# Citizens Review Board For Children

CRBC
Citizens Review Board for Children

MARYLAND

# FIRST QUARTER
# FISCAL YEAR 2022
# REPORT
(July 1st 2021 – September 30th 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.

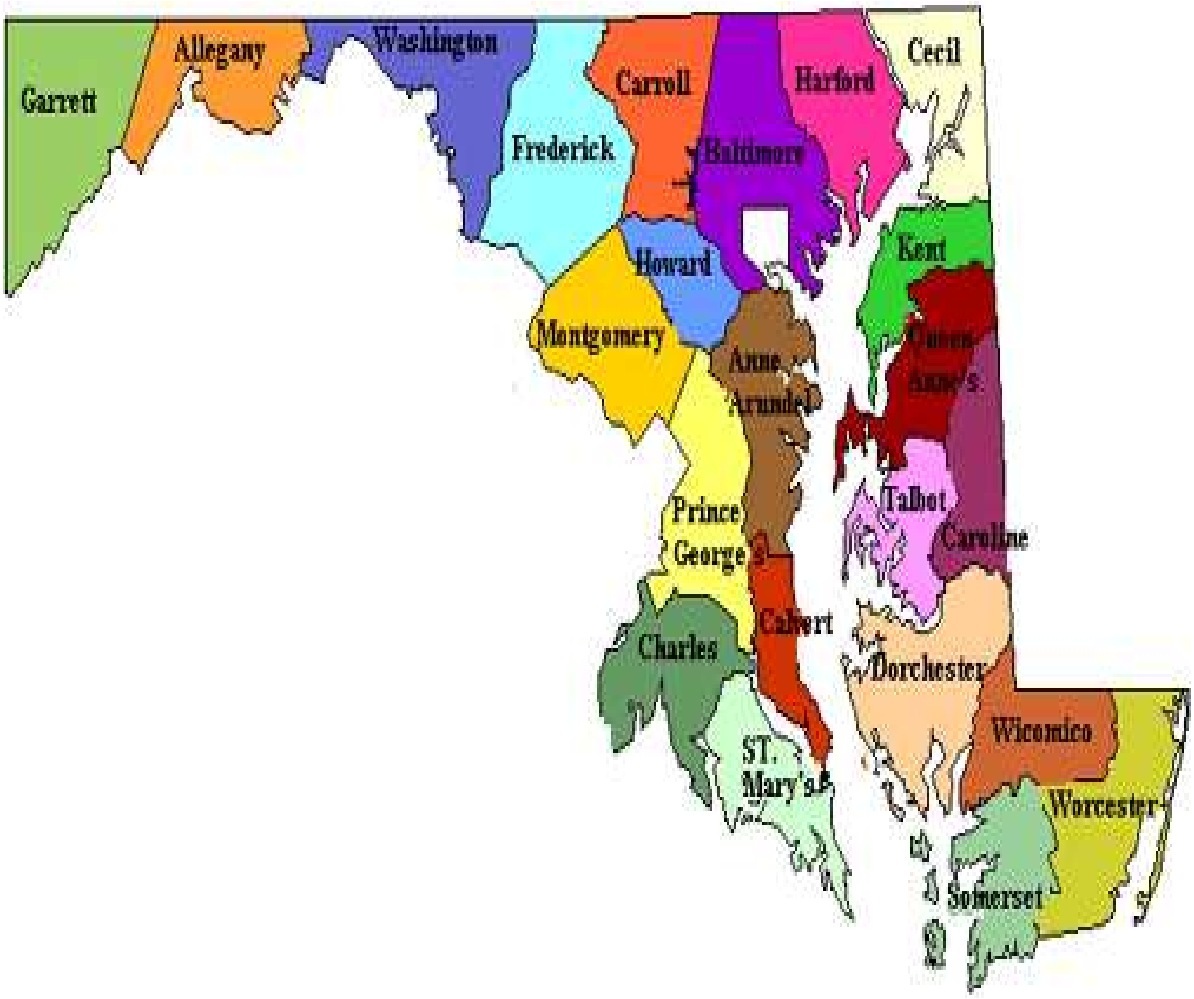
## CRBC Acknowledgements

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

## Introduction

The following pages contain data from CRBC's out-of-home-placement case review findings and recommendations for the 1st Quarter of Fiscal Year 2022.




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: Caroline, Carroll, Garrett, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne's, Wicomico and Worcester counties. Therefore, this report only contains review findings and recommendations for the 16 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.

**R**eunification:

- ★ 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.

**A**doption:

- ★ 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.

**A**nother **P**lanned **P**ermanent **L**iving **A**rrangement (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.

## 1st Quarter 2022 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 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 02 | Anne Arundel | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| 03 | Baltimore County | 9 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 9 | 22 | 6 |
| 04 | Calvert | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| 07 | Cecil | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| 08 | Charles | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 1 |
| 09 | Dorchester | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 10 | Frederick | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 2 |
| 12 | Harford | 5 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 3 |
| 15 | Montgomery | 4 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 15 | 4 |
| 16 | Prince George's | 8 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 14 | 5 |
| 18 | Saint Mary's | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| 19 | Somerset | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| 20 | Talbot | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| 21 | Washington | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 8 | 2 |
| 49 | Baltimore City | 9 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 17 | 41 | 12 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 16 | Statewide Totals | 49 | 8 | 29 | 13 | 54 | 153 | 43 |
| | Percentages | 32% | 5% | 19% | 8% | 35% | 100% | |

*(Note: Relative Placement is the combined total of Relative Placement for Adoption = 2; Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship =6)

CRBC conducted a total of 153 individual out-of-home case reviews (each case reviewed represents 1 child/youth) in 16 Jurisdictions on 43 boards that held reviews during the 1st quarter of fiscal year 2022.

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)
- Adoptive Services
  - Pre-Adoptive Placement
  - Adoptive Recruitment
  - Post-Adoption Services
- Child's Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings
- Miscellaneous Findings
- Barriers/Issues to Permanency

## Total Reviewed (153)

## Gender Totals

| Male | Female |
|---|---|
| 74 (48%) | 79 (52%) |

## Gender by Plan

Male (74)

| Reunification | Relative Placement | Adoption | Custody Guardianship | APPLA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 27 (36%) | 4 (6%) | 12 (16%) | 10 (14%) | 21 (28%) |

Female (79)

| Reunification | Relative Placement | Adoption | Custody Guardianship | APPLA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 22 (28%) | 4 (5%) | 17 (21%) | 3 (4%) | 33 (42%) |

## Ethnicity Overall

| African American | Caucasian | Asian | Other |
|---|---|---|---|
| 82 (54%) | 61 (40%) | 2 (1%) | 8 (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 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 13 |
| 2_age 6 thru 10 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 24 |
| 3_age 11 thru 13 | 12 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 23 |
| 4_age 14 thru 16 | 20 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 34 |
| 5_age 17 thru 19 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 20 | 26 |
| 6_age 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 33 | 33 |
| Totals | 49 | 2 | 6 | 29 | 13 | 54 | 153 |

# Jurisdictional Case Reviews

## Allegany County

Allegany County had a total of 3 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 1 case
- APPLA: 2 cases

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 1 of the 3 cases.

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

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 connection was appropriate for both cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 1 of the 3 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 signed case.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

| Number of Cases | Placement/Living Arrangment (LA) |
|---|---|
| 1 | Treatment Foster Care (Private) |
| 1 | Therapeutic Group Home |
| 1 | Own Dwelling |

In 1 of the 3 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 all 3 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

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

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

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

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

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?

- No.

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

- Yes.

Health/Mental Health

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

The local board found that the health needs of 2 of the 3 children/youths had been met.

Education

2 of the 3 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 youth had graduated high school.

1 of the 2 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and did not have a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child's/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was not available for review for both of the children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.
The local board agreed that the 2 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

  Both youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

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

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

  The local board agreed that both 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 was specified for 1 of the 2 youths.

  The local board agreed that 1 of the 2 youths was being appropriately prepared for transitioning 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.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Not applicable.

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 3 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

| Child Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 2 | 2 |
| No | 1 | 1 |

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

| Supervision of Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Supervised | 2 | |
| Unsupervised | | 2 |

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

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Other | | |

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

| Overnight Stays | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 1 | 1 |
| No | 1 | 1 |

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that none of the 3 children/youths had siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with parents.
- Youth Placed Outside Of Home Jurisdiction
- Vision not current.
- Annual Physicals Not Current.

Summary

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

# Anne Arundel County

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

- Reunification: 3 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 concurrent permanency plans for any of the cases.

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

The 1 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 | 2 | | | | | |
| 3 years or more | | | | | | 1 |
| Totals ➔ | 3 | | | | | 1 |

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 1 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 2 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for 1 of the 2 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

| Number of Cases | Placement/Living Arrangment (LA) |
|---|---|
| 1 | Treatment Foster Care (Private) |
| 1 | Therapeutic Group Home |
| 1 | Own Dwelling |
| 1 | Inpatient Psychiatric Care (LA) |

In 3 of the 4 cases reviewed the children/youths were not placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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 case 3 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 less restrictive placement
- 1 case(s) was a more restrictive placement

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

- 1 case(s) transitioning towards permanency goal

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 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 all 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 3 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 1 child/youth had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 1 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: All 4 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Yes, for all 4 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 of the 4 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Yes, for all 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 3 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for all 3 children/youths with a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 3 the children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 3 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable
- Behavioral Issues: Yes, for all 4 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 4 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 2 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 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 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 through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that 3 of 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 – 4 cases)

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

  The local board determined that none of the youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

  The local board agreed that 1 youth was receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 1 youth had mental health reasons preventing them from receiving appropriate services.

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

  Housing had not been specified for the 4 youths transitioning out of care.

  The local board determined that 4 youths were 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.

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)

2 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 | 2 | |
| No | 2 | 4 |

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

| Supervision of Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Supervised | | |
| Unsupervised | 2 | |

| Who Supervises Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDSS Agency Representative | | |
| Other Agency Representative | | |
| Biological Family Member | | |
| Foster Parent | | |
| Other | | |

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

| Overnight Stays | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | | |
| No | 2 | |

Siblings/Visits

Not applicable. 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 parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- No concurrent plan by court
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Not following up on referrals.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other education barrier.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Transitional housing has not been identified.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Youth not attending school or in GED program.
- Youth not receiving adequate services.
- Lack of concurrent planning.

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 22 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 9 cases
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 1 case
- Non Relative Adoption: 3 cases
- APPLA: 9 cases

Permanency

The local boards agreed with the department's permanency plan for 15 of the 22 cases reviewed.

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (9 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (9)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 9 cases)

All 9 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local boards agreed that the connections were appropriate for 7 of the 9 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

| LENGTH | Reunif | Relative for Adoption | Relative for C & G | Non-Rel Adoption | Non-Rel Cust/Guad | APPLA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 to 6 months | 2 | | | | | 1 |
| 7 to 11 months | | | | 1 | | |
| 1 to 2 years | 3 | | | | | 4 |
| 2 to 3 years | 2 | 1 | | 1 | | 3 |
| 3 years or more | 2 | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Totals ➔ | 9 | 1 | | 3 | | 9 |

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 7 of the 21 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 7 of the 21 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 Arrangment (LA) |
|---|---|
| 2 | Formal Kinship Care |
| 2 | Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home |
| 5 | Treatment Foster Care |
| 1 | Treatment Foster Care (Private) |
| 1 | Residential Group Home |
| 1 | Teen Mother Program |
| 3 | Therapeutic Group Home |
| 2 | Independent Living Residential Program |
| 3 | Own Dwelling |
| 2 | Trial Home Visit (LA) |

In 10 of the 22 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 20 of the 22 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 11 of the 22 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 5 cases had 1 placement change, 2 cases had 2 changes, 3 had 3 changes and 1 had 4 or more changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for all 11 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 11 most recent placement changes:

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 5 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

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

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

- 3 case(s) behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for 5 of the 11 cases

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

- Yes, for 8 of the 11 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 6 of the 22 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 13 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 7 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 11 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 2 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 7 of the 22 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 14 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 14 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 13 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 13 children/youths.

- Mental Health Issues: 19 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 18 of the 19 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 18 of the 19 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 19 children/youths with mental health issues, were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 2 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for both children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 11 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 10 of the 11 children/youths.

The local boards found that the health needs of 5 of the 22 children/youths had been met.

Education

13 of the 22 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 12 were in Pre-K through 12th grade and 1 youth was in college. 5 of the 9 youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school, 3 refused to attend school and 1 was under age 5.

9 of the 12 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 7 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 4 of the 9 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 – 17 cases)

  7 of the 17 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 7 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 – 17 cases)

  6 of the 17 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 7 youths had mental health reasons preventing them from receiving appropriate services.

  The local boards agreed that 6 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. 2 children/youths consented to adoption and consent was unknown for 2.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (4 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (4 cases)

3 of the 4 children/youths with a plan of adoption and 1 child/youth with a plan of relative placement for adoption were not placed in a pre-adoptive home.

Adoptive Recruitment (4 cases)

The local boards found that the local department did not have documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for the 4 children/youths not placed in pre-adoptive homes.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (4 cases)

Not applicable. None of the 4 children/youths were placed in pre-adoptive homes.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

7 of the 22 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local boards agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 20 of the 22 cases.

## Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

| Child Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 15 | 11 |
| No | 7 | 11 |

| Frequency of Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Daily | 1 | |
| Once a week | 1 | |
| More than once a week | | |
| Once a month | 2 | 1 |
| More than once a month | 4 | 1 |
| Quarterly | | |
| Yes, but undocumented | 7 | 9 |

| Supervision of Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Supervised | | |
| Unsupervised | 15 | 11 |

| 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 | 13 | 10 |
| LDSS Visitation Center | 1 | |
| Public Area | | |
| Child's/Youth's Placement | 1 | 1 |
| Other | | |

| Overnight Stays | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 10 | 7 |
| No | 5 | 4 |

Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 6 of the 22 children/youths had siblings in care. All 6 had 1 sibling in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 6 children/youths. 6 children/youths with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 4 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not 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.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other mental health barrier.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth not attending school or in GED program.
- Disagreement with permanency plan.

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 16 of the 22 children/youths reviewed.

# Calvert County

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

- Reunification: 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 identified a concurrent permanency plan for 2 of the 4 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the local juvenile court for the 2 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 | 2 | | | | | |
| 7 to 11 months | | | | | | |
| 1 to 2 years | | | | | | |
| 2 to 3 years | | | | | | 2 |
| 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 had a signed service agreement for 3 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 3 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreement was appropriate for the 3 signed case.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

| Number of Cases | Placement/Living Arrangment (LA) |
|---|---|
| 2 | Formal Kinship Care |
| 1 | Regular Foster Care |
| 1 | Independent Living Residential Program |

1 of the 4 children/youths 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 the 4 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

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

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

The following levels of care were found for the 3 most recent placement changes:

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 2 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement change included:

- 1 case(s) provider home closed

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

- Yes, for all 3 cases

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

- Yes, for all 3 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: 1 child/youth had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 1 child/youth had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 2 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: Not applicable. None of the 4 children/youths had follow-up health concerns.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 1 of the 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: Not applicable. None of the 4 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Not applicable.
- Psychotropic Medication: Not applicable. None of the 4 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Not applicable.
- Mental Health Issues: 2 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. None of the 4 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: None.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Not applicable.

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 through 12th grade. The youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program 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 3 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.

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

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

  The local board agreed that 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.

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)

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 | 2 | 4 |
| No | 2 | |

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

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

| Who Supervises Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDSS Agency Representative | | |
| Other Agency Representative | | 1 |
| Biological Family Member | | |
| Foster Parent | | |
| Other | | |

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

| Overnight Stays | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | | 4 |
| No | 2 | |

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that all 4 children/youths had siblings in care. All 4 children/youths had 1 sibling in care. Efforts were made to place siblings who did not reside together for all 4 children/youths. 2 children/youths had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them and 4 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Annual physicals not current.
- 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 all 4 children/youths reviewed.

# Cecil County

Cecil County had a total of 3 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

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

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 1 of the 3 cases reviewed.

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

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department did not hold family involvement meetings prior to entry for the 3 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department did not have a signed service agreement for any of the 3 cases. Efforts were not made to involve the family in the service agreement process for any of the 3 cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

| Number of Cases | Placement/Living Arrangment (LA) |
|---|---|
| 3 | Regular Foster Care |

All 3 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 3 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

Not Applicable. There were no placement changes within the 12 months prior to the review for any of the 3 children/youths reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 3 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 2 children/youths 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: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 1 eligible child/youth reviewed requiring follow-up.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that none of the 3 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 of the 3 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: 2 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 1 of the 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. None of the 2 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

- Substance Abuse: None.

- 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 2 of the 3 children/youths had been met.

Education

All 3 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program.

2 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 available for review for 2 of the 3 children/youths 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 – None)

  Not applicable.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – None)

  Not applicable.

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (1 case)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

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

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

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

Adoptive Recruitment (1 Case)

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 Case)

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

All 3 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 3 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

| Child Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 3 | |
| No | | 3 |

| Frequency of Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Daily | | |
| Once a week | 3 | |
| More than once a week | | |
| Once a month | | |
| More than once a month | | |
| Quarterly | | |
| Yes, but undocumented | | |

| Supervision of Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Supervised | | |
| Unsupervised | 3 | |

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

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

| Overnight Stays | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | | |
| No | | |

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that all 3 children/youths had siblings in care. Efforts were made to place all 3 children/youths who did not reside together. All 3 children/youths had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. None of the 3 children/youths had siblings who were not 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 parents.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Vision not current.

Summary

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

# Charles County

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

- APPLA: 4 cases

Permanency

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

Category of APPLA plan (4 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (4)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 4 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

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 Arrangment (LA) |
|---|---|
| 2 | Treatment Foster Care (Private) |
| 1 | Independent Living Residential Program |
| 1 | Other |

In all 4 cases reviewed the children/youths were not placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their community 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: 4 children/youths 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: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred for all health concerns noted by a physician for 1 eligible child/youth reviewed.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 3 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: 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: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the child/youth.
- 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 3 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. 2 of the 3 children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade and 1 youth was enrolled in a GED program. The 1 youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school.

All 3 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 1 of the 3 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that 2 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

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

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

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

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

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 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. Not applicable.

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)

None 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 | |
| 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 | | |
| Quarterly | | |
| Yes, but undocumented | 1 | |

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

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

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

| Overnight Stays | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | | |
| No | 1 | |

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:

- Dentals not current.
- Other mental health barrier.
- Other education barrier.
- Other placement barrier.
- Other implementation 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.

# Dorchester County

Dorchester County had a total of 3 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 1 case
- Appla: 2 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 2 of the 3 cases reviewed.

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

Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (2)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 2 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 2 eligible cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreement was appropriate for 1 of the 2 signed case.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

| Number of Cases | Placement/Living Arrangment (LA) |
|---|---|
| 1 | Treatment Foster Care (Private) |
| 1 | Residential Group Home |
| 1 | Other |

1 of the 3 children/youths reviewed were 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 2 of the 3 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

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

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

The following level of care was 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 change:

- 1 case(s) was transitioning towards permanency goal

Child/youth specific issue for the most recent placement change included:

- 1 case(s) behavioral issues

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

- Yes

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

- Yes

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that all 3 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: Not applicable. None of the 3 children/youths had follow-up health concerns noted by a physician.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 1 of the 3 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 all 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: All 3 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: All 3 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 3 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: None.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 children/youths had behavioral issues.

- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 3 children/youths.

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

Education

All 3 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program.

All 3 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and all 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 3 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that 1 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 – 3 cases)

  None of the 3 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth was unable to participate due to mental health reasons and 1 was medically fragile and unable to participate.

  The local board agreed that none of the 3 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

  Housing had been specified for 1 youth transitioning out of care.

  The local board agreed that 1 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. Not applicable. None of the 3 youths had a plan of adoption.

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)

All 3 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 3 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

| 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 | 1 | |
| Quarterly | | |
| Yes, but undocumented | | |

| Supervision of Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Supervised | | |
| Unsupervised | 2 | |

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

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

| Overnight Stays | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | | |
| No | 2 | |

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that none of the 3 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.
- Inappropriate service agreement.
- No concurrent plan by court
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- School Not Implementing IEP.
- School Not Meeting Youth's Behavioral Needs.

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 3 children/youths reviewed.

# Frederick County

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

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

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 1 of the 8 cases.

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

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 | | | | 2 | | |
| 7 to 11 months | | | | | | |
| 1 to 2 years | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 to 3 years | | | | | 2 | |
| 3 years or more | 1 | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Totals ➔ | 1 | | | 3 | 2 | 2 |

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 2 of the 6 eligible cases. 2 cases were Post-TPR children/youths under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 5 eligible cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreement was appropriate for the 2 signed case.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

| Number of Cases | Placement/Living Arrangment (LA) |
|---|---|
| 2 | Treatment Foster Care |
| 1 | Treatment Foster Care (Private) |
| 1 | Residential Group Home |
| 1 | Teen Mother Program |
| 3 | Therapeutic Group Home |

2 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were placed in their home jurisdictions 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 all 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. 1 case had 1 placement change, 2 cases had 2 changes and 1 case had 3 placement changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 3 of the 4 cases.

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

- 2 case(s) were in less restrictive placements
- 2 case(s) had the same level of care

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 2 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) sexualized

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

- Yes, for 3 cases

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

- Yes, for 3 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 5 of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 7 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 5 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 5 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: Not applicable. None of the 8 children/youths had any follow-up health concerns noted by a physician.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 3 of the 8 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 4 of the 5 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for 3 of the 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 6 of the 8 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 5 of the 6 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 5 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 6 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.

- Behavioral Issues: 5 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 5 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 4 of the 8 children/youths had been met.

Education

7 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 6 of the 7 children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade and 1 was in college. The 1 youth not enrolled in a school or another educational/vocational had graduated high school.

4 of the 7 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 2 of the 6 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that 6 children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 6 cases)

  1 of the 6 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 – 6 cases)

  The local board agreed that 5 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. 1 child/youth with a plan of adoption consented, 1 did not want to be adopted and consent for 1 was unknown.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (3 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (3 cases)

Not applicable. None of the 3 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in pre-adoptive homes.

Adoptive Recruitment (3 cases)

The local board found that the local department had documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for 2 of the 3 children/youths not placed in a pre-adoptive home. The adoptive recruitment resource was Adopt-Us-Kids for both cases.

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (3 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for 2 of the 3 children/youths. The services that were needed were medical services, mental health, education and respite 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)

5 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 8 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

| Child Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 2 | 5 |
| No | 6 | 3 |

| Frequency of Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Daily | | |
| Once a week | | 1 |
| More than once a week | | |
| Once a month | 1 | |
| More than once a month | | |
| Quarterly | | |
| Yes, but undocumented | 1 | 4 |

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

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

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

| Overnight Stays | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | | 1 |
| No | 2 | 4 |

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 4 of the 8 children/youths had siblings in care. 4 children/youths had 1 sibling in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 4 children/youths. 2 children/youths with siblings in care 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 Service Agreement with Youth.
- Other Community Resource Barriers.
- Other Agency Related Barriers.
- Other Child/Youth Related Barrier.
- Other Court Related Barrier.
- Other Family Related Barrier.
- Other Independence Barrier.
- Other Mental Health Barrier.
- Other Safety Barrier.
- Youth Engages in Risky Behavior.
- Youth Placed Outside of Home Jurisdiction.
- Child Has Behavior Problems in The Home.
- Missing Or Lack Of Documentation.
- Inadequate Preparation for Independence (General).
- Dentals Not Current.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 7 of the 8 children/youths reviewed.

# Harford County

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

- Reunification: 5 cases
- Non-Relative Adoption: 6 cases
- APPLA: 1 case

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any 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 | | | | 3 | | |
| 7 to 11 months | | | | | | |
| 1 to 2 years | 5 | | | | | |
| 2 to 3 years | | | | 3 | | 1 |
| 3 years or more | | | | | | |
| Totals ➔ | 5 | | | 6 | | 1 |

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 6 of the 12 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 4 of the 12 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 8 of the 12 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 Arrangment (LA) |
|---|---|
| 6 | Regular Foster Care |
| 1 | Independent Living Residential Program |
| 5 | Trial Home Visit (LA) |

In 7 of the 12 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 8 of the 12 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

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

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

The following levels of care were found for the 6 most recent placement changes:

- 6 case(s) were less restrictive placements

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 6 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- Yes, for all 6 cases

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

- Yes, for all 6 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of the 12 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 11 children/youths had a current physical exam.

- Current Vision: 7 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 5 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 4 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 4 of the 12 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: 8 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 8 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 8 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 8 youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care system.
- Substance Abuse: None.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 4 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 4 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 11 of the 12 children/youths had been met.

Education

9 of the 12 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 9 children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade. 2 of the 3 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school and 1 child was under age 5.

4 of the 9 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 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 8 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that 6 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

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

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

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

  The local board agreed that 1 youth was 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 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. 3 children/youths consented to adoption and 3 were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (6 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (6 cases)

All 6 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The family structure was comprised of a married couple for 4 cases and a single female for 2. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children/youths was a non-relative foster parent(s) for all 6 cases.

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

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

A home study was completed and approved for all 6 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 for all 6 cases.

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

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable. All 6 children/youths were already placed in pre-adoptive homes.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

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

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive service and resource was appropriate for the case.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 12 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

| Child Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 3 | |
| No | 9 | 12 |

| Frequency of Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Daily | | |
| Once a week | | |
| More than once a week | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Once a month | 3 | |
| More than once a month | | |
| Quarterly | | |
| Yes, but undocumented | | |

| Supervision of Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Supervised | 3 | |
| Unsupervised | | |

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

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

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 10 of the 12 children/youths had siblings in care. 6 children/youths had 2 siblings in care and 4 had 3 siblings. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 6 children/youths. 6 children/youths with siblings in care 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 service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- No concurrent plan by court.

- Youth not receiving adequate services.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other education barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).

Summary

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

# Montgomery County

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

- Reunification: 4 cases
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 1 case
- Non-Relative Adoption: 4 cases
- Non-Relative Custody/Guardianship: 3 cases
- APPLA: 3 cases

Permanency

The local boards agreed with the department's permanency plan for 13 of the 15 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any 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 boards agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 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 | | | | 3 | 1 | |
| 7 to 11 months | | 1 | | | | |
| 1 to 2 years | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| 2 to 3 years | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 3 years or more | 2 | | | | | 1 |
| Totals ➔ | 4 | 1 | | 4 | 3 | 3 |

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 14 of the 15 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 6 of the 9 eligible cases. 3 cases were Post-TPR children under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for the 6 eligible cases.

The local boards agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 6 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

| Number of Cases | Placement/Living Arrangment (LA) |
|---|---|
| 6 | Pre-Finalized Adoption |
| 1 | Regular Foster Care |
| 1 | Restricted (Relative) Foster Care |
| 5 | Treatment Foster Care (Private) |
| 1 | Independent Living Residential Program |
| 1 | College (LA) |

In 9 of the 15 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 14 of the 15 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 4 of the 15 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 3 cases had 1 placement change and 1 case had 2 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:

- 4 case(s) had the same level of care

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 3 of the 4 cases

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

- Yes, for 3 of the 4 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 15 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 4 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 1 of the 15 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 8 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 8 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: 11 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 10 of the 11 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 10 of the 11 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 11 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 9 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 9 children/youths.

The local boards found that the health needs of 2 of the 15 children/youths had been met.

Education

14 of the 15 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 13 of the 14 were in Pre-K through 12th grade and 1 youth was in college. The 1 child/youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school.

7 of the 13 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and all 7 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 4 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 – 6 cases)

  1 of the 6 youths was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth was unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

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

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

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

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

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

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

  The local boards 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. 2 children/youths consented and 2 were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (4 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (4 cases)

4 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple for 3 cases and an unmarried couple for 1 case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children/youths was a relative foster parent for 1 case and non-relative foster parent(s) for 3 cases.

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

- 1 case(s) from 12 to 15 months
- 2 case(s) from 16 to 20 months
- 1 case(s) 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved for 1 case.

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

The local boards agreed that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate for the 4 cases.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable. All 4 children/youths were already placed in pre-adoptive homes.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (4 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for all 4 children/youths. The service that was needed was medical for all 4 cases.

The local boards found that the post adoptive service was appropriate for all 4 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 11 of the 15 cases.

## Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

| Child Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 5 | 4 |
| No | 10 | 11 |

| Frequency of Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Daily | | |
| Once a week | | |
| More than once a week | | |
| Once a month | | |
| More than once a month | 4 | 3 |
| Quarterly | | |
| Yes, but undocumented | 1 | 1 |

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

| Who Supervises Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| LDSS Agency Representative | 3 | 1 |
| 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 | 2 | 2 |
| Public Area | 2 | |
| Child's/Youth's Placement | | |
| Other | | |

| Overnight Stays | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 1 | 1 |
| No | 4 | 3 |

Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 8 of the 15 children/youths had siblings in care. 3 children/youths had 1 sibling in care and 5 had 4 siblings. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 6 children/youths. 6 children/youths with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 1 child/youth had visits with their siblings who were not 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.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- 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 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 12 of the 15 children/youths reviewed.

# Prince George's County

Prince George's County had a total of 14 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

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

Permanency

The local boards agreed with the department's permanency plan for 13 of the 14 cases reviewed.

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

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

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 boards agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 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 | 2 | | 1 | | | |
| 2 to 3 years | | | | 1 | | 3 |
| 3 years or more | 5 | | | | | |
| Totals ➔ | 8 | | 1 | 2 | | 3 |

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 12 of the 14 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department did not have a signed service agreement for 13 of the 14 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 not made for the 13 eligible cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

| Number of Cases | Placement/Living Arrangment (LA) |
|---|---|
| 1 | Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home |
| 1 | Regular Foster Care |
| 1 | Restricted (Relative) Foster Care |
| 1 | Treatment Foster Care |
| 6 | Treatment Foster Care (Private) |
| 1 | Residential Treatment Center |
| 1 | Own Dwelling |
| 1 | Trial Home Visit (LA) |
| 1 | Military (LA) |

In 8 of the 14 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 12 of the 14 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 6 of the 14 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 4 cases had 1 placement change, 1 case had 2 changes and 1 had 4 or more changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 4 of the 6 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 6 most recent placement changes:

- 3 case(s) were less restrictive placements
- 1 case(s) was a more restrictive placement
- 2 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

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) provider home closed

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

- 1 case(s) behavioral issues
- 1 case(s) hospitalization

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

- Yes, for 5 cases

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

- Yes, for 6 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 14 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 8 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 4 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 4 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 4 of the 14 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 4 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 4 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 10 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 9 of the 10 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.

- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 9 of the 10 children/youths.

- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 10 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

- Substance Abuse: 2 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.

- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for both children/youths.

- Behavioral Issues: 6 children/youths had behavioral issues.

- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 4 of the 6 children/youths.

The local boards found that the health needs of 5 of the 14 children/youths had been met.

Education

10 of the 14 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 9 of the 10 were in Pre-K through 12th grade and 1 youth was in college. 2 of the 4 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school and 2 were under the age of 5.

4 of the 9 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 3 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 any of the 9 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local boards agreed that 8 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 7 cases)

  1 of the 7 youths was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

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

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

  The local boards agreed that 2 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

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

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

  The local boards agreed that 1 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, 1 child/youth consented 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 both cases. 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 16 to 20 months
- 1 case(s) from 21 months or more

A home study was 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 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 1 of the 2 children/youths. The service that was needed was medical for the case.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

2 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local boards agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 10 of the 14 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

| Child Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 7 | 3 |
| No | 7 | 11 |

| Frequency of Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Daily | 1 | |
| Once a week | 4 | |
| More than once a week | | |
| Once a month | | |
| More than once a month | 1 | |
| Quarterly | | |
| Yes, but undocumented | 1 | 3 |

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

| 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 | 5 | 3 |
| LDSS Visitation Center | | |
| Public Area | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Child's/Youth's Placement | 1 | 3 |
| Other | 1 | |

| Overnight Stays | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 2 | 3 |
| No | 5 | |

Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 7 of the 14 children/youths had siblings in care. 3 children/youths had 2 siblings in care and 4 children/youth had 3 siblings in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for all 7 children/youths. 7 children/youths had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 7 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not 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.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Child/Youth has runaway history.
- 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.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth not enrolled in school.
- Youth not attending school or in GED program.
- Lack of concurrent planning.
- Lack of 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 10 of the 14 children/youths reviewed.

# St. Mary's County

St. Mary's 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 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 to 3 years | 2 | | | 1 | | |
| 3 years or more | | | | | | |
| 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 all 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 4 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

| Number of Cases | Placement/Living Arrangment (LA) |
|---|---|
| 1 | Regular Foster Care |
| 2 | Treatment Foster Care |
| 1 | Therapeutic Group Home |

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

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

- 2 case(s) same level of care

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) provider home closed

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 1 case

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

- Yes, for 1 case

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: 4 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 3 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 departments reported that all 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: 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.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 3 children/youths.

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. The 1 child not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program was under age 5.

2 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 3 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 1 case)

  1 youth was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

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

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

  The local board agreed that 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. Consent was unknown for the 1 child/youth with a plan of adoption.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (1 case)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

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

Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

Not applicable. Post adoption services were not needed for the case.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None 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 | 3 | |
| No | 1 | 4 |

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

| Supervision of Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Supervised | | |
| Unsupervised | 3 | |

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

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

| Overnight Stays | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | | |
| No | 3 | |

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that all 3 of the 4 children/youths had siblings in care. 3 children/youths had 2 siblings in care. Efforts were not made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 3 children/youths. 3 children/youths with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other safety barrier.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- 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 3 of the 4 children/youths reviewed.

# Somerset County

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

- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 2 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 1 case
- APPLA: 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 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 | | | 2 | | | 1 |
| 7 to 11 months | | | | | | |
| 1 to 2 years | | | | 1 | | |
| 2 to 3 years | | | | | | |
| 3 years or more | | | | | | |
| 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 did not have a signed service agreement for 3 of the 4 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 not made for the 3 eligible cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

| Number of Cases | Placement/Living Arrangment (LA) |
|---|---|
| 1 | Regular Foster Care |
| 1 | Restricted (Relative) Foster Care |
| 1 | Independent Living Residential Program |
| 1 | Residential Treatment Center |

In 1 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 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 case

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

- Yes, for the case

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: 4 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 2 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 departments reported that 2 of the 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 4 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 4 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was not being monitored at least quarterly for the child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues: 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/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 all 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.

2 of the 4 children/youths in Pre-K thru 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 2 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade.

The local board agreed that 3 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

  Both youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

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

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

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

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

  Not applicable.

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 1 child/youth with a plan of adoption.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (1 case)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

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

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 (1 case)

Not applicable. Post adoptive services were not needed for the case.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None 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 | 3 | 2 |
| No | 1 | 2 |

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

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

| Who Supervises Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDSS Agency Representative | | |
| 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 | | 1 |
| Child's/Youth's Placement | 2 | 1 |
| Other | 1 | |

| Overnight Stays | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | | |
| No | 3 | 2 |

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 2 of the 4 children/youths had siblings in care. 2 children/youths had 1 sibling in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 2 children/youths. 2 children/youths in care 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 service agreement with youth.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other education barrier.
- 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 all 4 children/youths reviewed.

## **Talbot County**

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

- Reunification: 1 case
- Non Relative Adoption: 1 case
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 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 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 | | | | | 1 |
| 2 to 3 years | | | | | 1 | |
| 3 years or more | | | | 1 | | |
| Totals => | 1 | | | 1 | 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 3 of the 4 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 the 3 eligible cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

| Number of Cases | Placement/Living Arrangment (LA) |
|---|---|
| 1 | Regular Foster Care |
| 1 | Treatment Foster Care (Private) |
| 1 | Residential Treatment Center |
| 1 | Trial Home Visit (LA) |

In none of the 4 cases reviewed, were the children/youths 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 3 of the 4 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. All 3 cases had 1 placement change.

The local department did held a family involvement meeting for the placement change for the 3 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 3 most recent placement changes:

- 2 case(s) were less restrictive placements
- 1 case(s) had the same level of care

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 2 case(s) was transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- 1 case(s) delinquent behavior

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

- Yes, for all 3 cases

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

- Yes, for all 3 cases

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: 2 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 2 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 1 child/youth had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred for all health concerns noted by a physician for 1 child/youth 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 both children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children/youths was taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for both children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 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 3 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.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- 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 2 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. The 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 2 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 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade.

The local board agreed that 3 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

  Both youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

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

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

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

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

  Not applicable.

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)

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

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 (1 case)

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

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

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 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 undocumented | | |

| 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. 2 children/youths had 1 sibling in care. Efforts were not made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 2 children/youths.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Pre-Adoptive resources not identified.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- No current IEP.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.

- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Lack of concurrent planning.

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 8 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Non Relative Adoption: 2 cases
- APPLA: 6 cases

Permanency

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (6 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (6)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 6 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 7 of the 8 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 4 of the 7 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 5 of the 7 eligible cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for 3 of the 4 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

| Number of Cases | Placement/Living Arrangment (LA) |
|---|---|
| 3 | Treatment Foster Care (Private) |
| 1 | Residential Group Home |
| 1 | Relative |
| 2 | Non-Relative |
| 1 | Own Dwelling |

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 all 8 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

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

The local department did not hold a family involvement meeting for the placement change for the 3 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 3 most recent placement changes:

- 2 case(s) were less restrictive placements
- 1 case(s) had the same level of care

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 2 case(s) was transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- Yes, for all 3 cases

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

- Yes, for all 3 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 5 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 for 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: 4 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 4 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 children/youths was taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 8 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 7 of the 8 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 7 of the 8 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 2 youths with mental health issues who were transitioning out of care did not have 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: Yes, for the child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 5 children/youths had behavioral issues.

- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 5 children/youths.

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

Education

4 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 child/youth was in Pre-K thru 12th grade, 1 was enrolled in a GED program and 2 were in college. 3 of the 4 youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school and 1 refused to attend school.

The child/youth in Pre-K thru 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 the child/youth in Pre-K thru 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 – 7 cases)

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

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

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

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

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

  Housing had been specified for both youths 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. 1 of the 2 children/youths with a plan of adoption consented.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

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

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 case.

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

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

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 (1 case)

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

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

1 case had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 8 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

| Child Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 3 | 3 |
| No | 5 | 5 |

| 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 | 2 | 2 |
| Quarterly | 1 | |
| Yes, but undocumented | | |

| Supervision of Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Supervised | | |
| Unsupervised | 3 | 3 |

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

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

| Overnight Stays | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | | |
| No | 3 | 3 |

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 2 of the 8 children/youths had siblings in care. 2 children/youths had 1 sibling in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 1 child/youth. 2 children/youths with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 2 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not 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.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- No follow up on medical referrals.
- 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 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 all 8 children/youths reviewed.

# Baltimore City

Baltimore City had a total of 41 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 9 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 3 cases
- Non-Relative Adoption: 5 cases
- Non-Relative Custody/Guardianship: 7 cases
- APPLA: 17 cases

Permanency

The local boards agreed with the department's permanency plan for 34 of the 41 cases reviewed.

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

The local department was not implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the local juvenile court for the 5 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (17 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (13)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (2)
- Other (2)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 17 cases)

11 of the 17 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local boards agreed that the connections were appropriate for 11 of the 17 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 | 4 | 1 |
| 7 to 11 months | | | | | 2 | 1 |
| 1 to 2 years | 2 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| 2 to 3 years | 5 | | 1 | | | 8 |
| 3 years or more | 2 | | | 3 | | 1 |
| Totals ➔ | 9 | | 3 | 5 | 7 | 17 |

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 15 of the 41 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 7 of the 36 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 15 of the 36 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 Arrangment (LA) |
|---|---|
| 4 | Formal Kinship Care |
| 1 | Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home |
| 3 | Restricted (Relative) Foster Care |
| 5 | Treatment Foster Care |
| 11 | Treatment Foster Care (Private) |
| 2 | Residential Group Home |
| 1 | Teen Mother Program |
| 1 | Therapeutic Group Home |
| 5 | Independent Living Residential Program |
| 1 | Non-Relative |
| 3 | Own Dwelling |
| 1 | Diagnostic Center |
| 1 | Inpatient Medical (LA) |
| 1 | Runaway (LA) |
| 1 | Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA) |

In 15 of the 41 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 36 of the 41 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 13 of the 41 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 7 cases had 1 placement change, 4 cases had 2 changes and 1 case had 3 changes and 1 case had 4 or more changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 6 of the 13 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 13 most recent placement changes:

- 3 case(s) were less restrictive placements
- 6 case(s) were more restrictive placements
- 2 case(s) had the same level of care
- 1 case(s) runaway
- 1 case(s) unknown

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 3 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

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

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

- 4 case(s) behavioral issues
- 1 case(s) runaway

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

- Yes, for 11 cases

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

- Yes, for 9 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 7 of the 41 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.

- Current Physical: 8 children/youths had a current physical exam.

- Current Vision: 5 children/youths had a current vision exam.

- Current Dental: 9 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 department reported that 2 of the 41 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 10 of the 11 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 11 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for 10 of the 11 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 23 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 18 of the 23 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 18 of the 23 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 3 youths with mental health issues who were transitioning out of care did not have an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 8 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 8 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 21 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 14 of the 21 children/youths.

The local boards found that the health needs of 8 of the 41 children/youths had been met and 5 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

29 of the 41 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 26 of the 29 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade, 1 youth was in college and 2 were in trade school. 6 of the 12 children/youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school, 4 refused to attend school and 2 were under the age of 5.

10 of the 26 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 3 of the 26 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade.

The local boards agreed that 19 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 23 cases)

  11 of the 23 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and 1 youth was unable to participate due to being medically fragile. 4 youths were referred to summer or year-round training and/or employment opportunities.

  The local boards agreed that 14 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

  1 youth was not receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living due to be medically fragile.

  The local boards agreed that 9 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 15 cases)
  (Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

  Housing and alternate housing had been specified for 8 of the 15 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 5 cases with a plan of adoption, 1 child/youth did not want to be adopted, 1 was medically fragile, 1 was under the age of consent and consent was unknown for 2 children/youths.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (5 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (5 cases)

1 of the 5 children/youths with a plan of adoption was placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a single female. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child/youth was a fictive kin 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 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/youth.

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

Adoptive Recruitment (4 cases)

The local boards found that the local department had documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for 2 of the 4 children/youths not placed in a pre-adoptive home. The adoptive recruitment resources were Adoptions Together, Wednesday's Wonderful Child, and Adopt-Us-Kids.

The local boards agreed that the adoptive recruitment efforts were appropriate for the 2 cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (5 cases)

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

The local boards found that the post-adoptive services were appropriate for the 2 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local boards agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 33 of the 41 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

| Child Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 10 | 6 |
| No | 31 | 35 |

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

| Supervision of Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Supervised | 8 | 5 |
| Unsupervised | 2 | 1 |

| Who Supervises Visits | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| LDSS Agency Representative | 8 | 5 |
| Other Agency Representative | | |
| Biological Family Member | | |
| Foster Parent | | |
| Other | | |

| Where do Visits Occur? | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Parent/Relative Home | 2 | 6 |
| LDSS Visitation Center | 5 | |
| Public Area | 3 | |
| Child's/Youth's Placement | | |
| Other | | |

| Overnight Stays | With Parents | With Relatives |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 1 | 1 |
| No | 9 | 5 |

Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 24 of the 41 children/youths had siblings in care. 12 children/youths had 1 sibling in care, 2 had 2 siblings, 5 had 3 siblings and 5 had 4 siblings. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 13 children/youths. 15 children/youths with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 4 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

Barriers/IssuesThe local boards identified the following barriers to permanency or issues:

- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- ICPC issues.
- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- No concurrent plan by court
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Disrupted pre-adoption placement.
- Disrupted finalized adoption.
- No current IEP.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Other permanency barrier.
- Other family related barrier.
- Other court related barrier.
- Transitional housing has not been identified.
- 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.
- Youth not attending school or in GED program.
- 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 28 of the 41 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.

# 1st Quarter 2022 CRBC Metrics

| | |
|---|---|
| Total # of Children - Scheduled on the Preliminary: | 394 |
| Total # of Children - Closed (adopted, reunified, exited care), Non-Submission: | 138 |
| Total # of Children - Rescheduled (DSS caseworker requests, board overload): | 75 |
| Total # of Children - Not taken to the Board: | 213 |
| Total # of Children - Taken to the Board: | 181 |
| Total # of Children - Reviewed at the Board: | 153 |
| Total # of Children - Not Reviewed at the Board (worker no shows/closed): | 21 |
| | |
| Percentage of Children Reviewed for the Period: | 88% |
| Percentage of Children Not Reviewed for the Period: | 12% |
| | |
| Recommendation Reports to DSS - Number Sent: | 153 |
| Recommendation Reports to DSS - Number Sent on Time:[1] | 140 |
| Recommendation Reports to DSS - Percentage Sent on Time: | 92% |
| | |
| Recommendation Reports from DSS - Number of Responses Received:[2] | 55 |
| Recommendation Reports from DSS - Percentage of DSS Responses: | 40% |
| Recommendation Reports from DSS - Number Received on Time: | 55 |
| Recommendation Reports from DSS - Percentage Received on Time | % |
| | |
| Number of Boards Held | 43 |
| | |
| Recommendation Reports - Number of DSS Agreement: | 53 |
| Recommendation Reports - Percentage of DSS Agreement: | 96% |
| Recommendation Reports - Number of DSS Disagreement: | 2 |
| Recommendation Reports - Percentage of DSS Disagreement: | 4% |
| Recommendation Reports - Number of Blank/Unanswered:[3] | 0 |
| Recommendation Reports - Percentage of Blank/Unanswered: | 0% |
| | |
| Percentage of REUNIFICATION Children Reviewed for the Period: | 32% |
| Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT - Adoption Children Reviewed: | 1% |
| Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT - C & G Children Reviewed: | 4% |
| Percentage of ADOPTION Children Reviewed for the Period: | 19% |
| Percentage of CUSTODY/GUARDIANSHIP Children Reviewed for the Period: | 9% |
| Percentage of APPLA Children Reviewed for the Period: | 35% |
| | |

[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, on-time rates for our recommendation reports were impacted.

[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 (CRBC) 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 (CRBC) board's recommendation.

## The State Board

Nettie Anderson-Burrs (Chair)
Circuit 4: Representing Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties

Delores Alexander (Vice Chair)
Circuit 3: Representing Baltimore and Harford Counties

Dr. Theresa Stafford
Circuit 1: Representing Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worchester Counties

Reginald Groce Sr.
Circuit 2: Representing Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties

Dr. Kathy Boyer-Shick
Circuit 5: Representing Anne Arundel, Carroll, and Howard Counties

Sandra "Kay" Farley
Circuit 6: Representing Frederick and Montgomery Counties

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

Beatrice Lee
Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

Rita Jones
Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

Benia Richardson
Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

## CRBC Staff

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Administrator

Crystal Young, MSW
Assistant Administrator

Jerome Findlay
Information Technology Officer

Hope Smith
IT Functional Analyst

Michele Foster, MSW
Child Welfare Specialist

Marlo Palmer-Dixon, M.P.A
Child Welfare Specialist

Sandy Colea, CVA
Volunteer Activities Coordinator Supervisor

Vacant
Volunteer Activities Coordinator II

Cindy Hunter-Gray
Lead Secretary

Agnes Smith
Executive Assistant

Lakira Whitaker
Office Clerk

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