa Mu for 17 years.

## Welcome George Randall, LGSW CRBC Assistant Administrator

George began work with CRBC on June 28th. He will be responsible for operational, report writing, and quality assurance within the agency. George is an exceptional professional urban social work leader and educator. He comes to us from the DHR/ Morgan State University's Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Program; where he served as Assistant Director for the past five years. He has a Masters of Social Work and a Bachelor of Social Work degree from Morgan State University's School of Social Work. In addition, he is currently a Social Work PhD Candidate also at Morgan State University. He has many years of experience serving vulnerable children and their families, as well as educating aspiring child welfare social workers.



## CRBC Office Move and OPEN HOUSE December 13th 12-2pm

On August 10, 2013 the Citizens Review Board for Children's administrative offices moved to 1100 Eastern Boulevard, Essex, MD 21221. CRBC's offices were formerly located on Patterson Ave., in Baltimore, MD. CRBC shares an one level office building with DHR's Information Services (DHRIS). As indicated in pictures on page 3 CRBC has a private entrance on the side of the building for our guest to easily access our building.



# CRBC Holiday OPEN HOUSE

December 13, 2013 @ 12-2pm

Please join us for the CRBC State Board Open House on December 13, 2013. The State Board invites you to tour the new administrative offices and meet and speak with your State Board representative, Departmental invited guest, stakeholders, and other volunteers in jurisdictions throughout the State.

### RSVP Information:

Please R.S.V.P. by Monday, November 25, 2013 via:  
Email: [crbc.mail@maryland.gov](mailto:crbc.mail@maryland.gov) or Phone: (410) 238-1390

*Happy  
Holidays*



# What's Happening in Child Welfare

## Highlights from FY2014 1st Quarterly Report

The following are highlights from the report.

During the First Quarter (July 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>) CRBC conducted 141 reviews of children/youth with a permanency plan of Reunification, Adoption, and Another Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA).

### Reunification Case Reviews Overall

- Local boards permanency plan recommendations: Overall the local boards did not agree with the permanency plan of 19 (59%) out of the 32 cases with a permanency plan of Reunification. The local boards recommended the permanency plan of those 19 cases be changed to APPLA (12), Relative Placement (5), and Adoption (2). The local boards agreed with the permanency plan of Reunification of 10 (31%) out of the 32 cases.
- Length of permanency plan: Overall there were 21 (78%) out of the 32 with a permanency plan of Reunification from 1 to 2 years. There were 6 (19%) out of the 32 cases reviewed with a permanency plan Reunification for 3 or more years.
- Board and permanency: Overall the local boards agreed with the permanency plan of Reunification with 10 (31%) out of the 32 cases reviewed. The local boards recommended the other 22 permanency plans be changed to; 12 APPLA, 5 Relative Placement, 2 Adoption, and 3 Guardianship.
- Re-reviewed: The local boards recommended that 23 out of the 32 cases with a permanency plan of Reunification overall should be re-reviewed.

### Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)

- Overall CRBC reviewed 92 children/youth that had a permanency plan of APPLA in the First Quarter of FY14.
- APPLA permanency plan: Overall there were 78 (85%) out of the 92 children/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of APPLA that are expected to remain in existing placement until they reach the age of majority (emancipation/independence). There were 8 (9%) out of the 92 children/youth reviewed that are in long-term out of home care with a non-relative. There were 5 (5%) out of the 92 children/youth reviewed that were placed in a long-term care facility until transition to an adult facility.
- Length of plan: Overall the length of APPLA as a plan for the children/youth reviewed were; 15 (16%) 0 to 6 months, 8 (9%) 7 to 11 months; 24 (26%) 1 to 2 years; and 40 (44%) had a plan of APPLA for 3 or more years.

# What's Happening in Child Welfare Continued

## [Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement \(APPLA\)...continued from page 4](#)

- Independent living: Overall there were 52 (60%) out of the 92 children/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of APPLA that are receiving required independent living skills.
- Services needed for discharge: Overall the 42 (46%) out of the 92 children/youth reviewed with a permanency of plan of APPLA need housing services; 39 (42%) need medical services; 31 (34%) need mental health and educational services; and 28 (30%) need employment services for discharge.
- Board and physical and mental health: Overall the local boards agreed with that physical and mental health needs are being met with 58 (63%) out of the 92 children/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of APPLA.
- Permanent Connection: Overall there was a permanent connection identified for 52 (57%) out of the 92 children/youth reviewed with a permanency plan of APPLA.
- Re-review: Overall the local boards recommend that 41 (45%) out of the 92 cases reviewed should be re-reviewed.
- Board and permanency plan: Overall the local boards agreed with the permanency plan of APPLA of 75 (81%) out of the 92 cases reviewed.

## Adoption

- Overall CRBC reviewed 17 children/youth cases that had a permanency plan of Adoption in the First Quarter of FY14.
- Permanency: Overall the permanency plan of Adoption was established in a timely manner for 13 (77%) out of the 17 children/youth cases reviewed.
- Board placement recommendation: Overall the local boards agreed with 16 (94%) out of the 17 children/youth reviewed placement plan.
- Re-reviewed: Overall the local boards recommends 11 (65%) of the 17 Adoption cases reviewed should be re-reviewed.
- Board and permanency plan: Overall the local boards agreed with the permanency plan of Adoption with 14 (82%) of the 17 cases reviewed.

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*

*Margaret Mead*

# What's Happening in Child Welfare...Highlights from FY2014 1st Quarterly Report

## Baltimore City Panel Recommendations continued

- The panel recommends an increased effort to document all services provided to the child and family.
- The panel recommends an increased effort to appropriately follow-up in regards to high-risk case concerns.
- The panel recommends higher parent compliance before returning children home, and closer monitoring once the child is returned home.
- Baltimore City panel recommends that CRBC be given re-entry cases to review.

## CRBC Jurisdiction Recommendations

- All jurisdictions should include the paternal family members as possible resources for all children who are in out-of-home care.
- All jurisdictions should include the paternal family members as possible resources for all Child Protection Service investigations.
- All jurisdictions are required to bring case records and/or supportive documentation to all CRBC case reviews.

**We welcome you to read the report in its entirety via our web page at**

**<http://dhr.maryland.gov/crbc>**





## Volunteer Spotlight Bernice Cohen

*“Volunteers, a precious resource  
we can not afford to lose.”  
-Denise Penn*

Bernice Cohen has been a devoted member to the Montgomery County Local Board #5 for 17 years. She continues to show a compassion for helping children through her service on the local board. Bernice has also been very instrumental in recruiting volunteers for Montgomery County which has lead to fuller local boards. We thank Bernice for her service, dedication and heart!



**Bernice Cohen**  
**Montgomery County Local Board #5**

## CRBC Staff Person of the Quarter Denise Wheeler



Denise Wheeler, Unit Supervisor is the recent CRBC “Star Award” recipient. The CRBC Star Award is given quarterly to acknowledge outstanding professional performance. Denise has consistently performed her essential job functions and multiple other assigned duties at a level that is clearly a benchmark for her peers and colleagues. The CRBC Star Award is a staff-centered and staff-nominated honor. Denise has humbly accepted this quarter’s CRBC Star Award; however as an example of her selflessness and dedication to serve, she would have clearly preferred to give the award to one of her staff. However, the CRBC staff fully supports Denise’s selection and ultimate obtainment of this much deserved honor



# CRBC in the Community

## Family Tree Walk for Maryland's Children

Citizens Review Board for Children participated in the Family Tree's Walk for Maryland's Children on September 21, 2013. Denise Wheeler and Marlo Palmer-Dixon, organized the CRBC Team Challenge (83 registered members) and raised \$200.00 to help the Family Tree's initiative against child abuse and neglect 23 potential volunteer received volunteer packets.

**The following staff members and their family and friends came out on and walk for Maryland's Children:**

Denise Wheeler, Supervisor

Jerome Findlay, Information Technology Officer

Michele Foster, Staff Assistant

Marlo Palmer-Dixon, Volunteer Specialist

Cindy Hunter-Gray, Office Secretary III

**Enough Abuse Campaign**  
"The Family Tree (Prevent Child Abuse Maryland) is leading the charge to prevent child sexual abuse in Maryland. "



# Ongoing Recruitment Across the State

CRBC has **volunteer opportunities** in the following jurisdictions. Please help us spread the word!

**We are currently recruiting for volunteers who reside in the following jurisdictions:**

- |                          |                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Allegany County</b>   | <b>Howard County</b>          |
| <b>Baltimore City</b>    | <b>Kent County</b>            |
| <b>Baltimore County</b>  | <b>Montgomery County</b>      |
| <b>Calvert County</b>    | <b>Prince George's County</b> |
| <b>Caroline County</b>   | <b>Queen Anne's County</b>    |
| <b>Carroll County</b>    | <b>Saint Mary's County</b>    |
| <b>Cecil County</b>      | <b>Somerset County</b>        |
| <b>Charles County</b>    | <b>Talbot County</b>          |
| <b>Dorchester County</b> | <b>Washington County</b>      |
| <b>Garrett County</b>    | <b>Wicomico County</b>        |
|                          | <b>Worchester County</b>      |



Please contact our Volunteer Specialist Marlo Palmer-Dixon at 410-238-1338 or [marlo.palmer-dixon@maryland.gov](mailto:marlo.palmer-dixon@maryland.gov) to learn more about volunteering with CRBC.



## Upcoming Events

### State Board Meeting Schedule

December 13, 2013

February 14, 2014

April 11, 2014

June 13, 2014

Each meeting begins at 10:00 am and unless designated is an open meeting.

Not able to attend in person?

Call-In 1-888-942-6579

Code:8005111

### CRBC HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

DEC.13th 12-2pm

Please R.S.V.P. by Monday, November 25, 2013 via:

Email: [crbc.mail@maryland.gov](mailto:crbc.mail@maryland.gov) or Phone: (410) 238-1390

## CRBC is on Facebook

Follow us on Facebook to get information on upcoming trainings and events!

**Citizens Review Board for Children (CRBC) is on Facebook.**

[.https://www.facebook.com/pages/Maryland-Citizens-Review-Board-for-Children-CRBC/116262205063898](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Maryland-Citizens-Review-Board-for-Children-CRBC/116262205063898)



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