

Citizens Review Board For Children



**THIRD QUARTER
FISCAL YEAR 2021 REPORT
(January 1st 2021 – March 31st 2021)**

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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

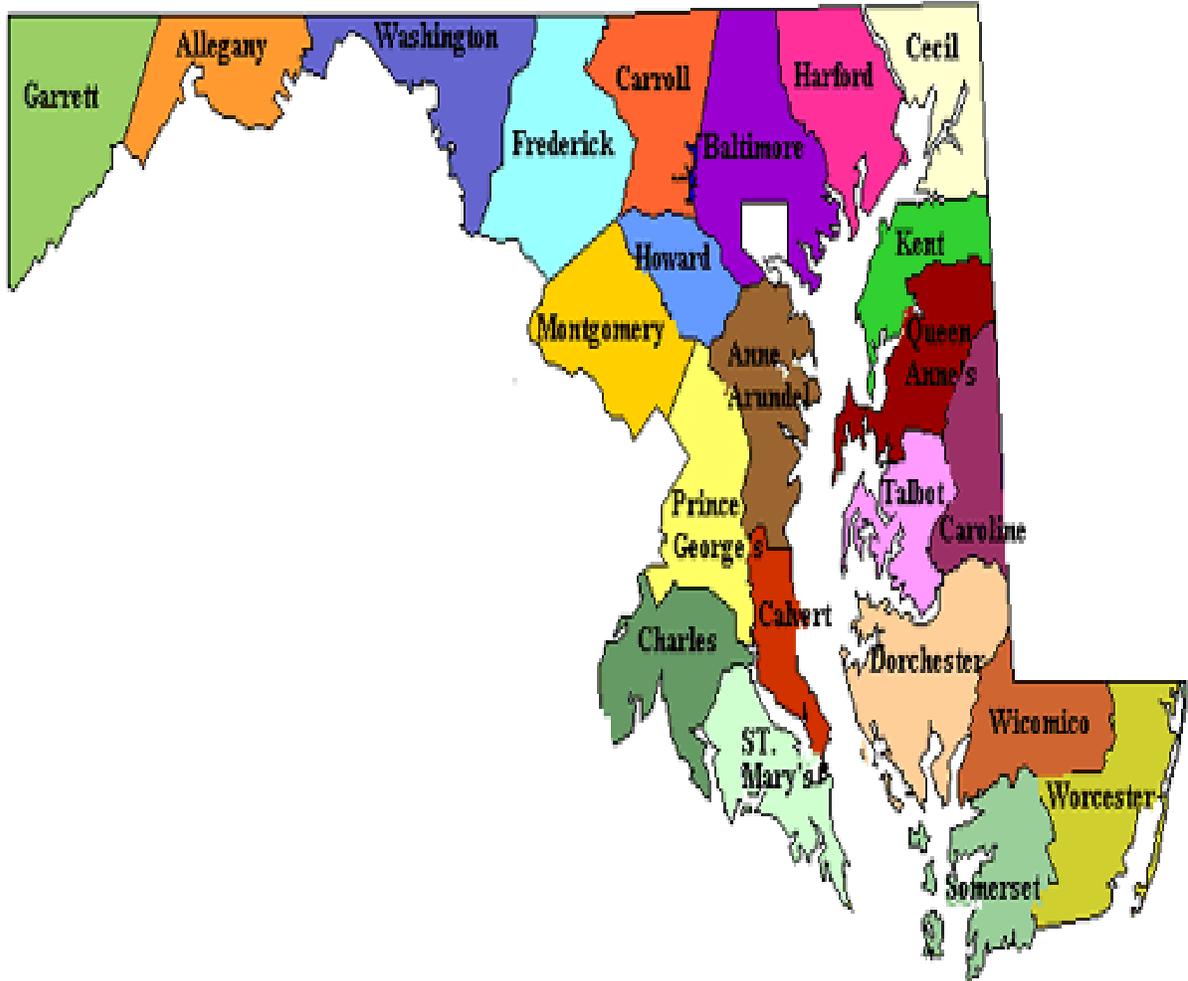
CRBC would like to acknowledge the commitment, dedication, passion and service of all stakeholders on behalf of Maryland's most vulnerable children including:

- ★ 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 3rd Quarter of Fiscal Year 2021.



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: Carroll, Cecil, Garrett, Somerset, Talbot and Worcester counties. Therefore, this report only contains review findings and recommendations for the 18 jurisdictions including 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).

3rd Quarter 2021 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
01	Allegany	0	0	2	0	2	4	1
02	Anne Arundel	2	0	1	0	1	4	1
03	Baltimore County	10	0	1	0	6	17	5
04	Calvert	1	0	3	0	0	4	1
05	Caroline	3	0	1	0	0	4	1
08	Charles	2	0	1	2	3	8	2
09	Dorchester	1	0	0	0	3	4	1
10	Frederick	1	0	3	0	0	4	1
12	Harford	3	0	0	1	5	9	2
13	Howard	1	0	0	0	3	4	1
14	Kent	1	0	1	0	0	2	1
15	Montgomery	16	1	2	1	6	26	6
16	Prince George's	5	0	4	0	10	20	5
17	Queen Anne's	1	0	0	0	1	2	1
18	St. Mary's	2	0	2	0	0	4	1
21	Washington	1	0	2	0	1	4	1
23	Worcester	0	0	2	0	2	4	1
49	Baltimore City	14	1	4	0	33	52	15
18	Statewide Totals	64	2	29	5	76	176	47
	Percentages	36%	1%	16%	3%	43%	100%	

*(Note: Relative Placement is the combined total of Relative Placement for Adoption = 1; Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship =1)

CRBC conducted a total of 176 individual out-of-home case reviews (each case reviewed represents 1 child/youth) in 18 Jurisdictions on 47 boards that held reviews during the 3rd quarter of fiscal year 2021.

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 (176)

Gender Totals

Male	Female
80 (45.5%)	96 (54.5%)

Gender by Plan

Male(80)

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA
31 (39%)	1 (1%)	15 (19%)	3 (3%)	30 (38%)

Female(96)

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA
33 (34%)	1 (1%)	14 (15%)	2 (2%)	46 (48%)

Ethnicity Overall

African American	Caucasian	Asian	Other
120 (68.2%)	46 (26.1%)	2 (1.1%)	8 (4.5%)

Age Range by Permanency Plan

[RU] = Reunification [RA] = Relative Adoption [RG] = Relative C & G
 [AD] = Non Relative Adoption [CG] = Non Relative C & G [AP] = Appla

AGE RANGE	RU	RA	RG	AD	CG	AP	Totals
1_age 0 thru 5	9	0	0	10	0	0	19
2_age 6 thru 10	4	1	0	8	0	0	13
3_age 11 thru 13	13	0	1	2	0	0	16
4_age 14 thru 16	28	0	0	8	2	1	39
5_age 17 thru 19	9	0	0	1	3	18	31
6_age 20	1	0	0	0	0	57	58
Totals	64	1	1	29	5	76	176

Jurisdictional Case Reviews

Allegheny County



Allegheny County had a total of 4 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

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

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for all 4 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify concurrent permanency plans for any of the 4 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

- 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						
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years				2		1
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more						1
Totals →				2		2

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 4 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 3 of the 4 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 3 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 3 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
2	Pre-Finalized Adoption
1	Treatment Foster Care
1	Own Dwelling

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

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

Placement Stability

None of the 4 cases reviewed had a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: All 4 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: All 4 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: All 4 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 1 child/youth requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that all 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 2 children/youths.

- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues: 2 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 2 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for both children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 2 children/youths with mental health issues, were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None of the 4 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: None of the 4 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Not applicable.

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

Education

3 of the 4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 3 were in Pre-K through 12th grade and 1 had already graduated high school.

1 of the 3 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 1 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was not available for review for the 3 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that all 4 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

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

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

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

The local board agreed that the 3 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 1 youth transitioning out of care and the local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

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 a plan of adoption consented.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

Both children with a plan of adoption were placed in pre-adoptive homes. The pre-adoptive family structure comprised of a single female for both cases. The relationships to the pre-adoptive children were non-relative foster parents in both cases.

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

- 2 case(s) from 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved for 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 in both cases.

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

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable. Both children were already placed in pre-adoptive homes.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (2 cases)

Post-adoptive services were needed for both adoption cases. The service that was needed was medical for both cases.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

3 of the 4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 4 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	1	
Unsupervised		3

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		2
LDSS Visitation Center		1
Public Area	1	
Child's/Youth's Placement		

Other		
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Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		3
No	1	

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 2 of the 4 children/youths had siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

The local board identified the following barriers to permanency or issues:

- None.

Summary

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

Anne Arundel County



Anne Arundel County had a total of 4 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

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

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for all 4 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify concurrent permanency plans for any of the 4 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 4 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 1 of the 3 eligible cases. 1 case was a Post-TPR child under age 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for the 3 eligible cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 1 signed case.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Pre-Finalized Adoption
2	Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Trial Home Visit (LA)

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

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for 2 of the 4 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 2 of the 4 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 4 or more changes.

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

The following levels of care were found for the 2 most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was a less restrictive placement
- 1 case(s) was a child/youth on runaway

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes were:

- 1 case(s) transitioning towards permanency goal

Were adequate services provided to support the provider in the previous placement:

- Yes, for both cases

Current placement match between child's needs and the provider's ability to meet those needs:

- Yes, for 1 of the 2 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 3 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 2 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 2 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 1 child/youth requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 2 of the 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: None of the 4 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Not applicable.
- Psychotropic Medication: None of the 4 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Not applicable.
- Mental Health Issues: 4 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 4 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 2 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 4 children/youths with mental health issues, were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None of the 4 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 of the 4 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 3 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 2 of the 4 children/youths had been met.

Education

2 of the 4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program and 2 children/youths refused to attend school.

1 of the 2 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and they had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was not available for review for the 2 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that the 2 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 3 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

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

None of the 3 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 1 youth transitioning out of care and the local board agreed that the youth was not being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

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. The child with a plan of adoption was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (1 case)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

The child with a plan of adoption was placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure comprised of a single female. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child 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 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.

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

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable. Child was already placed in a pre-adoptive home.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

Post-adoptive services were needed for the adoption case. The services that were needed were medical, mental health and educational services for the case.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

All 4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 1 of the 4 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	4	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		
Quarterly		
Yes, but unknown		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised		

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		
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No		

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 1 of the 4 children/youths had siblings in care. The child/youth had 1 sibling in care and had visits with their sibling who did not reside with them.

Barriers/Issues

The local board identified the following barriers to permanency or issues:

- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Non-compliant with service agreement.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Child in pre-adoptive home but adoption not finalized.
- Child/Youth has runaway history.
- No current IEP.
- Other education barrier.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth not enrolled in school.
- Youth not attending school or in GED 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 3 of the 4 children/youths reviewed.

Baltimore County



Baltimore County had a total of 17 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 10 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 1 case
- APPLA: 6 cases

Permanency

The local boards agreed with the department's permanency plan for 16 of the 17 cases reviewed.

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

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the court for 2 of the 5 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (6 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (4)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (2)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 6 cases)

5 of the 6 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local boards 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				1		
7 to 11 months	1					
1 to 2 years	2					
2 to 3 years	1					
3 years or more	6					6
Totals →	10			1		6

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 17 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 3 of the 16 eligible cases. 1 case was a Post-TPR child under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 3 of the 16 eligible cases.

The local boards agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 3 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Formal Kinship Care
5	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
3	Treatment Foster Care
3	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Independent Living Residential Program
2	Residential Treatment Center
1	Own Dwelling

In 12 of the 17 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local boards agreed with the department's placement plan for 16 of the 17 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 4 of the 17 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. All 4 cases had 1 placement change.

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

The following levels of care were found for the 4 most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was a less restrictive placements
- 3 case(s) had the same level of care

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 3 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

Were adequate services provided to support the provider in the previous placements?

- Yes, for 1 of the 4 cases

Current placement match between child's needs and the provider's ability to meet those needs:

- Yes, for 1 of the 4 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 6 of the 17 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 7 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.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 3 of 4 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 3 of the 17 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 11 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 11 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 9 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 9 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 12 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: All 12 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 9 of the 12 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 of the youths with mental health issues, was transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 2 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.

- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 2 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 10 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 10 children/youths.

The local boards found that the health needs of 5 of the 17 children/youths had been met.

Education

8 of the 17 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 8 were in Pre-K through 12th grade. 5 of the 9 youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school and 4 were under age 5.

6 of the 8 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 4 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was not available for review for the 8 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local boards agreed that 13 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 11 cases)

5 of the 11 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 3 youths were unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

The local boards agreed that 5 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 11 cases)

3 youths had mental health reasons preventing them from receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

The local boards agreed that 7 of the 11 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 been specified for 4 of the 6 youths transitioning out of care.

The local boards agreed that 4 youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

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 was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (1 case)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

The child with a plan of adoption was placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a single female for the child. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child 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 not completed and approved for the case.

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

The local boards agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for the child.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable. The child was already placed in a pre-adoptive home

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

Post adoptive services were needed for the child. The service that was needed was medical.

The local boards found that the post adoptive service was appropriate for the child.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

1 of the 17 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local boards agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 16 of the 17 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	9	9
No	8	8

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	1	
More than once a week		
Once a month		
More than once a month	2	1
Quarterly		1
Yes, but unknown	6	7

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	1	1
Unsupervised	8	8

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	2
No	8	7

Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 8 of the 17 children/youths had siblings in care. All 8 had 1 sibling in

care. 2 of 8 children/youths had visits with their siblings who did not reside together.

Barriers/Issues

The local boards identified the following barriers to permanency or issues:

- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other court related barrier.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth engages in risky behavior.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local boards determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 15 of the 17 children/youths reviewed.

Calvert County



Calvert County had a total of 4 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

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

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department’s permanency plan for all 4 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 4 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (None)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – None)

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 4 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 1 case. 3 cases were Post-TPR children under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement

process was made for 1 case.

The local board agreed that the service agreement was appropriate for the 1 signed case.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
3	Pre-Finalized Adoption
1	Residential Treatment Center

None of the 4 children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

None of the 4 cases reviewed had a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 1 child/youth had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 4 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 3 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: None.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 1 of the 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 3 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 3 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 2 children/youths had mental health issues.

- Mental Health Diagnosis: 2 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for both children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. Neither of the 2 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 4 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 4 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 1 of the 4 children/youths had been met.

Education

All 4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 4 were in Pre-K through 12th grade.

1 of the 4 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 1 of the 4 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that all 4 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

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

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

The local board agreed that 1 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.

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. Consent was unknown for the 3 children/youths with a plan of adoption.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (3 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Not applicable. None of children/youths were placed in pre-adoptive homes.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable. No documented efforts of adoptive resources for any of the children/youths.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Not applicable. None of children/youths were placed in pre-adoptive homes.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of 4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 4 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No	3	4

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	1	
More than once a week		
Once a month		
More than once a month		
Quarterly		
Yes, but unknown		

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		
Other	1	

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	1	

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 3 of the 4 children/youths had siblings in care. All 3 had 2 siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

The local board identified the following barriers to permanency or issues:

- No service agreement with child.
- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Other mental health barrier.
- Other education barrier.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other agency related barrier.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.

- 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 all 4 children/youths reviewed.

Caroline County



Caroline County had a total of 4 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

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

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 3 of the 4 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 4 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (None)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – None)

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 4 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 1 of the 4 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process was made for 1 case.

The local board agreed that the service agreement was appropriate for the 1 signed case.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Pre-Finalized Adoption
1	Regular Foster Care
1	Residential Group Home
1	Independent Living Residential Program

In 3 of the 4 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for 2 of the 4 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

None of the 4 cases reviewed had a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 2 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 2 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 2 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 1 of the 4 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 2 of the 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 2 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 2 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: All 4 children/youths had mental health issues.

- Mental Health Diagnosis: All 4 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 3 of the 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues, was transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: Not applicable. None of the 4 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 3 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 2 of the 4 children/youths had been met and 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams

Education

3 of the 4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 3 were in Pre-K through 12th grade. 1 youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school.

2 of the 3 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and both had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 1 of the 3 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that all 4 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

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

The local board agreed that 2 youths were 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 – 1 case)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had been specified for the 1 youth transitioning out of care and the local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

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. The child/youth with a plan of adoption consented.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (1 case)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

The child/youth with a plan of adoption was already placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple, and the relationship to the pre-adoptive child/youth was a fictive kin 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 child/youth.

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 for the child/youth.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable. Child/youth already placed in pre-adoptive home.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

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

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

All 4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 4 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week		
More than once a week		1
Once a month		
More than once a month	1	
Quarterly		
Yes, but unknown		

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	1	1

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that none of the 4 children/youths had siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

The local board identified the following barriers to permanency or issues:

- Non-compliant with service agreement.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other independence barrier.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 3 of the 4 children/youths reviewed.

Charles County



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

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

Permanency

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (3 cases)

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

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 3 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 4 of the 8 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 4 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 4 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
2	Treatment Foster Care
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Own Dwelling
2	Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA)

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

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for 6 of the 8 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

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

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

The following levels of care were found for the 4 most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was in a less restrictive placement
- 1 case(s) was in a more restrictive placement
- 1 case(s) had the same level of care
- 1 case(s) child/youth on runaway

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) transitioning towards permanency goal

Child/youth specific reasons for the most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) behavioral issues

Were adequate services provided to support the provider in the previous placements:

- Yes, for 2 of the 3 cases

Current placement match between child's needs and the provider's ability to meet those needs:

- Yes, for 2 of the 3 cases

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: 3 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 2 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 4 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 1 child/youth requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 2 of the 8 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 3 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 3 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 4 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 4 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable, none of the 4 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

- Substance Abuse: 3 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 3 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 4 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 3 of the 4 children/youths.

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

Education

2 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. Both were in Pre-K through 12th grade. Of the 6 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program, 2 had already graduated high school and 4 refused to attend school.

Both children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and both had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for both children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that 4 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 8 cases)

2 of the 8 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 2 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

1 youth had mental health reasons preventing them from receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

The local board agreed that 4 of the 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 2 youths transitioning out of care.

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

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. The child/youth with a plan of adoption did not consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (1 case)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

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

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable. The child/youth did not want to be adopted.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Not applicable. The child/youth did not want to be adopted.

Miscellaneous Findings

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 6 of the 8 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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	1
Quarterly		
Yes, but unknown		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	1	
Unsupervised		1

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		1
No	1	

Siblings/Visits

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

Barriers/Issues

The local board identified the following barriers to permanency or issues:

- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- No service agreement with youth.

- No concurrent plan by court
- Child does not consent to adoption.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Child/Youth has runaway history.
- Refusal to locate or maintain employment.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Other mental health barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Other court related barrier.
- Transitional housing has not been identified.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth not employed and transitioning out of care.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth not enrolled in school.
- Non-compliant with service agreement.
- Refusal to locate or maintain employment.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 3 of the 8 children/youths reviewed.

Dorchester County



Dorchester County had a total of 4 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 1 case
- APPLA: 3 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department’s permanency plan for all 4 cases reviewed.

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

Category of APPLA plan (3 cases)

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

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 3 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 4 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 1 of the 4 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for all 4 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 1 signed case.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Regular Foster Care
1	Residential Group Home
1	Other
1	Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA)

In 2 of the 4 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for 3 of the 4 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

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

The local department did not hold a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for the 2 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 2 most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was a more restrictive placement
- 1 case(s) was the same level of care

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

Child/youth specific issues for the most recent placement change:

- 2 case(s) had behavioral issues

Were adequate services provided to support the provider in the previous placement?

- Yes, for both cases

Current placement match between child's needs and the provider's ability to meet those needs:

- Yes, for both cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 3 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 4 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 2 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 1 child/youth requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 1 of the 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 2 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: All 4 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 3 of the 4 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 4 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None of the 4 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.

- Behavioral Issues: All 4 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 3 of the 4 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 3 of the 4 children/youths had been met and 2 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

3 of the 4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 3 children/youths were in Pre-K thru 12th grade. 1 youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school.

All 3 children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had a 504 or IEP plan and all 3 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for all 3 children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program.

The local board agreed that all 4 children/youths 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. 2 youths had mental health issues preventing them from participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

The local board agreed that 2 youths were not being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

2 youths had mental health issues preventing them from receiving appropriate services.

The local board agreed that 2 youths were not 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 transitioning out of care.

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

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. None of the 4 cases reviewed had a plan of adoption.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

Not applicable.

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Not applicable.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Not applicable.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

All 4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 4 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	2	1
No	2	3

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	1	1
More than once a week	1	
Once a month		
More than once a month		

Quarterly		
Yes, but unknown		

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		1
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area	1	
Child's/Youth's Placement	1	
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	2	1

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 1 of the 4 children/youths had siblings in care. The child/youth had 1 sibling in care and had visits with their sibling who did not reside with them.

Barriers/Issues

The local board identified the following barriers to permanency or issues:

- No service agreement with youth.
- Non-compliant with service agreement.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Not following up on referrals.
- School not implementing IEP.
- Vision not current.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other independence barrier.

- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Youth not employed and transitioning out of care.
- Youth not receiving adequate services.
- Non-compliant with service agreement.

Summary

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

Frederick County



Frederick County had a total of 4 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

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

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department’s permanency plan for all 4 cases reviewed.

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

Category of APPLA plan (None)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – None)

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 to 2 years				1		
2 to 3 years	1					
3 years or more						
Totals →	1			3		

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 4 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 1 of the 3 eligible cases. 1 case was a Post-TPR child/youth under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for the 3 eligible cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreement was appropriate for the 1 signed case.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
3	Pre-Finalized Adoption
1	Therapeutic Group Home

None of the 4 children/youths reviewed were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

Not applicable. None of the 4 cases reviewed had a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 4 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: 0 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for the 2 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that none of the 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 2 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues: All 4 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: All 4 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 4 children/youths.

- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 4 children/youth with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None of the 4 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for both children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 3 of the 4 children/youths had been met.

Education

All 4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 4 were in Pre-K through 12th grade.

2 of the 4 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 1 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 2 of the 4 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that the 4 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 – 2 cases)

None of the 2 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth was unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

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

None of the 2 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 1 youth had mental health reasons preventing them from receiving appropriate services.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – None)

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

Not applicable.

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 youth with a plan of adoption consented and 2 children were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (3 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (3 cases)

All 3 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in pre-adoptive homes. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple for each of the 3 children/youths. The relationships to the pre-adoptive children/youths were non-relative foster parents in all 3 cases.

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

- 3 case(s) from 16 to 20 months

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

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate for all 3 cases.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable. All 3 children/youths were already placed in pre-adoptive homes.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (3 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for all 3 children/youths. The services that were needed were mental health services for 2 cases and education for 1 case.

The local board found that the post adoptive services were appropriate for all 3 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

All 4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 4 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	3	
No	1	4

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	3	
Unsupervised		

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	3	

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 3 of the 4 children/youths had siblings in care. All 3 had 2 siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

The local board identified the following barriers to permanency or issues:

- No service agreement with parents.
- Appeal by birth parents.
- No current IEP.
- Dentals not current.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Lack of housing.

Summary

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

Harford County



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

- Reunification: 3 cases
- Non-Relative Custody/Guardianship: 1 cases
- APPLA: 5 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 8 of the 9 cases reviewed.

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

Category of APPLA plan (5 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (5)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 5 cases)

All 5 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for all 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						
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years	2				1	3
2 to 3 years	1					
3 years or more						2
Totals →	3				1	5

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 8 of the 9 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 2 of the 9 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 2 of the 9 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 2 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
	Pre-Finalized Adoption
1	Regular Foster Care
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
2	Therapeutic Group Home
3	Own Dwelling
1	College (LA)
2	Trial Home Visit (LA)

In 5 of the 9 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

In 5 of the 9 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 3 cases had 1 placement change, 1 case had 2 changes and 1 had 3 changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 1 of the 5 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 5 most recent placement changes:

- 3 case(s) were less restrictive placements
- 1 case(s) was a more restrictive placement
- 1 case(s) had the same level of care

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 4 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

Child/youth specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) behavioral issues

Were adequate services provided to support the provider in the previous placements?

- Yes, for all 5 cases

Current placement match between child's needs and the provider's ability to meet those needs:

- Yes, for all 5 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 9 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 7 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 6 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 5 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 3 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 5 of the 9 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 6 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 6 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 6 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 6 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 9 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 7 of the 9 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 5 of the 9 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 2 youths with mental health issues who were transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system and 1 youth did not.
- Substance Abuse: 2 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 2 children/youths.
- 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 5 of the 9 children/youths had been met.

Education

8 of the 9 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 6 of the 8 children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade and 2 were in college. 1 youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school.

3 of the 8 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and all 3 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 2 of the 8 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that all 9 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 7 cases)

3 of the 7 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

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

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

The local board agreed that 4 of the 7 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 2 youths transitioning out of care and the local board agreed that 2 youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

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.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Not applicable. No adoption cases.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable. No adoption cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Not applicable. No adoption cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

7 of the 9 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 7 of the 9 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	4	2
No	5	7

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	2	
More than once a week		
Once a month		
More than once a month	2	2
Quarterly		
Yes, but unknown		

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

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	2
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area		
Child's/Youth's Placement		
Other	3	

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		1
No	4	1

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 6 of the 9 children/youths had siblings in care. All 6 had 1 sibling in care. 2 children/youths had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them.

Barriers/Issues

The local board identified the following barriers to permanency or issues:

- Poor coordination within DSS.
- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- No current IEP.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other education barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Inadequate casework services.
- Youth has not been assessed for mental health concerns.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Lack of concurrent planning.

- 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 5 of the 9 children/youths reviewed.



Howard County had a total of 4 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 1 case
- APPLA: 3 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for all 4 cases reviewed.

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

Category of APPLA plan (3 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (3)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 3 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 3 of the 4 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 2 of the 4 cases.

Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 3 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 2 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Relative
1	Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA)

In 1 of the 4 cases reviewed the child/youth was placed in their home jurisdiction in a setting that was in close proximity to their community which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for 3 of the 4 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

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

The local department did not hold a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for the 1 case.

The following levels of care were found for the most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was a less restrictive placement

Child/youth specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) was a runaway

Were adequate services provided to support the provider in the previous placements?

- Yes, for the 1 case

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 1 child/youth had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: None of the children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: None of the children/youths had a current dental exam.

- Follow-up Health Concerns: None.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that none of the 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 1 child/youth was taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the child/youth.
- Psychotropic Medication: None.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Not applicable.
- Mental Health Issues: 4 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 4 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 2 youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care and did not have an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 2 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 1 of the 4 children/youths had been met and 3 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

2 of the 4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 of the 2 was in Pre-K through 12th grade and 1 youth was in college. Both youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school.

The child/youth in Pre-K through 12th grade did not have a 504 or IEP plan and there was no copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth record.

A current progress report/report card was not available for review for the child/youth

in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that 4 children/youths were 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 1 youth was 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 – 2 cases)

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

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

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

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.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Not applicable. No adoption cases.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable. No adoption cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

Not applicable. No adoption cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

All 4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 4 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	3	4
No	1	

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	2	4
Quarterly		
Yes, but unknown		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	3	4

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	2
LDSS Visitation Center		1
Public Area	1	1
Child's/Youth's Placement		

Other		
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Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	3	4

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that none of the 4 children/youths had siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

The local board identified the following barriers to permanency or issues:

- No service agreement with youth.
- Non-compliant with service agreement.
- No concurrent plan by court
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Not following up on referrals.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other education barrier.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Youth not employed and transitioning out of care.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.

Summary

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



Kent County had a total of 2 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

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

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department’s permanency plan for both cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for both 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						
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years				1		
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more	1					
Totals →	1			1		

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department did not have a signed service agreement for both cases.

Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 1 of the 2 cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Restrictive Relative Foster Care
1	Residential Group Home

None of the 2 cases reviewed were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

There were no placement changes within the 12 months prior to the review for both cases.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 2 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 2 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 1 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: Neither of the 2 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: Not applicable. Neither of the 2 children/youths required follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that neither of the 2 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for both children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for both children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 1 child/youth had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 1 child/youth had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child/youth.

- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. The child/youth with mental health issues was not transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: Neither of the 2 children/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 child/youth.

The local board found that the health needs of both children/youths had not been met.

Education

1 of the 2 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. The child/youth was in Pre-K through 12th grade. 1 of the 2 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program was under the age of 5.

The child/youth in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and there was a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for the child/youth in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that the child/youth enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program was being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 1 case)

The youth was not employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience due to mental health reasons.

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

The youth had mental health reasons preventing them from 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.

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. The child with a plan of adoption was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (1 case)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

The child with a plan of adoption was placed in a pre-adoptive home. The family structure was comprised of a married couple for the child. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child 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 child.

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.

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

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable. The child was already placed in a pre-adoptive home.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

Post-adoptive services were needed for the child. The service that was needed was medical.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

Both cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	2	2

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week		
More than once a week		
Once a month		
More than once a month		
Quarterly		
Yes, but unknown		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised		

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		
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No		

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that neither of the 2 children/youths had siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

The local board identified the following barriers to permanency or issues:

- No service agreement with youth.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.

Summary

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



Montgomery County had a total of 26 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 16 cases
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 1 case
- Non-Relative Adoption: 2 cases
- Non-Relative Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 6 cases

Permanency

The local boards agreed with the department’s permanency plan for 21 of the 26 cases reviewed.

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (6 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (5)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 6 cases)

5 of 6 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local boards 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	2					
7 to 11 months					1	
1 to 2 years	2					
2 to 3 years	8	1				1
3 years or more	4			2		5

Totals →	16	1		2	1	6
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Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 22 of the 26 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 7 of the 24 eligible cases. 2 cases were Post-TPR children under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 13 of the 24 eligible cases.

The local boards agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 7 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
2	Formal Kinship Care
1	Pre-Finalized Adoption
3	Regular Foster Care
2	Treatment Foster Care
5	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home
3	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Independent Living Residential Program
2	Own Dwelling
1	Psychiatric Respite
5	Trial Home Visit (LA)

In 18 of the 26 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local boards agreed with the department's placement plan for 25 of the 26 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 8 of the 26 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 6 cases had 1 placement change, 1 had 3 changes and 1 had 4 or more changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 5 of the 8 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 8 most recent placement changes:

- 3 case(s) were less restrictive placements
- 5 case(s) had the same level of care

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 6 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal
- 1 case(s) was placement with relatives

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) provider request
- 1 case(s) allegation of provider abuse/neglect

Child/youth specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 2 case(s) behavioral issues

Were adequate services provided to support the provider in the previous placements?

- Yes, for all 8 cases

Current placement match between child's needs and the provider's ability to meet those needs:

- Yes, for 7 of the 8 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 5 of the 26 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 20 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 19 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 19 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 6 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 16 of the 26 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 12 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 12 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 8 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least

quarterly for the 8 children/youths.

- Mental Health Issues: 15 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 15 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 13 of the 15 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 adult youth with mental health issues who was transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 3 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the 3 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 12 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 10 of the 12 children/youths.

The local boards found that the health needs of 19 of the 26 children/youths had been met.

Education

16 of the 26 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 16 were in Pre-K through 12th grade. 6 of the 10 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school and 4 children were under the age of 5.

8 of the 16 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and all 8 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 10 of the 16 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local boards agreed that 21 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 14 cases)

6 of the 14 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth was medically fragile, and 2 youths were unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

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

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

1 youth was medically fragile, and 2 youths had mental health reasons preventing them from receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

The local boards agreed that 8 of the 14 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 been specified for 5 of the 6 youths transitioning out of care.

The local boards agreed that 5 youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

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 was medically fragile and unable to consent and 1 was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

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

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

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

A home study was not completed and approved for both cases.

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

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

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (2 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for both children/youths. The services that were needed were medical for both cases, and mental health services for 1 case.

The local boards found that the post adoptive services were appropriate for both cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

10 of the 26 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 26 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	18	13
No	8	13

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily	2	
Once a week	6	1
More than once a week	4	3
Once a month	1	1
More than once a month	2	
Quarterly		
Yes, but unknown	3	8

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	7	2
Unsupervised	11	11

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
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LDSS Agency Representative	6	2
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other	1	

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	9	12
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area	2	
Child's/Youth's Placement	4	
Other	3	1

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	7	7
No	11	6

Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 10 of the 26 children/youths had siblings in care. 4 had 1 sibling in care, and 6 had 5 siblings. 6 of the 10 children/youths were having visits with their siblings who did not reside with them.

Barriers/Issues

The local boards identified the following barriers to permanency or issues:

- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- No concurrent plan by court
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Child/Youth has runaway history.
- Refusal to locate or maintain employment.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other education barrier.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Other placement barrier.
- Other agency related barrier.
- Transitional housing has not been identified.

- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Youth has not been assessed for mental health concerns.
- Youth not employed and transitioning out of care.
- Youth not enrolled in school.
- Home study not completed.
- Home study not approved.
- Lack of concurrent planning.
- Undocumented child/youth.

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 26 children/youths reviewed.



Prince George's County had a total of 20 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 5 cases
- Non-Relative Adoption: 4 cases
- Non-Relative Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 10 cases

Permanency

The local boards agreed with the department's permanency plan for 19 of the 20 cases reviewed.

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

The local department was not implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the court for the 1 case.

Category of APPLA plan (10 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (8)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (2)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 10 cases)

All 10 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for all 10 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					1	1
2 to 3 years	2			2		
3 years or more	3			2		8
Totals →	5			4	1	10

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 16 of the 20 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 2 of the 17 eligible cases. 3 children/youths were Post-TPR under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 2 of the 17 eligible cases.

The local boards agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 2 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Formal Kinship Care
3	Pre-Finalized Adoption
5	Treatment Foster Care
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home
1	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Independent Living Residential Program
3	Own Dwelling
2	Runaway (LA)
1	Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA)

In 14 of the 20 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local boards agreed with the department’s placement plan for 16 of the 20 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 8 of the 20 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 3 cases had 1 placement change, 1 case had 2 changes, 2 had 3 changes and 2 had 4 or more changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 7 of the 8 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 8 most recent placement changes:

- 4 case(s) were less restrictive placements
- 1 case(s) had the same level of care
- 2 case(s) child/youth on runaway
- 1 case(s) unknown, information not available

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 5 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

Child/youth specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 3 case(s) behavioral issues
- 2 case(s) runaway

Were adequate services provided to support the provider in the previous placements?

- Yes, for 1 of the 8 cases

Current placement match between child's needs and the provider's ability to meet those needs:

- Yes, for 1 of the 8 cases

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: 6 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 4 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 6 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 2 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 4 of the 20 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 5 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for 3 of the 5 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 5 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 5 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 13 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 13 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 8 of the 13 children/youths.

- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 13 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 6 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 6 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 9 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 5 of the 9 children/youths.

The local boards found that the health needs of 4 of the 20 children/youths had been met and 3 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

11 of the 20 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 10 of the 11 were in Pre-K through 12th grade and 1 was enrolled in a GED program. 5 of the 9 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school, 2 refused to attend school and 2 were under the age of 5.

4 of the 10 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and all 4 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 3 of the 10 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local boards agreed that 16 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 16 cases)

6 of the 16 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 3 youths had mental health issues preventing them from participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

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

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 16 cases)

3 youths had mental health issues that prevented them from receiving appropriate services.

The local boards agreed that 7 of the 10 youths were receiving appropriate services to

prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 7 cases)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had been specified for 4 of the 7 youths transitioning out of care.

The local boards agreed that 4 youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

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. Of the 4 cases with a plan of adoption, 1 child/youth was medically fragile and unable to consent, 2 were under the age of consent and 1 was unknown.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (4 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

2 of the 4 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in pre-adoptive homes. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple for 1 case and a single female for the other case. The relationships to the pre-adoptive children/youths were non-relative foster parents for both cases.

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

- 2 case(s) from 21 months or more

A home study was not completed and approved for both cases.

The local boards 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 boards agreed that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate for all 3 cases.

Adoptive Recruitment (2 cases)

Documented efforts to find and adoptive resource had not been made for the 2 children/youths not placed in pre-adoptive homes.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (2 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for both children/youths. The services that were needed was medical for both cases.

The local boards found that the post adoptive services were not appropriate for both cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

5 of the 20 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local boards agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 14 of the 20 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	9	10
No	11	10

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		1
Once a week		
More than once a week	1	
Once a month		
More than once a month	1	1
Quarterly		
Yes, but unknown	7	8

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	2	1
Unsupervised	7	9

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

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	4	6

LDSS Visitation Center	1	2
Public Area	1	
Child's/Youth's Placement	3	2
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	5	4
No	4	6

Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 4 of the 20 children/youths had siblings in care. All 4 had 1 sibling in care.

Barriers/Issues

The local boards identified the following barriers to permanency or issues:

- No service agreement with child.
- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- No concurrent plan by court
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Child/Youth has runaway history.
- Not following up on referrals.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other mental health barrier.
- Other education barrier.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Other agency related barrier.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth needs more restrictive placement.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth not enrolled in school.
- Youth not attending school or in GED program.
- Home study not completed.
- Home study not approved.
- Lack of employment.
- Pre-adoptive family cannot decide to adopt.
- Delay in scheduling appointments.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 13 of the 20 children/youths reviewed.

Queen Anne's County



Queen Anne's County had a total of 2 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 1 case
- APPLA: 1 case

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for both cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 1 of the 2 cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department did not have a signed service agreement for both cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were not made for both cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Inpatient Psychiatric Care (LA)

Both cases reviewed were not placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

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

The local department did not hold a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for the 1 case.

The following levels of care were found for the 1 most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was a more restrictive placement

Child/youth specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) hospitalization

Were adequate services provided to support the provider in the previous placements?

- Yes, for the 1 case

Current placement match between child's needs and the provider's ability to meet those needs:

- No, for the 1 case

Health/Mental Health

➤ Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that neither of the 2 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.

- Current Physical: 1 child/youth had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 1 child/youth had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 1 child/youth had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: Not applicable.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that neither of the 2 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: Both children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for both children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: Both children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for both children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: Both children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Both children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for both children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. Neither of the 2 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: Both children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for both children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: Both children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for both children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of both children/youths had not been met.

Education

Both children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. Both were in Pre-K through 12th grade.

Both children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and there was a copy of the 504/IEP plan in 1 of the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was not available for review for both children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that 1 of the 2 children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program was being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

Both youths were not employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth was unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

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

Both youths were not receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 1 youth had mental health reasons preventing them from 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.

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.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Not applicable.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Not applicable.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

Both cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	1	
More than once a week		
Once a month		
More than once a month		1
Quarterly		
Yes, but unknown		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		1
Unsupervised	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		
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area		

Child's/Youth's Placement	1	
Other		1

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	1	1

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that both children/youths did not have siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

The local board identified the following barriers to permanency or issues:

- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- No current IEP.
- School not implementing IEP.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Other education barrier (1 child/youth was not receiving educational services).
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth not attending school or in GED 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 both children/youths reviewed.

St. Mary's County



St. Mary's County had a total of 2 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

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

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for both cases reviewed.

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

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the local juvenile court for both 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						
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years				1		
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more	2			1		
Totals →	2			2		

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 4 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department did not have a signed service agreement for 2 of the 4 eligible cases. 2 cases were Post-TPR children under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were not made for the 2 eligible cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement
2	Pre-Finalized Adoption
1	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Runaway (LA)

In 2 of the 4 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for 3 of the 4 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 2 of the 4 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 both cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 2 most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was a more restrictive placement
- 1 case(s) runaway

Child/youth specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 2 case(s) behavioral issues

Were adequate services provided to support the provider in the previous placements?

- Yes, for both cases

Current placement match between child's needs and the provider's ability to meet those needs:

- Yes, for both cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 4 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: 1 child/youth had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: None.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 2 of the 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 1 child/youth was taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the child/youth.
- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues: 2 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 2 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 2 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. Neither of the 2 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None of the 4 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: No, for both children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 2 of the 4 children/youths had been met and 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

1 of the 4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 child/youth was in Pre-K through 12th grade. 1 of the 3 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program refused to attend school and 2 were under the age of 5.

The child/youth in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was not available for review for the child/youth in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that 1 child/youth was being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 1 case)

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

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

The youth was not 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.

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. In both cases with a plan of adoption, the children were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

Both children with a plan of adoption were placed in pre-adoptive homes. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple for both cases. The relationships to the pre-adoptive children were non-relative foster parents for both cases.

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

- 2 case(s) from 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved for 1 of 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 in both cases.

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

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable. Both children were already placed in pre-adoptive homes.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (2 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for both children. The services that were needed was medical for both cases.

The local board found that the post adoptive services were not appropriate for both cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

1 of the 4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 3 of the 4 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	4	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		
Quarterly		
Yes, but unknown		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised		

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		
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No		

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 2 of the 4 children/youths had siblings in care. Both had 2 siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

The local board identified the following barriers to permanency or issues:

- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Child/Youth has runaway history.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Other education barrier.
- Other child/youth related barrier.

- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth not enrolled in school.
- Youth not attending school or in GED 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 3 of the 4 children/youths reviewed.

Washington County



Washington County had a total of 4 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

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

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department’s permanency plan for all 4 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 4 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 4 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 1 of the 2 eligible cases. 2 cases were Post-TPR children under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 1 of the 2 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 1 signed case.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement
1	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home
1	Own Dwelling

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

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

Placement Stability

In 1 of the 4 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 1 case had 1 placement change.

The local department did not hold a family involvement meeting for the placement change for the 1 case.

The following levels of care were found for the 1 most recent placement change:

- 1 case(s) was a less restrictive placement

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was transitioning towards permanency goal

Were adequate services provided to support the provider in the previous placements?

- Yes, for the 1 case

Current placement match between child's needs and the provider's ability to meet those needs:

- Yes, for the 1 case

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 4 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: 1 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 1 child/youth requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 1 of the 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 1 child/youth was taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the child/youth.
- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues: 4 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 4 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 3 of the 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of 4 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 4 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 4 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 1 of the 4 children/youths had been met.

Education

3 of the 4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 3 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade. 1 youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school.

All 3 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and all 3 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 1 of the 3 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade.

The local board agreed that all 4 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

1 of the 2 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 1 youth was being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

1 youth had mental health reasons preventing them from receiving appropriate services.

The local board agreed that 1 of the 2 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 transitioning out of care.

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

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. Of the 2 cases with a plan of adoption, both were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

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

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

- 1 case(s) 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved for the child.

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.

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

Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

The local board found that the local department had documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for the child not placed in a pre-adoptive home. The adoptive recruitment resource was Adopt-Us-Kids.

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (2 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for both children. The services that were needed were DDA services for both cases.

The local board found that the post adoptive services were appropriate for both cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

3 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 4 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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	1
Quarterly		
Yes, but unknown		

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	1	1

The local board found that 2 of the 4 children/youths had siblings in care. Both had 1 sibling in care and both had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them.

Barriers/Issues

The local board identified the following barriers to permanency or issues:

- No concurrent plan by court
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.

Summary

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

Worcester County



Worcester County had a total of 4 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

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

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for all 4 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 4 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

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

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						
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years				2		1
2 to 3 years						1
3 years or more						
Totals = >				2		2

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 4 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department did not have a signed service agreement for 2 of the 4 eligible cases. 2 cases were Post-TPR children under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were not made for the 2 eligible cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement
3	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home

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

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for 3 of the 4 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

None of the 4 cases reviewed had a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of the 4 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: 4 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: None.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 1 of the 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 3 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 3 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.

- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 2 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 4 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 4 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 3 of the 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues who was transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 4 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 4 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 3 of the 4 children/youths had been met.

Education

All 4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 4 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade.

3 of the 4 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and all 3 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 2 of the 4 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade.

The local board agreed that all 4 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 – 2 cases)

Both youths were not employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth was unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

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

1 youth had mental health reasons preventing them from receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

The local board agreed that 1 of the 2 youths was not 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 transitioning out of care.

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

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. Of the 2 cases with a plan of adoption, consent was unknown.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Neither of the 2 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in pre-adoptive homes.

Adoptive Recruitment (2 cases)

The local board found that the local department had documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for both children/youths not placed in a pre-adoptive home. The adoptive recruitment resource was Adopt-Us-Kids.

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (2 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for both children/youths. The services that were needed were medical and mental health services for both cases, and DDA services for 1 case.

The local board found that the post adoptive services were appropriate for both cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

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 4 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No	3	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	
Quarterly		
Yes, but unknown		

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	1	
Child's/Youth's Placement		
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	1	

The local board found that 2 of the 4 children/youths had siblings in care. Both had 1 sibling in care.

Barriers/Issues

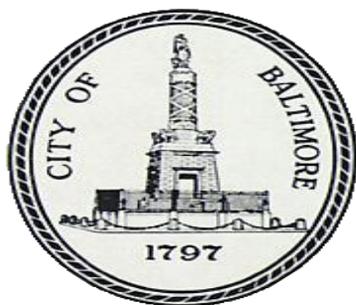
The local board identified the following barriers to permanency or issues:

- Pre-Adoptive resources not identified.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other independence barrier.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 2 of the 4 children/youths reviewed.

Baltimore City



Baltimore City had a total of 52 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 14 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- Non-Relative Adoption: 4 cases
- APPLA: 33 cases

Permanency

The local boards agreed with the department's permanency plan for 49 of the 52 cases reviewed.

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

Category of APPLA plan (33 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (32)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 33 cases)

29 of the 33 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local boards agreed that the connections were appropriate for 27 of the 33 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			2
7 to 11 months	2					3
1 to 2 years	2			1		13
2 to 3 years	9					5
3 years or more	1			3		10
Totals →	14		1	4		33

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 15 of the 52 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 15 of the 47 eligible cases. 5 cases were Post-TPR children under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 24 of the 47 eligible cases.

The local boards agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for 13 of the 15 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
3	Formal Kinship Care
3	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Regular Foster Care
1	Restricted (Relative) Foster Care
2	Treatment Foster Care
7	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home
2	Teen Mother Program
1	Therapeutic Group Home
16	Independent Living Residential Program
2	Residential Treatment Center
5	Own Dwelling
1	Correctional Institution (LA)
1	Inpatient Psychiatric Care (LA)
3	Runaway (LA)
2	Secure Detention Facility (LA)
1	Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA)

In 36 of the 52 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local boards agreed with the department's placement plan for 43 of the 52 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 16 of the 52 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 10 cases had 1 placement change, 4 cases had 2 changes and 2 cases had 3 changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 4 of the 16 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 16 most recent placement changes:

- 4 case(s) were less restrictive placements
- 5 case(s) were more restrictive placements
- 6 case(s) had the same level of care
- 1 case(s) runaway

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 9 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

Child/youth specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) behavioral issues
- 1 case(s) threats of harm to self and others

Were adequate services provided to support the provider in the previous placements?

- Yes, for 14 of the 16 cases

Current placement match between child's needs and the provider's ability to meet those needs:

- Yes, for 15 of the 16 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 6 of the 52 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 13 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 12 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 10 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 8 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 7 of the 52 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 17 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 17 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 12 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.

- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 12 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 35 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 33 of the 35 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 19 of the 35 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 5 youths with mental health issues who were transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system and 4 youths did not have a plan.
- Substance Abuse: 13 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 13 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 29 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 16 of the 29 children/youths.

The local boards found that the health needs of 8 of the 52 children/youths had been met and 6 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

17 of the 52 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 15 of the 17 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade and 2 youths were in college. 15 of the 35 children/youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school, 15 refused to attend school and 5 were under the age of 5.

10 of the 15 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 5 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 6 of the 15 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade.

The local boards agreed that 32 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 42 cases)

17 of the 42 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 4 youths were unable to participate due to mental health reasons and 3 were in a correctional facility.

The local boards agreed that 17 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 42 cases)

4 youths had mental health issues preventing them from receiving appropriate services and 3 were in a correctional facility.

The local boards agreed that 24 of the 42 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 25 cases)

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

Housing had been specified for 8 of the 25 youths transitioning out of care.

The local boards agreed that 8 youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

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. Of the 4 cases with a plan of adoption, 2 children were under the age of consent and consent was unknown for 2.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (4 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (3 cases)

3 of the 4 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in pre-adoptive homes. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple in all 3 cases and the relationships to the pre-adoptive children/youths were non-relative foster parents in all 3 cases.

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

- 4 case(s) 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved for 2 of the 3 cases.

The local boards 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 3 cases.

The local boards agreed that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate for all 3 cases.

Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

The local boards found that the local department had documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for 1 child/youth not placed in a pre-adoptive home. The adoptive recruitment resource was Adopt-Us-Kids.

The local boards agreed that the adoptive recruitment efforts were not appropriate for the 1 case.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (4 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for all 4 children/youths. The services that were needed were medical for 3 cases, mental health services for 1 case, educational for 2 cases, respite for 1 case and DDA services for 2 cases.

The local boards found that the post adoptive services were appropriate for all 4 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

1 of the 52 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local boards agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 36 of the 52 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	23	14
No	29	38

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	8	5
More than once a week		
Once a month	2	
More than once a month	9	5
Quarterly		
Yes, but unknown	4	4

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	7	1
Unsupervised	16	13

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	7	1
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	5	6
LDSS Visitation Center	1	1
Public Area	9	5
Child's/Youth's Placement	4	2
Other	4	

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	5	4
No	18	10

Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 10 of the 52 children/youths had siblings in care. 6 had 1 sibling, 1 had 2 siblings and 3 had 3 siblings. 6 of the 10 children/youths were having visits with their siblings who did not reside with them.

Barriers/Issues

The local boards identified the following barriers to permanency or issues:

- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- No concurrent plan by court
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Child/Youth has runaway history.
- Not following up on referrals.
- Refusal to locate or maintain employment.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.

- Other education barrier.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Other court related barrier.
- Transitional housing has not been identified.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Inadequate casework services.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Youth not employed and transitioning out of care.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth not enrolled in school.
- Youth not attending school or in GED program.
- Lack of employment.
- 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 31 of the 52 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 have access at the time of the review to the child's complete case records and/or records containing requested supportive documentation to present at all CRBC case reviews.
- Each (LDSS) should continue supplying CRBC with the most recent and current contact information including emails 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 children/youths with a permanency plan of reunification.
- Each (LDSS) is required to include the paternal family members as possible resources for all children/youths who are in out-of-home-placement care.

Independent Living

- Each (LDSS) is required to improve their efforts with preparing youths 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 youths with a plan of APPLA.

Adoption

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

3rd Quarter 2020 CRBC Metrics

Total # of Children - Scheduled on the Preliminary:	386
Total # of Children - Closed (adopted, reunified, exited care), Non-Submission:	117
Total # of Children - Rescheduled (DSS caseworker requests, board overload):	81
Total # of Children - Not taken to the Board:	198
Total # of Children - Taken to the Board:	188
Total # of Children - Reviewed at the Board:	176
Total # of Children - Not Reviewed at the Board (worker no shows/closed):	12
Percentage of Children Reviewed for the Period:	94%
Percentage of Children Not Reviewed for the Period:	6%
Recommendation Reports to DSS - Number Sent:	144
Recommendation Reports to DSS - Number Sent on Time: ¹	62
Recommendation Reports to DSS - Percentage Sent on Time:	43%
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Number of Responses Received: ²	15
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Percentage of DSS Responses:	10%
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Number Received on Time:	11
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Percentage Received on Time	73%
Number of Boards Held	47
Recommendation Reports - Number of DSS Agreement:	14
Recommendation Reports - Percentage of DSS Agreement:	93%
Recommendation Reports - Number of DSS Disagreement:	1
Recommendation Reports - Percentage of DSS Disagreement:	7%
Recommendation Reports - Number of Blank/Unanswered: ³	0
Recommendation Reports - Percentage of Blank/Unanswered:	0%
Percentage of REUNIFICATION Children Reviewed for the Period:	36%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT - Adoption Children Reviewed:	<1%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT - C & G Children Reviewed:	<1%
Percentage of ADOPTION Children Reviewed for the Period:	16%
Percentage of CUSTODY/GUARDIANSHIP Children Reviewed for the Period:	3%
Percentage of APPLA Children Reviewed for the Period:	43%

¹ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the work-at-home directive from the Governor of Maryland effective 3/13/20 and the new CRBC Virtual Review Process, recommendation reports were not sent on time.

² The local department of social services is required by COMAR 07.01.06.06 (H) to respond to the local out of home placement review board's recommendation(s) within 10 days of receipt of the report.

³ The number of recommendation report responses received from the local department of social services that did not indicate acceptance or non acceptance of the local board's recommendation.

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