

# Citizens Review Board For Children



FOURTH QUARTER  
FISCAL YEAR 2018 REPORT  
(April 1st – June 30th 2018)

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## **Our Mission Statement**

To conduct case reviews of children in out-of-home care, 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

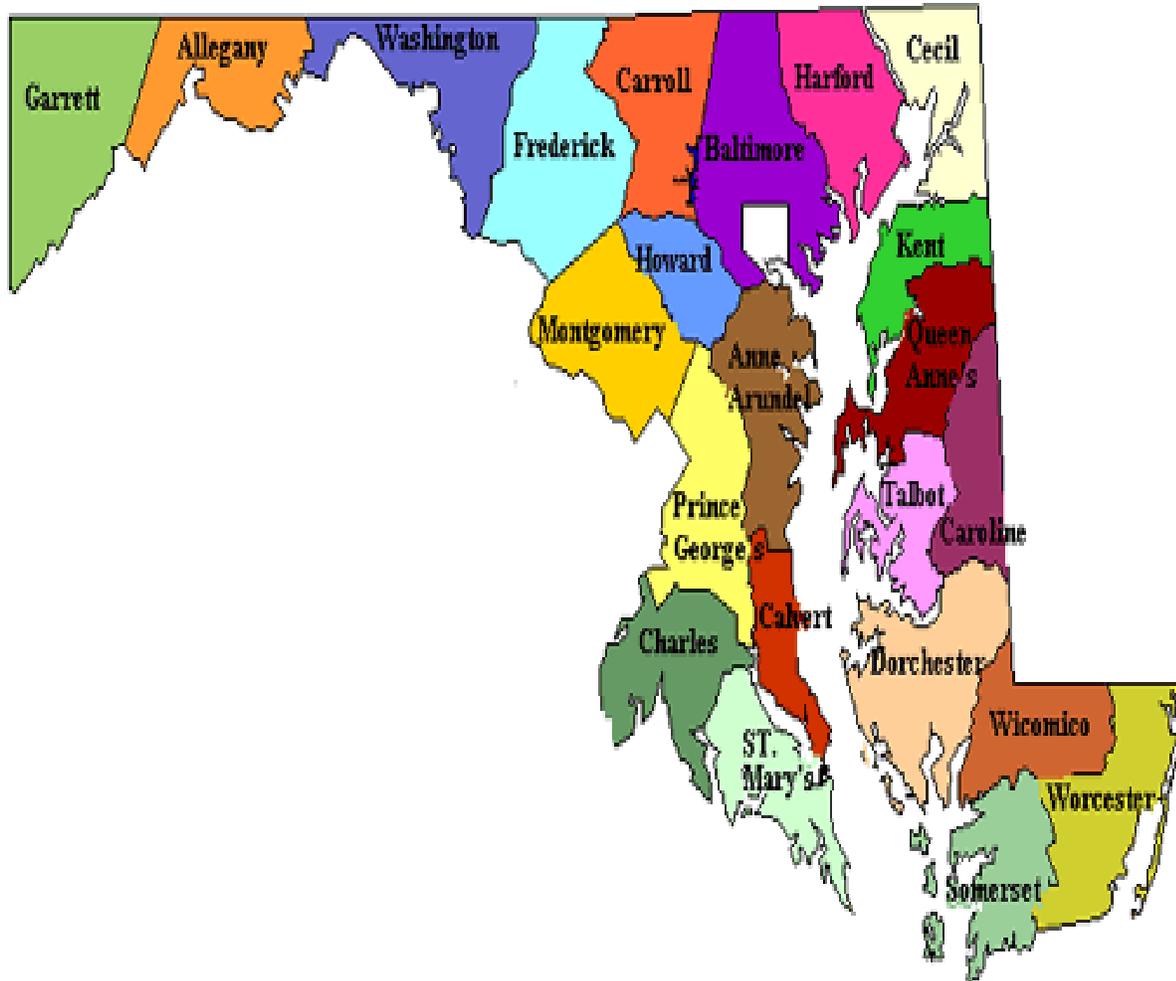
CRBC would like to acknowledge the commitment, dedication, passion and service of all stakeholders on behalf of Maryland's most vulnerable children including:

- ★ CRBC Governor Appointed Volunteers
- ★ The Department of Human Services (DHS)
- ★ 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 4th Quarter Fiscal Year 2018.



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, 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).

## 4th Quarter Case Review Statistics

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

Jurn #	County	Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA	TOTAL	# Boards Held
02	Anne Arundel	4	3	0	0	5	12	2
03	Baltimore County	8	0	0	0	12	20	4
04	Calvert	1	1	4	1	1	8	1
05	Caroline	4	4	2	0	0	10	1
06	Carroll	3	0	2	0	1	6	1
07	Cecil	0	0	4	0	4	8	1
08	Charles	2	1	2	1	3	9	1
10	Frederick	5	3	2	0	3	13	2
11	Garrett	1	0	5	0	0	6	1
12	Harford	10	3	4	3	6	26	3
13	Howard	1	0	0	0	7	8	1
15	Montgomery	14	3	12	1	12	42	7
16	Prince Georges	18	0	7	2	13	40	6
18	Saint Mary's	3	1	3	0	0	7	1
19	Somerset	2	0	4	0	2	8	1
20	Talbot	1	0	5	0	0	6	1
21	Washington	5	0	2	0	8	15	2
22	Wicomico	0	1	1	1	2	5	1
49	Baltimore City	24	6	8	4	75	117	18
19	<b>Statewide Totals</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>*26</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>55</b>
	<b>Percentages</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

\*(Note: Relative Placement is the combined total of Relative Placement for Adoption = 8; Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship = 18)

CRBC conducted a total of 366 individual out-of-home case reviews including 21 re-reviews (each case reviewed represents 1 child/youth) in 19 Jurisdictions on 55 boards that held reviews during the 4th quarter of fiscal year 2018.

Re-reviews are conducted when the local board determines that there are areas of concern that need to be addressed and/or resolved by the local department. These re-reviews are follow-ups to regular reviews to ascertain whether adequate progress has been made and whether the department followed the local board's recommendation.

For the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, only Baltimore City and Harford county held re-reviews and the results of the re-reviews can be found at the end of the jurisdiction's analysis before the barriers.

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
- 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 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the time of the review)
- Permanent Connections
- Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
- Pre-Adoption Services
- Post-Adoption Services
- Child's Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings
- Miscellaneous Findings
- Barriers/Issues to Permanency

## Total Reviewed (366)

### Gender Totals

Male	Female
187 (51%)	179 (49%)

### Gender by Plan

#### Male(187)

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA
57 (31%)	10 (5%)	47 (25%)	5 (3%)	68 (36%)

#### Female(179)

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA
49 (27%)	16 (9%)	20 (11%)	8 (5%)	86 (48%)

### Ethnicity Overall

African American	Caucasian	Asian	Other
227 (62%)	113 (31%)	1 (<1%)	25 (7%)

### Age Range by Permanency Plan

[RE] = Reunification

[RA]= Relative Adoption

[RG] = Relative C & G

[AD] = Non Relative Adoption

[CG] = Non Relative C & G

[AP] = Appla

AGE RANGE	RE	RA	RG	AD	CG	AP	Totals
1_age 0 thru 5	6	4	1	28			39
2_age 6 thru 10	15	1	5	13			34
3_age 11 thru 13	23	2	3	7	2		37
4_age 14 thru 16	42		4	13	8	4	71
5_age 17 thru 19	19	1	5	5	2	83	115
6_age 20	1			1	1	67	70
Totals	106	8	18	67	13	154	366

## Jurisdictional Case Reviews

### Anne Arundel County



Anne Arundel County had a total of 12 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 4 cases
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 1 case
- Relative Placement for Custody & Guardianship: 2 cases
- APPLA: 5 cases

#### Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 11 of the 12 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 12 cases.

#### Category of APPLA plan (5 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (5)

#### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 5 cases)

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

## Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 11 of the 12 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 10 of the 12 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 7 cases.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate for the 7 signed cases.

## Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
4	Regular Foster Care
1	Restricted (relative) Foster Care
1	Teen Mother Program
1	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Residential Treatment Center
2	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Pre- finalized Adoption

## Placement Stability

In 5 of the 12 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 12 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. The 4 cases all had 2 changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 2 of the 4 cases.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for all 12 cases reviewed.

## Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of the 12 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 9 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 8 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 9 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 7 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.

- Prescription Medication: 8 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 6 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 10 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 9 of 10 the children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 of the 3 youths transitioning out of care had and identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: None of the youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 6 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 6 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 7 of the 12 children/youths had been met and 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

### Education

9 of the 12 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program and 3 youths had graduated high school.

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

### Employment (age 14 and older – 8 cases)

1 of the 8 youths was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

The local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

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

### ➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 3 cases) (Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had been specified for 1 of the 3 youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that 2 of the 3 youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

8 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 12 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. 1 child had consented to adoption.

Adoptive Placement (None)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not applicable

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not applicable

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	7	7
No	5	5

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	4	3
More than once a week		
Once a month	2	1
More than once a month		1
Quarterly		2
Yes, but undocumented	1	
Never		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	3	2
Unsupervised	4	5

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	2	1
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member	1	1
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	1	2
LDSS Visitation Center		1
Public Area	3	2
Child's/Youth's Placement	1	2
Other	2	

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	2	3
No	5	4

The local board found that 3 of the 12 children/youths had siblings in care and all 3 had visits with their siblings in care.

### Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified.

- No Service Agreement With Youth.
- Youth Placed Outside Of Home Jurisdiction.
- Child Has Behavior Problems In The Home.
- Other Family Related Barrier.
- Youth Not Enrolled In School.
- Annual Physicals Not Current.
- Dentals Not Current.
- Vision Not Current.
- Other Mental Health Barrier
- Other independence barrier.
- Youth Not Employed and Transitioning Out of Care.
- Lack of Local Residential Treatment Facilities.
- Financial disincentives to permanence.

## 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 12 children reviewed.

## Baltimore County



Baltimore County had a total of 20 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 8 cases
- APPLA: 12 cases

### Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 19 of the 20 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 8 reunification cases.

### Category of APPLA plan (12 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (12)

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 12 cases)

5 of the 12 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 for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months						3
7 to 11 months	1					5
1 to 2 years	2					1
2 to 3 years	3					
3 years or more	2					3

### Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 20 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 12 of the 20 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 6 cases. There were no cases where anyone refused to sign the service agreement. 1 case was post TPR and the child was under age 14.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate for the 6 signed cases.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
3	Treatment Foster Care (private)
1	Teen Mother Program
6	Therapeutic Group Home
8	Independent Living Residential Program
1	College (LA)
1	Trial Home Visit (LA)

Placement Stability

In 12 of the 20 cases reviewed the children/youth were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 13 of the 20 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 8 cases had 1 placement change and 5 cases had 2 placement changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 12 of the 13 cases.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for all 20 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 4 of the 20 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 14 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 15 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 12 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 8 of the 20 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 12 children/youths were taking prescription medication.

- Psychotropic Medication: 12 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 17 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 14 of the 17 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the 4 youths with mental health issues who were transitioning out of care had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 youth had substance abuse issues.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the 1 youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 7 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 6 of the 7 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 8 of the 20 children had been met. 1 child/youth had refused to comply with standard health exams.

### Education

16 of 20 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 3 youths refused to attend school and 1 had graduated high school.

The local board agreed that the children/youths 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 – 18 cases)

6 of the 18 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

The local board agreed that 13 of the 18 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 18 cases)

The local board agreed that 16 of the 18 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 6 cases)  
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had not been specified for the 6 youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that 3 of the 6 youths were being appropriately prepared for transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

6 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 20 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption (none)

Not applicable

Adoptive Placement (None)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not applicable

Adoptive Recruitment

Not applicable

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not applicable

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	15	7
No	5	13

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily	1	1
Once a week		
More than once a week		1
Once a month	5	2
More than once a month	9	3
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented		

Never		
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Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	2	
Unsupervised	13	7

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	2	
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	9	5
LDSS Visitation Center	3	1
Public Area		1
Child's/Youth's Placement	3	
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	13	6
No	2	1

The local board found that 4 of the 20 children/youths had siblings in care and all 4 had visits with their siblings in care.

### Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified.

- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Youth not attending school or in GED program.
- Other educational barrier.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Youth not employed and transitioning out of care.
- Transitional housing has not been identified.
- Vision not current.

## Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 19 of the 20 children reviewed.

## Calvert County



Calvert County had a total of 8 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 1 case
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 1 case
- Non Relative Adoption: 4 cases
- Non Relative Custody & Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 1 case

### Permanency

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

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 3 of the 8 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent plans set by the court for 1 of the 3 cases.

### Category of APPLA plan (APPLA - 1 case)

- Emancipation /Independence

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

The 1 APPLA case did not have a permanent connection identified.

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

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

## Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 8 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 6 of the 8 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 6 cases.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate for the 6 signed cases.

## Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
2	Pre-finalized Adoption
2	Treatment Foster Care (private)
3	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Residential Group Home

## Placement Stability

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

In 4 of the 8 cases reviewed, there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 3 cases had 1 placement change and 1 case had 2 placement changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for all 4 cases.

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

## Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 7 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 7 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 7 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 7 of the 8 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.

- Prescription Medication: 6 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 6 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 6 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 6 of the children/youth.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and there was not an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: None of the youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 1 child/youth had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child/youth.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 7 of the 8 children/youths had been met.

### Education

7 out of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program and 1 child was under the age of 5.

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

### Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

None of the 4 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

- 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 – None)  
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Not Applicable.

## Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

1 of the 8 cases had a CASA.

## Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 8 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. 1 child/youth with a plan of adoption consented to adoption, 1 child/youth consented with conditions, 1 was medically fragile and unable to consent, 1 was under the age of consent and 1 child did not want to be adopted.

## Adoptive Placement (4 cases)

### Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

2 of the 4 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The family structure was comprised of a married couple in both cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children/youths was a relative foster parent in 1 case and a non-relative foster parent in the other case.

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

- 1 case(s) from 4 to 6 months
- 1 case(s) 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved in both cases.

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

The local board found that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate for both cases.

### Adoptive Recruitment

The local board found that the local department did not have documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for the 2 children/youths not placed in a pre-adoptive home.

The local board did not agree that the adoptive recruitment efforts were appropriate.

### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for the 2 children/youths in a pre-adoptive placement. The services that were needed were medical and mental health for both cases and DDA for 1 case.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for the 2 children/youths in a pre-adoptive placement.

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	2	1
No	6	6

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily	1	1
Once a week		
More than once a week		
Once a month	1	
More than once a month		
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented		
Never		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	2	1

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative		
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	2	1
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area		
Child's/Youth's Placement		
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No	1	1

The local board found that 2 of the 8 children/youths had siblings in care and both had visits with their siblings in care.

### Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified.

- Pre-adoptive Resources Not Identified.
- No service agreement with youth.
- 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 all 8 children reviewed.

## Caroline County



Caroline County had a total of 10 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 4 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 4 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 2 cases

### Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 10 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 1 of the 10 cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan – N/A

Permanent Connections (APPLA – N/A)

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

### Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 10 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in all 10 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 2 cases. 1 case was a post TPR child under 14 years old.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate for the 2 signed cases.

### Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
3	Formal Kinship Care
1	Pre-Finalized Adoption
4	Regular Foster Care
1	Treatment Foster Care(Private)
1	Residential Group Home

### Placement Stability

In 4 of the 10 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 1 of the 10 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for the 1 case.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for all 10 cases reviewed.

### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 10 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 9 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 6 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 7 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 5 of the 10 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 4 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.

- Mental Health Issues: 8 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 8 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and there was not an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: None of the youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 8 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 8 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs for 6 of the 10 children were met.

### Education

6 of the 10 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program and 4 children were under the age of 5.

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

### Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

1 of the 4 youths was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

The local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

1 youth was not receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living and 3 youths had mental health issues.

- Housing(Transitioning Youth aged 20 – None)  
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Not applicable.

### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

All 10 cases had a CASA.

### Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 10 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. All of the children with a plan of adoption were under the age of consent.

### Adoptive Placement (4 cases)

#### Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

1 of the 4 children/youths with a plan of adoption was placed in a pre-adoptive placement. The pre-adoptive family structure comprised of a married couple for the 1 case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child/youth was a non relative foster parent.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placement was as follows:

- 1 case(s) from 21 months or more

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

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet identified needs of the child/youth in the 1 case.

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

#### Adoptive Recruitment

The local board found that the local department did not have documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for the 3 children/youths not placed in a pre-adoptive home.

The local board did not agree that the adoptive recruitment efforts were appropriate.

#### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post adoptive services were needed for the 1 case. The services that were needed were medical and mental health for the 1 case.

The local board found that the post adoptive services were appropriate for the 1 child.

## Miscellaneous Findings

### Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	8	4
No	2	6

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	6	1
More than once a week		1
Once a month	1	
More than once a month	1	2
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented		
Never		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	5	1
Unsupervised	3	3

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	4	
Other Agency Representative		1
Biological Family Member	1	
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	1	3
LDSS Visitation Center	4	
Public Area	2	1
Child's/Youth's Placement		
Other	1	

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	2	3
No	6	1

The local board found that 7 of the 10 children/youths had siblings in care and all 7 had visits with their siblings in care.

### Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified.

- No service agreement with parents.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- No current IEP.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- No follow up on medical referrals.

### 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 10 children/youths reviewed.

## Carroll County



Carroll County had a total of 6 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 3 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 2 cases
- APPLA: 1 case

### Permanency

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

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 6 cases.

### Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence

### Permanent Connections (1 case)

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

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

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

## Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 6 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in all 6 of the cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 4 cases. Two of the cases were post TPR and the children were under the age of 14.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate for the 4 signed cases.

## Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
2	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
2	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Unapproved Living Arrangement

## Placement Stability

In all 6 cases reviewed, the children/youths were not placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 2 of the 6 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. Both cases had 1 placement change.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 1 of the 2 cases.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for all 6 cases reviewed.

## Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 4 of the 6 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: All 6 children had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 5 children had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 5 children had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 4 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 6 children/youths were taking prescription medication.

- Psychotropic Medication: 4 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 2 of the children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 2 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 of the children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 3 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 4 of the 6 children/youths had been met.

### Education

4 of the 6 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program and 2 youths had graduated high school.

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

### Ready by 21

#### ➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

2 of the 4 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth was unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

The local board agreed that the 2 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

The local board agreed that 2 of the 4 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

#### ➤ Housing(Transitioning Youth aged 20 – 1 case) (Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had not been specified for the youth who was transitioning out of care.

## Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

2 of the 6 cases had a CASA.

## Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 6 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. 1 child with a permanency plan of adoption was under the age of consent and the other child/youth was medically fragile and unable to consent.

## Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

### Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Both children/youths with a plan of adoption were not placed in a pre-adoptive home.

### Adoptive Recruitment

The local board found that the local department did not have documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for the 2 children/youths not placed in a pre-adoptive home.

### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for 1 case. The service that were needed was medical.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for the 1 case.

## Miscellaneous Findings

### Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	5	2
No	1	4

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	1	2

More than once a week		
Once a month	2	
More than once a month	2	
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented		
Never		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	2	
Unsupervised	3	2

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	2	
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home		1
LDSS Visitation Center	1	
Public Area	1	
Child's/Youth's Placement	3	1
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		1
No	5	1

The local board found that 2 of the 6 children/youths had siblings in care and both had visits with their siblings in care.

### Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Pre-adoptive resource not identified.
- Inadequate pool of prospective adoptive families(general)
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Not following up on referrals.
- Dentals not current.
- Lack of housing

- Other service resource 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 all 6 children reviewed.

## Cecil County



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

- Non Relative Adoption: 4 cases
- APPLA: 4 cases

### Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 7 of the 8 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 2 of the 8 cases.

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

### Category of APPLA plan (4 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (4 cases)

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 4 cases)

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

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

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

## Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 8 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 4 of the 8 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 4 cases. Two cases were post TPR and the children were under the age of 14.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate for the 4 signed cases.

## Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
3	Own Dwelling
1	Treatment Foster Care (private)
4	Regular Foster Care

## Placement Stability

In 7 of the 8 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 2 of the 8 cases reviewed, there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. Both cases had 4 or more placement changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 1 of the 2 cases.

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

## Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 3 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 3 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 2 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 2 of the 8 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files
- Prescription Medication: 4 children/youths were taking prescription medication.

- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 7 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 4 of the 7 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 of the 2 transitioning youths with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: 2 youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 2 youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 6 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 3 of the 6 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 2 of the 8 children/youths had been met. 2 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

### Education

4 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 youth was in college, 1 youth had graduated high school and 2 children were under the age of 5.

The local board agreed that all the children/youths 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)

3 of the 4 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

The local board agreed that the 3 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

The local board agreed that 3 of the 4 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing(Transitioning Youth aged 20 – 3 case)  
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

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

The local board agreed that all of the youths were being appropriately prepared for transitioning out of care.

#### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

1 case had a CASA.

#### Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 8 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. All 4 children/youths with a plan of adoption consented to adoption.

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#### Adoptive Placement (4 cases)

#### Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

All 4 children/youths with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple in all 4 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children/youths was a non relative foster parent in all 4 cases.

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

- 2 case(s) from 12 to 15 months
- 2 case(s) from 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved in 2 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive families to meet the identified needs of the children/youths in all 4 cases.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate in all 4 cases.

#### Adoptive Recruitment

Not needed, all 4 children/youths were already placed in pre-adoptive homes.

#### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post adoptive services were needed for all 4 cases. The services that were needed were medical and mental health for all 4 cases, and educational for 2 of the 4 cases.

The local board found that the post adoptive services were appropriate for all 4 children/youths.

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		1
No	8	7

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week		
More than once a week		
Once a month		1
More than once a month		
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented		
Never		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised		1

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative		
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home		1
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area		
Child's/Youth's Placement		
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No		1

The local board found that 4 of the 8 children/youths had siblings in care and all 4 had visits with their siblings in care.

### Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Youth Non compliant with medication
- Poor coordination within DSS
- Inadequate casework services
- Missing or lack of documentation
- Other court related barrier
- Other educational barrier
- No follow up on medical referrals
- Youth refuses mental health treatment -including therapy
- Other independence barrier
- No current IEP
- Appeal by birth parents
- Other coordination barrier
- Child in pre-adoptive home but adoption not finalized
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dental not current.
- Vision not current.

### Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 2 of the 8 children/youths reviewed.

## Charles County



Charles County had a total of 9 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 2 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- Non Relative Adoption: 2 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 3 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 2 of the 8 cases.

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

### Category of APPLA plan (3 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (3)

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 3 cases)

None of the 3 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified.

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

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

## Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 9 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 1 of the 9 cases reviewed and there were no signed service agreements for any of the 9 cases. 1 case was post TPR and the child was under 14 years of age.

## Placement

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
5	Treatment Foster Care (private)
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Pre-finalized adoptive home
1	Correctional Institution (LA)
1	Own Home/Apartment (LA)

## Placement Stability

In 6 of the 9 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 6 of the 9 cases reviewed, there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. In all 6 cases there was 1 placement change.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 5 of the 6 cases.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for all 9 cases reviewed.

## Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the children/youths had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 7 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 7 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 5 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 4 of the 9 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 4 children/youths were taking prescription medication.

- Psychotropic Medication: 4 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 5 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 5 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None of the youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 1 child/youth had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child/youth.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 4 of the 9 children/youths were being met.

### Education

6 of the 9 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program, 2 youths had graduated high school and 1 child was under the age of 5.

The local board agreed that the children/youths 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 – 6 cases)

2 of the 6 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

The local board agreed that both youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

The local board agreed that 5 of the 6 youths were receiving appropriate independent living skills and 1 youth was in a correctional facility.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)  
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

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

The local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared for transitioning out of care.

#### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

2 of the 9 cases had a CASA.

#### Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 9 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. 1 of the 2 children/youths with a plan of adoption consented.

#### Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

##### Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

1 of the 2 children/youths with a plan of adoption was in a pre-adoptive placement. The pre-adoptive family structure comprised of a married couple for the 1 case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child/youth was a non relative foster parent.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placement was as follows:

- 1 case(s) from 7 to 9 months

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

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

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

##### Adoptive Recruitment

The local board found that the local department did not have documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for the 1 child/youth not placed in a pre-adoptive home.

##### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for the 2 adoption cases. The services that were needed were medical for both cases and mental health for 1 case.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for both

cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	5	5
No	4	4

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	1	
More than once a week		
Once a month		1
More than once a month	3	2
Quarterly		1
Yes, but undocumented	1	1
Never		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	2	
Unsupervised	3	5

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative		
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member	2	
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	3	3
LDSS Visitation Center		1
Public Area	2	1
Child's/Youth's Placement		
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	2	4
No	3	1

The local board found that 2 of the 9 children/youths had siblings in care and both had visits with their siblings in care.

### Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No service agreement with youth.
- No service agreement with parents.
- 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 9 children reviewed.

## Frederick County



Frederick County had a total of 13 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 5 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody & Guardianship: 3 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 2 cases
- APPLA: 3 cases

### Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 10 of the 13 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 2 of the 13 cases.

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

### Category of APPLA plan (3 case)

- Emancipation/Independence (2)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (1)

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 3 cases)

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

## Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 6 of the 13 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 11 of the 13 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 11 cases. 2 cases were post TPR and the children were under age 14.

The local board found that the service agreements were appropriate for all 11 signed cases.

## Placement

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

In 6 of the 13 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 7 of the 13 cases reviewed, there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 2 cases had 1 placement change, 3 cases had 2 placement changes and 2 cases had three placement changes.

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

## Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 13 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 9 children/youths had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 11 children/youths had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 12 children/youths had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 6 of the 13 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.

- Prescription Medication: 6 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 6 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 12 children/youths had mental health issues
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 12 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 2 youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the 1 youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 9 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 9 children/youths.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 8 of the 13 children/youths had been met.

### Education

11 of the 13 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 youth was in college and 1 child was under the age of 5.

The local board agreed that the children/youths 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)

2 of the 6 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 2 youths were unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

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

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

### Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)

(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

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

The local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared for transitioning out of care.

### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

11 cases had a CASA.

### Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed in 9 of the 13 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. 2 children were under the age of consent.

### Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

#### Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Both children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was a married couple for both cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children/youths was a non relative foster parent for both cases.

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

- 2 case(s) 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved in both cases.

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

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate for both cases.

#### Adoptive Recruitment

Not needed, both children/youths were already placed in pre-adoptive homes.

#### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for both cases. The services that were needed were medical, mental health, educational and subsidies for both cases.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for both cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	6	1
No	7	12

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	1	
More than once a week	3	
Once a month	1	1
More than once a month	1	
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented		
Never		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	3	
Unsupervised	3	1

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	3	
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	1	
LDSS Visitation Center	1	
Public Area	1	1
Child's/Youth's Placement	1	
Other	2	

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No	5	1

The local board found that 7 of the 13 children/youths had siblings in care and all 7 had visits with their siblings in care.

### Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Lack of special needs foster homes
- No current IEP
- Other educational barrier
- Board does not agree with permanency plan
- re adoptive resources not identified
- No service agreement with parents
- Appeal by birth parents
- Annual physicals not current
- Dental exams not current
- Vision exams not current
- No follow up on medical referral
- No current Safe C/G

### Summary

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

## Garrett County



Garrett County had a total of 6 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 1 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 5 cases

### Permanency

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

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 6 cases.

### Category of APPLA plan (None)

Not Applicable.

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – None)

Not Applicable.

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

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

### Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 6 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 1 of the 6 cases reviewed and did not have a signed service agreement for any of the 6 cases. 3 of the cases were post TPR and the children were under the age of 14.

### Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
5	Pre-finalized Adoptive Home
1	Therapeutic Group Home

### Placement Stability

In 3 of the 6 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 4 of the 6 cases reviewed, there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. All 4 cases had 1 placement changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for all 4 of the cases.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for all 6 cases reviewed.

### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 6 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 6 children/youths had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 6 children/youths had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 5 children/youths had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 5 of the children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 1 child/youth was taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 6 children/youths had mental health issues
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 6 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the youths with mental

health issues were transitioning out of care.

- Substance Abuse: None of the youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not Applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: Not Applicable.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Not Applicable.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 5 of the 6 children/youths had been met.

### Education

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

The local board agreed that the children/youths 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 youths were employed or participating in unpaid work experience.

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

The local board agreed that all 3 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – None)  
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Not applicable.

### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

2 cases had a CASA.

### Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 6 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. 3 children/youths with a plan of adoption consented. And 2 children were under the age of consent.

### Adoptive Placement (5 cases)

#### Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

All 5 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was a married couple for 4 children/youths and an unmarried couple for 1. The relationship to the children/youths was a non relative foster parent for all 5 cases.

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

- 4 case(s) 7 to 9 months
- 1 case(s) 21 months or more

A home study was not completed and approved in all 5 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive families to meet the identified needs of all 5 children/youths.

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

### Adoptive Recruitment

Not needed, all 5 children/youths were already placed in pre-adoptive homes.

### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were not needed for any of the 5 children/youths.

### Miscellaneous Findings

#### Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	2
No	5	4

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week		
More than once a week		
Once a month		
More than once a month	1	2
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented		
Never		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		1
Unsupervised	1	1

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative		1
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	1	1
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area		1
Child's/Youth's Placement		
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	1
No		1

The local board found that 4 of the 6 children/youths had siblings in care and all 4 had visits with their siblings in care.

### Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Dental exams 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 of the children/youth reviewed.

## Harford County



Harford County had a total of 15 regular case reviews that were conducted with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 7 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody & Guardianship: 2 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 2 cases
- APPLA: 4 cases

Harford County also had a total of 11 re-reviews that were conducted with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 3 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody & Guardianship: 1 case
- Non Relative Adoption: 2 cases
- Non Relative Custody & Guardianship: 3 cases
- APPLA: 2 cases

### Note:

The following data analysis are for the 15 regular case reviews. The results of the re-reviews are at the end.

### Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 14 of the 15 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 2 of the 15 cases.

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

### Category of APPLA plan (4 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (4)

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 4 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 8 of the 15 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 13 of the 15 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 9 cases. 1 case was post TPR and the child was under the age of 14.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate for all 9 signed cases.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
2	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
2	Regular Foster Care
1	Treatment Foster Care (private)
1	Residential Group Home
1	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	SILA-Non Relative
2	SILA-Own Dwelling
1	Diagnostic Center
2	Formal Kinship Care
1	College (LA)

Placement Stability

In 7 of the cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 8 of the cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 6 cases had 1 placement change, 1 case had 2 placement changes and 1 case had 3 placement changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 4 of the

8 cases.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for all 15 cases.

### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 15 children/youths had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 14 children/youths had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 14 children/youths had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 13 children/youths had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 13 of the 15 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 5 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 5 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 8 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 6 of the 8 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 2 youths with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: 3 youths had substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 3 youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 4 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 3 of the 4 children/youths.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 13 of the 15 children/youths were being met.

### Education

7 of the 15 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 3 youths had graduated high school, 1 child/youth refused to attend school and 2 children were under the age of 5.

The local board agreed that the children/youths 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)

4 of the 10 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 2 youths were not able to participate due to mental health reasons

The local board agreed that the 4 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

The local board agreed that 7 of the 10 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing(Transitioning Youth aged 20 – 2 case)  
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had been specified for 1 of the 2 youths who were transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that both youths were being appropriately prepared for transitioning out of care.

### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

9 cases had a CASA.

### Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 15 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. Both children with an adoption plan were under the age of consent.

### Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

#### Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Both children with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple for 1 child and a single female for the other child. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children/youths was a non-relative foster parent for both

cases.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placement was as follows:

- 1 case(s) from 7 to 9 months
- 1 case(s) from 16 to 20 months

A home study was completed and approved for both children.

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

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

### Adoptive Recruitment

Not needed. Both children/youths were already placed in pre-adoptive homes.

### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for 1 child/youth. The services that were needed were medical, educational and adoption subsidies.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for the child/youth.

### Miscellaneous Findings

#### Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	10	2
No	5	13

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	3	
More than once a week		
Once a month	2	2
More than once a month	5	
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented		
Never		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	6	
Unsupervised	4	2

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	2	
Other Agency Representative	1	
Biological Family Member	2	
Foster Parent	1	
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	2	2
LDSS Visitation Center	2	
Public Area	1	
Child's/Youth's Placement	5	
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	1
No	9	1

The local board found that 7 of the 15 children/youths had siblings in care and all 7 had visits with their siblings in care.

### Re-Reviews

Harford County also conducted 11 re-reviews to determine whether areas of concern had been addressed or resolved, adequate progress made and the board's previous recommendations followed.

Area of Concern	# of Cases	Addressed/Resolved			Adequate Progress Made		Board's Recommendation Followed		
		Yes	No	Part	Adequate	Inadequate	Yes	No	Part
Permanency	4	1		3	1	3	1	1	2
Placement	2			2		2			2
Safety	2	2				2			2
Mental Health	1	1			1		1		

Physical Health	5	1	4		1	4	1	1	3
Independence	4	2	1	1	2	2	2		2
Family	2		1	1		2			2
Other	2		2			2			2

#### Area of Concern (Permanency):

There were 4 cases with a concern of permanency. The concern was addressed for 1 case and partially addressed for 3 cases. Adequate progress was made in 1 case and inadequate progress in 3 cases. The board's recommendation was followed in 1 case, partially followed in 2 cases and not followed in 1 case.

#### Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Appeal by birth parents.
- Youth not attending school or in some other GED, educational or vocational program.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Annual physicals not current.
- No follow up on medical referrals.
- Other independence barrier.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment –including therapy.
- 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 all 15 children reviewed.

## Howard County



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

- Reunification: 1 case
- APPLA: 7 cases

### Permanency

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

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 2 of the 8 cases.

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

### Category of APPLA plan (7 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (7)

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 7 cases)

6 of the 7 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 6 cases.

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

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

## Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 5 of the 8 cases.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in all 8 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 6 cases.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate for the 6 signed cases.

## Placement

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
4	Treatment Foster Care (private)
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Independent Living Residential Program
1	SILA-Own Dwelling
1	Runaway (LA)

## Placement Stability

In 2 of the 8 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 3 of the 8 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 1 case had 2 placement changes, 1 case had 3 changes and 1 case had 4 or more changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 1 of the 3 cases.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for 7 of the 8 cases reviewed.

## Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 8 children/youths had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 5 children/youths had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 3 children/youths had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 2 of the 8 children/youths

had completed medical records in their case files.

- Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 7 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 3 of the 7 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the 3 youth with mental health issues who were transitioning out of care had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 2 youths had a substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 2 youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 4 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 3 of the 4 children/youths.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 2 of the 8 children/youths were being met. 3 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

### Education

3 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 youth was in college, 2 youths had graduated high school and 2 youth refused to attend school.

The local board agreed that the children/youths 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)

6 youths were participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth was medically fragile and 1 youth was unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

The local board agreed that the 6 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

The local board agreed that 5 of the 8 youths were receiving appropriate services to

prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 4 cases)  
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had been specified for 3 of the 4 youths who were transitioning out of care.

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

#### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

6 cases had a CASA.

#### Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 8 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. Not applicable, none of the 8 children/youths had a plan of adoption.

#### Adoptive Placement (None)

#### Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not applicable

#### Adoptive Recruitment

Not applicable

#### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not applicable

#### Miscellaneous Findings

#### Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	4	2
No	4	6

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	2	
More than once a week		
Once a month	1	
More than once a month	1	1
Quarterly		1
Yes, but undocumented		
Never		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	4	2

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative		
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	2	1
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area	1	1
Child's/Youth's Placement	1	
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	3	2
No	1	

The local board found that none of the 8 children/youths had siblings in care.

### Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Dentals not current.

- Vision not current.
- Other independence barrier.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Youth engages in risky behavior.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth not attending school, GED program, other educational or vocational program.

### 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/youths reviewed.

## Montgomery County



Montgomery County had a total of 42 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 14 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody & Guardianship: 3 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 12 cases
- Non Relative Custody & Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 12 cases

### Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 38 of the 42 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 3 of the 42 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent plans set by the courts for the 3 cases.

### Category of APPLA plan (12 Cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (10)
- Transition to adult supportive living arrangement (2)

### Permanent Connections (APPLA –12 cases)

11 of the 12 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 11 cases.

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

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

## Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 20 of the 42 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 37 of the 42 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 13 cases. 2 cases were post TPR children under age 14.

The local board found the service agreement was appropriate for the 13 signed cases.

## Placement

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
2	Formal Kinship Care
12	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
2	Regular Foster Care
3	Restricted Foster Home (Relative)
9	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
6	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Independent Living Residential Program
3	Residential Treatment Center
1	SILA-Own Dwelling
1	College (LA)
2	Trial Home Visit (LA)

## Placement Stability

In 19 of the 42 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 15 of the 42 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 4 cases had 1 placement change, 7 cases had 2 changes, 2 cases had 3 changes and 2 cases had 4 or more changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 6 of the 15 cases.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for all 42 cases reviewed.

## Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 8 of the 42 children/youths had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 35 children/youths had received a current physical exam.

- Current Vision: 31 children/youths had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 22 children/youths had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 17 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 22 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 19 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 29 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 28 of the 29 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 3 youths with a mental health issue were transitioning out of care and there was an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system. 3 Youths did not have an identified plan.
- Substance Abuse: 3 youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 3 youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 18 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 18 children/youths.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 21 of the 42 children/youths had been met. None of the children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

### Education

29 of the 42 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 2 youths were attending college, 4 youths had graduated high school and 7 children were under the age of 5.

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

### Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 24 cases)

6 of the 14 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 4 youths were unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

The local board agreed that the youths were being appropriately prepared to meet

employment goals.

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

The local board agreed that 15 of the 24 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 4 case)  
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had been specified for 2 of the 4 youths who were transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the youths were being appropriately prepared for transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

11 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 42 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. 2 children with a plan of adoption consented, 1 consented with conditions, 1 child/youth did not want to be adopted and 9 children were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement (12 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

All 12 children/youths with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure comprised of a married couple for 8 cases and a single female for 4 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children/youths was a relative foster parent for 1 case and non relative foster parents for 11 cases.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placement was as follows:

- 2 case(s) from 12 to 15 months
- 1 case(s) from 1 to 3 months
- 1 case(s) from 7 to 9 months
- 1 case(s) from 10 to 12 months
- 1 case(s) from 16 to 20 months
- 6 case(s) from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved for 2 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive families to meet the identified needs of the children/youths in all 12 cases.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate in all 12 cases.

Adoptive Recruitment

Not needed, all 12 children/youths were already placed in pre-adoptive homes.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for the 12 adoption cases. The services that were needed were medical for all 12 cases, mental health for 2 cases, and adoption subsidies for all 12 cases.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for all 12 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	25	15
No	17	27

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	9	1
More than once a week		2
Once a month	6	1
More than once a month	7	5
Quarterly	2	2
Yes, but undocumented	1	4
Never		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	16	4
Unsupervised	9	11

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	11	2
Other Agency Representative		1
Biological Family Member	2	1
Foster Parent	3	
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	2	7
LDSS Visitation Center	8	1
Public Area	8	5
Child's/Youth's Placement	7	2
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	5
No	24	10

The local board found that 18 of the 42 children/youths had siblings in care and all 18 had visits with their siblings in care.

### Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Appeal by birth parents.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Lack of concurrent planning
- Lack of housing.
- Other court, family and educational and agency 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 42 children reviewed.

## Prince George's County



Prince George's County had a total of 40 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 18 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 7 cases
- Non Relative Custody & Guardianship: 2 cases
- APPLA: 13 cases

### Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 40 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 5 of the 40 cases.

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

### Category of APPLA plan (13 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (13)

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 13 cases)

6 of the 13 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for 5 of the 6 cases.

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

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

## Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 39 of the 40 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 20 of the 40 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 8 cases. 3 cases were post TPR children under age 14.

The local board found the service agreement was appropriate for the 8 signed cases.

## Placement

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
20	Treatment Foster Care (private)
3	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Residential Treatment Center
4	Restricted (Relative) Foster Care
1	Psychiatric Respite
1	SILA-Relative
2	Own Dwelling
1	Teen Mother Program
1	College (LA)
2	Trial Home Visit (LA)
2	Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA)

## Placement Stability

In 24 of the cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 22 of the 40 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. All 22 cases had 1 placement change.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 20 cases.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for all 40 cases reviewed.

## Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 40 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 30 children/youth had received a current physical exam.

- Current Vision: 25 children/youth had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 16 children/youth had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 15 of the 40 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 16 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 15 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 24 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 24 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues who was transitioning out of care had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: 13 youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 6 of the 13 youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 12 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 11 of the 12 children/youths.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 15 of the 40 children/youths had been met. 2 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

### Education

28 of the 40 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 3 youths were attending college, 4 youths had graduated high school, 3 youths refused to attend school and 2 children were under the age of 5.

The local board agreed that the children/youths 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 – 31 cases)

8 of the 31 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

The local board agreed that 12 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 31 cases)

The local board agreed that 25 of the 31 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 5 cases)  
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had been specified for 1 of the 5 youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that 1 youth was being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

14 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 39 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. 2 children consented to adoption, 1 consented with conditions, 3 children did not want to be adopted and 1 child was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement (7 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

1 of the 7 children/youths with a plan of adoption was placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a single female. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child/youth was a non relative foster parent.

Length of time in pre-adoptive placements was as follows:

- 1 case(s) from 21 months or more

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

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet the identified needs of the child/youth.

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

## Adoptive Recruitment

The local board found that documented efforts had been made to find an adoptive resource for 2 of the 7 children/youths not placed in a pre-adoptive placement. The adoptive recruitment resources were Wendy's Wonderful Child and Wendy's Wonderful Kids for both children.

## Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for 4 cases. The services that were needed were medical for all 4 cases and mental health for 3 cases.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for the 4 cases.

## Miscellaneous Findings

### Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	23	21
No	17	19

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week		1
More than once a week	3	2
Once a month	8	6
More than once a month	6	5
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented	6	7
Never		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	5	1
Unsupervised	18	20

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	1	1
Other Agency Representative	1	
Biological Family Member	2	
Foster Parent		

Other	1	
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Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	17	17
LDSS Visitation Center		1
Public Area	2	1
Child's/Youth's Placement	3	1
Other	1	1

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	19	18
No	4	3

The local board found that 11 of the 40 children/youths had siblings in care and all 11 had visits with their siblings in care.

### Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Lack of concurrent planning.
- Other educational barrier.
- Pre-adoptive resources not identified.
- Youth not employed and transitioning out of care.
- Other physical health barrier.
- Transitional housing has not been identified.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general)
- Other agency related barrier.
- Youth not enrolled in school.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other independence 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 36 children/youths reviewed.

## Saint Mary's County



Saint Mary's County had a total of 7 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 3 cases
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 1 case
- Non-Relative Adoption: 3 cases

### Permanency

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

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 7 cases.

### Category of APPLA plan (None)

Not Applicable.

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – None)

Not Applicable.

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

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

## Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 7 cases.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 6 of the 7 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 5 cases. 1 case was post TPR and the child was under 14.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate for the 5 signed cases.

## Placement

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
3	Pre-finalized Adoptive Home
1	Restricted (Relative) Foster Care
1	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Trial Home Visit (LA)

## Placement Stability

In 4 of the 7 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 3 of the 7 cases reviewed, there was a placement change within the last 12 months. All 3 cases had one placement change.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for all 7 cases reviewed.

## Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 7 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 5 children/youths had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 4 children/youths had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 6 children/youths had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 3 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 3 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.

- Mental Health Issues: 1 child/youth had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and there was an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: None of the youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: None of the children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: not applicable.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 4 children/youths were being met.

### Education

6 of the 7 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 child was under the age of 5.

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

- Employment (age 14 and older – 1 case)

The youth was not participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

The local board agreed that the youth was not being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

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

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – None)  
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Not Applicable.

### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the cases had a CASA.

### Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed in all 7 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. All 4 children/youths with a plan of adoption consented.

### Adoptive Placement (4 cases)

#### Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

All 4 children/youths were placed in a pre-adoptive home and the family structure comprised of a married couple in all 4 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children/youths was a relative foster parent in 1 case and a non relative foster parent in 3 cases.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placements was as follows:

- 1 case(s) from 4 to 6 months
- 3 case(s) 21 months or more

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

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive families to meet the identified needs of the children/youths in all 4 cases.

The local board found that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate for all 4 cases.

#### Adoptive Recruitment

Not needed, all 4 children/youths were already placed in pre-adoptive homes.

#### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not needed.

## Miscellaneous Findings

### Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	3
No	6	4

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week		
More than once a week		
Once a month		3
More than once a month	1	
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented		
Never		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		2
Unsupervised	1	1

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative		
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		2
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	1	
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area		3
Child's/Youth's Placement		
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	1	3

The local board found that 5 of the 7 children/youths had siblings in care and all 5 had visits with their siblings in care.

### Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- No follow through with service agreement objectives.
- Other child/youth related barriers.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Inadequate preparation for independence.
- Other placement barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- 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 7 children/youths reviewed.

## Somerset County



Somerset County had a total of 8 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

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

### Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 7 of the 8 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 4 of the 8 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent plans set by the court for the 4 cases.

### Category of APPLA plan (2 case)

- Emancipation/Independence (2)

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 cases)

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

## Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 8 cases.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 7 of the 8 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 3 cases.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate for the 3 signed cases.

## Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Regular Foster Care
1	SILA-Own Dwelling
6	Treatment foster Care

## Placement Stability

In 2 of the 8 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

4 of the 8 cases had a placement change within the last 12 months. 2 cases had 1 placement change and 2 cases had 2 placement changes.

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

## Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 8 children/youths had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 7 children/youths had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 8 children/youths had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 7 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 6 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 7 children/youths had mental health issues.

- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 5 of the 7 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 of the 5 youth with mental health issues who were transitioning out of care had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: None of the youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 7 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 5 of the 7 children/youths.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 7 children/youths were being met.

### Education

6 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 2 children were under the age of 5.

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

- Employment (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

1 of the 4 youths was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

The local board agreed that 3 of the 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 of the youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)  
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had not been specified for the youth who was transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the youth was not being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the cases had a CASA.

### Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed in all 8 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. 1 child/youth had consented to adoption and 3 children were under the age of consent.

### Adoptive Placement (4 cases)

#### Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

1 of the 4 children/youth with a plan of adoption was placed in a pre-adoptive home. The family structure was comprised of a married couple and the relationship to the pre-adoptive child/youth was a non-relative foster parent.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placements was as follows:

- 1 case(s) 21 months or more

A home study had not been completed and approved for the 1 child/youth.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet the needs of the child/youth.

The local board found that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate.

#### Adoptive Recruitment

The local board found that the local department had documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for the 3 children/youths not placed in pre-adoptive homes. The resource was Diva Bradford.

#### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post adoptive services were needed for all 4 cases. The services needed were medical, mental health and educational for all 4 cases.

## Miscellaneous Findings

### Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	6	2
No	2	6

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	4	
More than once a week		
Once a month	2	1
More than once a month		1
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented		
Never		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	4	1
Unsupervised	2	1

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	4	1
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	2	1
LDSS Visitation Center	4	
Public Area		
Child's/Youth's Placement		
Other		1

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No	5	2

The local board found that 6 of the 8 children/youths had siblings in care and all 6 had visits with their siblings in care.

### Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- No follow through with service agreement objectives.
- Other child/youth related barriers.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Inadequate preparation for independence.
- Other placement barrier.
- Other independence 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 all 8 children/youths reviewed.

## Talbot County



Talbot County had a total of 6 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 1 case
- Non Relative Adoption: 5 cases

### Permanency

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

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 1 of the 6 cases.

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

### Category of APPLA plan (None)

Not Applicable.

### Permanent Connections (None)

Not applicable.

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

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

### Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 6 cases.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 3 of the 6 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 3 cases. 1 case was post TPR and the child was under 14.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate for the 3 signed cases.

### Placement

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

### Placement Stability

None of the 6 children/youths reviewed were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 3 out of the 6 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 2 cases had 1 placement change and 1 case had 2 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for all 6 cases reviewed.

### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 6 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 6 children/youths had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 6 children/youths had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 6 children/youths had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that all 6 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 6 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 6 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 6 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 6 children/youths.

- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and there was an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: None of the youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 6 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 6 children/youths.

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

### Education

5 of the 6 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 youth had graduated high school.

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

- Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

1 of the 3 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.  
2 youths were not able to participate due to mental health reasons.

The local board agreed that the 1 youth was being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

The local board agreed that all 3 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – None)

(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Not Applicable.

### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

All 6 cases had a CASA.

### Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed in all 6 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. 3 of the children/youths with a plan of adoption consented and 2 children were under the age of consent..

### Adoptive Placement (5 cases)

#### Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

2 of the 5 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The family structure was comprised of a married couple in both cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a non-relative foster parent in both cases.

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

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

A home study was completed and approved in the 2 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive families to meet the identified needs of the children/youths in 2 of the 5 cases.

The local board found that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate for the 2 cases.

### Adoptive Recruitment

The local board found that the local department had documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for 3 of the children/youths not placed in a pre-adoptive home. The adoptive recruitment resources were Adopt Us Kids, Heart & Gallery and Adoption Together.

The local board agreed that the adoptive recruitment efforts were appropriate.

### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post adoptive services were needed in 3 cases. The services needed were medical, mental health and education for all 3 cases.

## Miscellaneous Findings

### Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		1
No	6	5

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week		
More than once a week		
Once a month		
More than once a month		1
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented		
Never		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised		1

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative		
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home		
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area		
Child's/Youth's Placement		1
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No		1

The local board found that 5 of the 6 children/youths had siblings in care and all 5 had visits with their siblings in care.

### Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- No follow through with service agreement objectives.
- Other child/youth related barriers.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Inadequate preparation for independence.
- Other placement barrier.
- Other independence 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 all 6 children/youths reviewed.

## Washington County



Washington County had a total of 15 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 5 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 2 cases
- APPLA: 8 cases

### Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 15 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 15 cases.

### Category of APPLA plan (8 Cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (8)

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 8 cases)

5 of the 8 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate for the 5 cases.

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

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

### Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 15 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 7 of the 15 of the cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 6 cases. 2 cases were post TPR and the children were under age 14.

The local board found that the service agreement were appropriate for the 6 signed cases.

### Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
7	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Pre-finalized Adoptive Home
2	Restricted (Relative) Foster Home
2	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Independent Living Residential Program
2	SILA-Non Relative

### Placement Stability

In 12 of the 15 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 8 of the 15 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. All 8 cases had 1 placement change.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for all 8 cases.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for all 15 cases reviewed.

### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 15 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 12 children/youths had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 11 children/youths had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 9 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 6 of the 15 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 8 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 7 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.

- Mental Health Issues: 10 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 10 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and did not have an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the 1 youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 4 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 4 children/youths.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 6 of the 15 children were being met.

### Education

9 of the 15 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 4 youths had graduated high school and 2 children were under the age of 5.

The local board agreed that the children/youths 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)

4 of the 10 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

The local board agreed that the 4 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

The local board agreed that 9 of the 10 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)  
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

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

The local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared for transitioning out of care.

### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

5 cases had a CASA.

### Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 15 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. 1 child/youth with a plan of adoption consented and 1 child was under the age of consent.

### Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

#### Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Both children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The family structure was comprised of a married couple in 1 case and a single female in the other case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children/youths was a non relative foster parent in both cases.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placements was as follows:

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

A home study was completed and approved in both cases.

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

#### Adoptive Recruitment

Not needed, both children/youths were already placed in pre-adoptive homes.

#### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post adoptive services were needed for both cases. The services needed were medical and mental health for both cases.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for both cases.

## Miscellaneous Findings

### Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	5	4
No	15	11

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		1
Once a week		1
More than once a week		
Once a month	3	1
More than once a month		1
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented	2	
Never		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	2	1
Unsupervised	3	3

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	1	1
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member	1	
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	2	3
LDSS Visitation Center	1	
Public Area	1	1
Child's/Youth's Placement	1	
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	2	3
No	3	1

The local board found that 2 of the 15 children/youths had siblings in care and both had visits with their siblings in care.

### Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Lack of Group Home placements.
- Pre-Adoptive resources not identified.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Youth not employed and transitioning out of care.

### 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 15 children/youths reviewed.

## Wicomico County



Wicomico County had a total of 5 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Relative Placement for Custody & Guardianship: 1 case
- Non Relative Adoption: 1 case
- Non Relative Custody & guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 2 cases

### Permanency

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

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 2 of the 5 cases.

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

### Category of APPLA plan (2 Cases)

- Transition to an Adult Supportive Living Arrangement (2)

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 cases)

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

## Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 5 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 2 of the 5 of the cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 2 cases.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate for the 2 signed cases.

## Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	SILA-Relative
1	Therapeutic Group Home
3	Residential Group Home

## Placement Stability

In 1 of the 5 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 2 of the 5 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 1 case had 1 placement change and 1 case had 2 changes.

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

## Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 4 of the 5 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 5 children/youths had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 4 children/youths had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 4 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 4 of the 5 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 5 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 5 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 5 children/youths had mental health issues.

- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 5 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 2 of the children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain mental health services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: None of the youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: All 5 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 5 children/youths.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 4 of the 5 children/youths were being met. 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

### Education

All 5 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program.

The local board agreed that 4 of the 5 children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were all being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

### Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 5 cases)

1 of the 5 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 2 youths were unable to participate due to mental health reasons and 1 youth was medically fragile.

The local board agreed that the 1 youth was being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

The local board agreed that 3 of the 5 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 2 cases)  
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

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

The local board agreed that the youths were being appropriately prepared for transitioning

out of care.

### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the cases had a CASA.

### Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 5 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. It was unknown if the child/youth with a plan of adoption consented.

### Adoptive Placement (1 case)

### Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

The 1 child/youth with a plan of adoption was not placed in a pre-adoptive home.

### Adoptive Recruitment

The local board found that the local department had documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for the child/youth not placed in a pre-adoptive home. The adoptive recruitment resources were Adopt Us Kids, Heart & Gallery and Wendy's Wonderful Kids.

The local board agreed that the adoptive recruitment efforts were appropriate.

### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post adoptive services were needed for the child/youth. The services needed were medical, mental health and educational.

### Miscellaneous Findings

### Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	3	3
No	2	2

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily	1	1
Once a week		
More than once a week		
Once a month	1	1
More than once a month		
Quarterly	1	1
Yes, but undocumented		
Never		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	3	3

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative		
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	1	2
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area		
Child's/Youth's Placement	2	1
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	1
No	2	2

The local board found that none of the 5 children/youths had siblings in care.

### Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified:

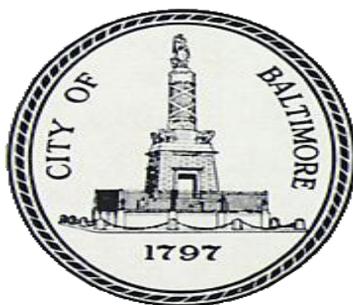
- No service agreement with youth.
- Board does not agree with the current permanency plan.
- Pre-Adoptive resources not identified.

- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Youth not employed and transitioning out of care.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Inadequate preparation for independence.
- No current Safe C/G.
- Other independence barrier.
- Other placement 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 all 5 children/youths reviewed.

## Baltimore City



Baltimore City had a total of 107 regularly scheduled cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 24 cases
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 3 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody & Guardianship: 3 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 7 cases
- Non Relative Custody & Guardianship: 3 cases
- APPLA: 67 cases

Baltimore City also had a total of 10 re-reviews that were conducted with the following permanency plans:

- Non Relative Adoption: 1 case
- Non Relative Custody & Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 8 cases

### Note:

The following data analysis are for the 107 regular case reviews. The results of the re-reviews are at the end.

### Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 90 of the 107 cases reviewed.

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

The local department was implementing the concurrent plan set by the court for the 1 case and was engaging in concurrent planning in 22 other cases.

### Category of APPLA plan (67 cases)

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

- Emancipation/Independence (60)

- Transition to an Adult Supportive Living Arrangement (6)
- Other (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 67 cases)

57 of the 67 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for 54 of the 57 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	5		1	1	1	18
7 to 11 months	4			3	1	14
1 to 2 years	10	1	2	1		16
2 to 3 years	3	2		1		11
3 years or more	2			1	1	8

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 23 of the 107 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 78 of the 107 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 51 cases. 2 cases were post TPR children under age 14.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate for the 51 signed cases.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
7	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
7	Regular Foster Care
41	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
3	Residential Group Home
6	Teen Mother Program
1	Therapeutic Group Home
14	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Residential Treatment Center
2	Relative
1	Non-Relative
5	Own Dwelling
1	Other

## Living Arrangement

Number of Cases	Living Arrangement
1	College
2	Correctional Institution
1	Own Home/Apartment
2	Job Corps
3	Runaway
3	Secure Detention Facility
7	Unapproved Living Arrangement

## Placement Stability

In 48 of the 107 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 64 of the 107 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 31 cases had 1 placement change, 17 cases had 2 placement changes, 7 cases had 3 placement changes and 9 cases had 4 or more placement changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 24 of the 64 cases.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for 100 of the 107 cases reviewed.

## Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 21 of the 107 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 58 children/youths had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 47 children/youths had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 36 children/youths had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 24 of the 107 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 44 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 34 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 74 children/youths had mental health issues
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 50 of the 74 children/youths.

- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 7 out of 24 youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: 18 youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 18 youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 52 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 40 of the 52 children.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 28 of the 107 children/youths had been met. 23 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

### Education

48 of the 107 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 7 youths were in college, 30 youths had graduated high school, 18 youths refused to attend school, and 4 children were under the age of 5.

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

### Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 89 cases)

39 of the 89 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 2 youths were medically fragile, 4 youth had mental health reasons and 3 youths were in a correctional facility and unable to participate.

The local board agreed that 66 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 89 cases)

The local board agreed that 54 of the 89 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth –34 cases)  
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had been specified for 11 of the 34 youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that 28 youths were being appropriately prepared for transitioning out of care.

### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

7 cases had a CASA.

### Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 97 of the 107 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. 4 children/youths consented to adoption and 4 children/youths did not want to be adopted.

### Adoptive Placement (8 cases)

#### Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

All 8 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The family structure was comprised of a married couple in 3 cases, a single female in 4 cases and a single male in 1 case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children was a relative foster parent in 2 cases and a non-relative foster parent in 6 cases.

Length of time in the pre-adoptive placements was as follows:

- 1 case(s) from 10 to 12 months
- 1 case(s) from 12 to 15 months
- 6 case(s) 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved in 4 of the 8 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive families to meet the identified needs of the children/youths in all 8 cases.

The local board found that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate for 7 of the 8 cases.

### Adoptive Recruitment

Not needed, all 8 children/youths were already placed in pre-adoptive homes.

### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for all 8 cases. The services that were needed were medical for all cases, mental health services for 1 case and educational services for 1 case.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for all 8

cases.

### Miscellaneous Findings

#### Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	44	20
No	63	87

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily	2	
Once a week	12	5
More than once a week	3	3
Once a month	11	4
More than once a month	6	3
Quarterly	1	
Yes, but undocumented	9	5
Never		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	13	2
Unsupervised	31	18

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	8	2
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member	1	
Foster Parent		
Other	4	

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	18	13
LDSS Visitation Center	10	2
Public Area	8	4
Child's/Youth's Placement	4	1
Other	4	

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	12	8
No	32	12

The local board found that 40 of the 107 children/youths had siblings in care and all 40 had visits with their siblings in care.

### Re-Reviews

Baltimore City also conducted 10 re-reviews to determine whether areas of concern had been addressed or resolved, adequate progress made and the board's previous recommendation followed.

Area of Concern	# of Cases	Addressed/Resolved			Adequate Progress Made		Board's Recommendation Followed		
		Yes	No	Part	Adequate	Inadequate	Yes	No	Part
Permanency	1	1			1				1
Placement	1	1			1		1		
Safety	4	4			4		2		2
Mental Health	2	2			2		1		1
Physical Health	6	2	3	1	6				6
Independence	4	3	1		4		1		3
Youth	1	1			1		1		

#### Area of Concern (Permanency):

There was 1 case with a concern of permanency. The concern was addressed for the 1 case and adequate progress was made in the case. The board's recommendation was partially followed in the 1 case.

### Barriers

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No service agreement with child.
- Inadequate preparation for independence.
- Poor coordination between DSS & DDA/MHA.
- Other service resource barrier.
- Other administrative barrier.
- ICPC issues.

- Lack of concurrent planning.
- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Lack of worker visits.
- Worker did not submit referral for needed resource/service.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Lack of follow-up (general).
- Lack of training of staff.
- Agency related barriers.
- Child does not consent to adoption.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Not following up on referrals.
- Refusal to locate or maintain employment.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Disrupted pre-adoption placement.
- Unwilling to adopt because of lack of services or financial support.
- Disrupted finalized adoption.
- Youth not enrolled in school.
- Youth not attending school or in GED program.
- Youth not receiving adequate services.
- No current IEP.
- Other education barrier.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- No follow up on medical referrals.
- Other physical health barrier.
- Transitional housing has not been identified.
- Youth not employed and transitioning out of care.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Other independence barrier.
- Other placement barrier.
- Youth has not been assessed for mental health concerns.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- No current Safe C/G.
- 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 90 of the 107 children/youths 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.

4th Quarter 2018  
CRBC Metrics

Total # of Children - Scheduled on the Preliminary:	760
Total # of Children - Closed, Non Submission & Rescheduled:	341
Total # of Children - Eligible for Review:	419
Total # of Children - Reviewed at the Board:	366
Total # of Children - Not Reviewed at the Board:	53
Percentage of Children Reviewed for the Period:	87%
Percentage of Children Not Reviewed for the Period:	13%
Recommendation Reports - Number Sent	366
Recommendation Reports - Number Sent on Time	366
Recommendation Reports - Percent Sent on Time	100%
Recommendation Reports - Number Received – DSS Response	175
Recommendation Reports - Percent Received % - DSS Response	51%
Recommendation Reports - Number Received on Time - DSS Response	78
Recommendation Reports - Percent Received on Time % - DSS Response	45%
Number of Boards Held	55
Recommendation Reports - # of DSS Agreement	170
Recommendation Reports - Percent of DSS Agreement	97%
Recommendation Reports - # of DSS Disagreement	3
Recommendation Reports - Percent of DSS Disagreement	2%
Recommendation Reports - # Blank/Unanswered	2
Recommendation Reports - Percent # Blank/Unanswered	1%
Percentage of REUNIFICATION Children Reviewed for the Period:	29%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT – Adoption Children Reviewed:	5%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT – C & G Children Reviewed:	2%
Percentage of ADOPTION Children Reviewed for the Period:	18%
Percentage of CUSTODY/GUARDIANSHIP Children Reviewed for the Period:	4%
Percentage of APPLA Children Reviewed for the Period:	42%

The State Board

Doretha "Dee" Henry

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

Vacant

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

Delores Alexander (Vice Chairperson)

Circuit 3: Representing Baltimore and Harford Counties

Nettie Anderson-Burrs (Chairperson)

Circuit 4: Representing Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties

Denise Messineo

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

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Circuit 6: Representing Frederick and Montgomery Counties

DaVina Richardson

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

Beatrice Lee

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

Rita Jones

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

Sarah Walker

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

CRBC Staff

Denise E. Wheeler  
Administrator

Crystal Young, MSW  
Assistant Administrator

Jerome Findlay  
Information Technology Officer

Marlo Palmer-Dixon  
Volunteer Activities Coordinator Supervisor

Sandy Colea  
Volunteer Activities Coordinator

Fran Barrow  
Staff Assistant

Michele Foster, MSW  
Staff Assistant

Eric Davis, MSW  
Staff Assistant

Cindy Hunter-Gray  
Lead Secretary

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