





# THIRD QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 2025 REPORT (January 1st 2025 – March 31st 2025)

Citizens Review Board for Children
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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:

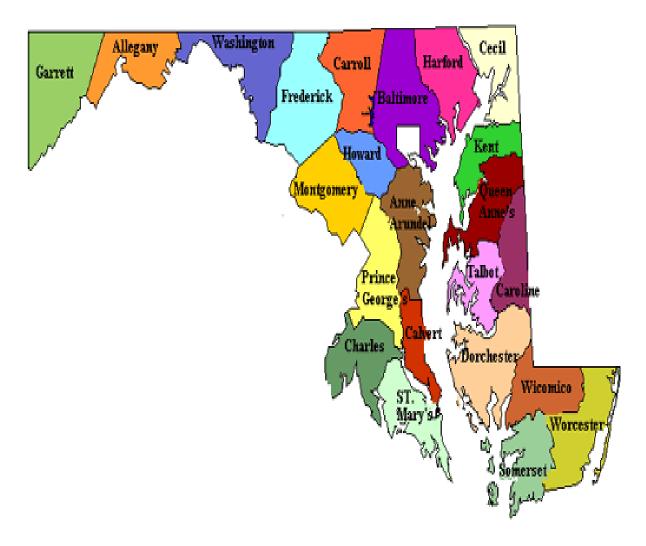
- ★ CRBC Governor-Appointed Volunteers
- ★ The Department of Human Services (DHS)
- ★ The Social Services Administration (SSA)
- ★ The Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS) and (DHHS) Montgomery County
- ★ The Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children (CPMC)
- ★ The State Council on Child Abuse 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of Fiscal Year 2025.



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: Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Charles, Garrett, Somerset, Talbot and Wicomico counties. Therefore, this report only contains review findings and recommendations for 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 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.

## **Adoption:**

- ★ Existing plans of Adoption. CRBC will conduct a review of a child that has had a plan of Adoption for over 12 months. The purpose of the review is to assess the appropriateness of the plan and identify barriers to achieve the plan.
- ★ Newly changed plans of Adoption. CRBC will conduct a review of a child within 5 months after the establishment of Adoption as a primary permanency plan. The purpose is to ensure that there is adequate and appropriate movement by the local departments to promote and achieve the Adoption.

# <u>Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA):</u>

- ★ 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 between the ages 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 ensures that the entire system of care engages the family in helping them to improve their ability to adequately plan for the care and safety of their children. The safety, well-being and permanence of children are paramount. The strengths of the entire family are the focus of the engagement (2010).



## **3rd Quarter 2025 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	Non- Relative Adoption	Relative Placement for C & G	Non- Relative C & G	Reunification	Relative Placement for Adoption	APPLA	TOTAL	# Boards Held
01	Allegany	2	0	0	2	0	0	4	1
02	Anne Arundel	1	0	0	2	0	1	4	1
03	<b>Baltimore County</b>	15	3	0	5	0	8	31	8
04	Cecil	0	0	1	1	0	1	3	1
05	Dorchester	0	0	3	1	0	0	4	1
06	Frederick	1	0	0	1	0	1	3	1
07	Harford	3	0	0	4	0	1	8	2
08	Howard	0	0	0	2	0	2	4	1
09	Kent	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	1
10	Montgomery	1	0	0	8	1	6	16	4
11	Prince George's	3	0	1	7	0	8	19	5
12	Queen Anne	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	1
13	St. Mary	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	1
14	Washington	1	0	0	3	0	1	5	1
15	Worchester	1	0	1	2	0	0	4	1
16	Baltimore City	1	4	5	42	2	16	70	18
17	Statewide Totals	34	8	11	81	3	46	183	48
	Percentages	19%	4%	6%	44%	2%	25%	100%	

CRBC conducted a total of 183 individual out-of-home case reviews (each case reviewed represents 1 child/youth) in 16 Jurisdictions on 48 boards that held reviews during the 3rd quarter of fiscal year 2025.

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
  - > Employment (14 and older)
  - Independent Living Skills (14 and older)

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- 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
- > Typical Statewide Barriers/Issues to Permanency
  - No Service Agreement with parents
  - ➤ No current safety risk
  - Lack of concurrent planning
  - Lack of follow-up (general)
  - > Youth placed outside home jurisdiction
  - Youth has not been measured for mental health
  - > Other physical health barrier
  - > Other service resource barrier
  - Other placement barrier
  - > Non-compliance with service agreement
  - > Youth engages in risky behavior
  - Health concerns
  - > Lack of documentation
- > Typical Statewide Barriers /Issues to Adoption
  - > Pre-adoptive resources not identified
  - > Child in pre-adoptive home, but adoption not finalized
  - > Efforts not made to move towards finalization
  - Other court related barrier



# **Total Reviewed (183)**

# **Gender Totals**

Male	Female
93 (51%)	90 (49%)

# **Gender by Plan**

# Male (93)

Non-Relative Adoption	Relative Placement for C & G	Non-Relative C & G	Reunification	APPLA	Relative Placement for Adoption
21 (23%)	4 (4%)	6 (6%)	41 (44%)	21 (23%)	0 (0%)

# Female (90)

Non-Relative Adoption	Relative Placement for C & G	Non-Relative C & G	Reunification	APPLA	Relative Placement for Adoption
13 (14%)	4 (4%)	5 (6%)	40 (45%)	25 (28%)	3 (3%)

# **Ethnicity Overall**

Asian	African American	Caucasian	Other
0 (0%)	135 (74%)	34 (19%)	14 (7%)

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# **Age Range by Permanency Plan**

[RU] = Reunification [RA] = Relative Adoption [RG] = Relative C & G

[AD] = Non-Relative Adoption [CG] = Non-Relative C & G [AP] = AAPLA

AGE RANGE	RU	RA	RG	AD	CG	AP	Totals
1_age 0 thru 5	6	2	2	13	2	0	25
2_age 6 thru 10	22	1	2	10	1	0	36
3_age 11 thru 13	20	0	0	5	3	0	28
4_age 14 thru 16	23	0	3	5	4	3	38
5_age 17 thru 19	10	0	1	1	1	32	45
6_age 20	0	0	0	0	0	11	11
Totals	81	3	8	34	11	46	183

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## **Jurisdictional Case Reviews**

# **Allegany County**



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

➤ Non-Relative Adoption: 2 cases

> Reunification: 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 plan for 2 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the local Juvenile Court for both cases

Category of APPLA plan (none)

Permanent Connections (none)

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months						
7 to 11 months	1			2		
1 to 2 years						
2 to 3 years	1					
3 years or more		_				
Totals → 4	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 none of the 4 cases. 2 children/youths were a post-TPR child under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process was made for none of the 4 cases.

# Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangment (LA)
1	None
2	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Regular Foster Care

3 of the 4 cases reviewed the children/youths 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 the 3 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 3 placement changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for none of the cases.

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

• 1 case(s) was less restrictive

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes were:

• 1 case(s) move did not occur for positive reason

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

• 1 case(s) placement not due to provider issue

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, for 1 case

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

• Runaway, SILA or other non-provider for 1 case

#### Health/Mental Health

- ➤ Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- > Current Physical: 2 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: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 2 of the 4 eligible children/youths reviewed.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 1 child/youth had completed medical records in their case files.
- > Prescription Medication: 1 child/youth was taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Yes, for 1 child/youth.
- > Psychotropic Medication: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Yes, for 1 child/youth.
- > Refused Prescribed Medication: 1 of the 4 children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- 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 the 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the 2 children/youths with mental health issues who were transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.



- > Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the 1 child/youth.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues: 1 child/youth had behavioral issues.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues Addressed: No, for the 1 child/youth.
- Standard Health Exams: None of the 4 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

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

#### Education

3 of 4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 3 children/youths were enrolled in Pre-K through 12th grade. 1 child/youth refused to attend school.

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

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

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

#### Ready By 21

- ➤ Employment (age 14 and older 1 case)
  - 1 youth was not participating in paid or unpaid work experience.
  - 1 youth was not referred to summer or year-round training and employment opportunities.

It is unknown if the local board agreed the 1 youth was being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- ➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older 1 case)
  - 1 youth was not receiving required Independent Living skills due to other reasons.

It is unknown if the local board agreed the 1 youth was receiving appropriate services to prepare

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for independent living.

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

# 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 consented to adoption. 1 child/youth was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (none)

#### Pre-Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

2 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 for the 1 case and a single male for 1 case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was non-relative foster parent for the 2 cases.

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

> 2 case(s) 21 months or more

A home study was completed for the 2 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and support were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet the identified needs of the child for the 2 cases.

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

#### Adoptive Recruitment (none)

#### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (2 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for the 2 children/youths. The service that was needed was medical for the 2 cases.

Post adoptive subsidies were needed for the 2 cases.

Post adoptive subsidies were approved for the 2 cases.

The Board found the post-adoptive services were appropriate for the 2 cases.



# Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

1 of the 4 cases had a CASA.

# Risk and Safety

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

# Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	3	
Unsupervised		3

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		1
No	2	2

## Siblings/Visits

2 of the 4 children/youths had siblings in care. Both children/youths had 1 sibling in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together for the 2 children/youths that did not reside with each other. It is unknown if the 2 children/youths have visits with siblings who do not reside with each other.

# **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.

#### Barriers/Issues

Code	Third Quarter Allegany County Barriers
AK	No service agreement with parents.
AN	Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
AL	No service agreement with youth.
НВ	Dentals not current.
HA	Annual physicals not current.
HC	Vision not current.
1G	No service agreement with parents.
BD	Child has behavioral problems in the home.
BY	Child/youth has runaway history.
BZ	Other child/youth related barrier.
EA	Youth not enrolled in school.
EB	Youth not attending school or in GED program.
EZ	Other education barrier.
MD	Youth non-compliant with medication.
MZ	Other mental health barrier.
1K	No service agreement with child.
SB	Youth engages in risky behavior.



# **Anne Arundel County**



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

➤ Non-Relative Adoption: 1 case

> Reunification: 2 cases

> APPLA: 1 case

# Permanency

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

The local Juvenile Court identified a concurrent plan for 3 cases.

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

# Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

> Emancipation/Independence: 1 case

# Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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



# Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 2 cases. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process was made for 4 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements was appropriate for 2 of the 4 signed cases.

## Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Formal Kinship Care
1	Regular Foster Care
2	Therapeutic Group Home

In 2 of 4 cases reviewed, the children/youths 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 all 4 cases reviewed.

# **Placement Stability**

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

#### Health/Mental Health

- > Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 2 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 3 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- > Current Dental: None of the 4 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- > Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 2 eligible children/youths reviewed.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that none 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: Yes, for the 3 children/youths.
- > Psychotropic Medication: 3 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- > Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Yes, for the 3 children/youths.
- > Refused Prescribed Medication: 1 child/youth refused to take prescribed medication.
- 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 the 3 of 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the 4 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care, therefore no identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system was established.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the 1 child/youth.
- > Behavioral Issues: 2 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes for 2 children/youths.
- > Standard Health Exams: None of the 4 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of none of the 4 children/youths had been met.

#### Education

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

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

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



The local board agreed that 3 of the 4 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

#### Ready By 21

# Employment (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

2 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 2 youths did not participate in paid or unpaid work experience.

Both youths were participating in paid or unpaid work experience relevant to career field of choice.

Both youths were referred to summer or year-round training and employment opportunities.

The local board agreed that 2 of 4 youths were appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

- 3 youths were receiving required independent living skills.
- 3 youths completed a life skills assessment for successful transition to adulthood.
- 3 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

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

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

# 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)

Adoptive Recruitment (none)



# Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (none)

# 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 all 4 cases reviewed.

# Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	1	2
Unsupervised		

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency	1	
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	1	

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	3	3

## Siblings/Visits

None of the 4 children/youths had siblings in care.

## <u>Summary</u>

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.

## Barriers/Issues

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

Code	Third Quarter Anne Arundel County Barriers
AK	No service agreement with parents.
AS	Lack of follow up (general).
EZ	Other education barrier.
MZ	Other mental health barrier.
НВ	Dentals not current.
AL	No service agreement with youth.
AQ	Worker did not submit referral for needed resource/service.
IZ	Other independence barrier.
HD	No follow up or medical records.
LZ	Other placement barrier.
SA	No current Safe Custody & Guardianship.
НА	Annual physicals not current.
HC	Vision not current.



## **Baltimore County**



Baltimore County had a total of 31 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

Non-Relative Adoption: 15 case(s)

> Relative Placement for Custody & Guardianship: 3 case(s)

> Reunification: 5 case(s)

> APPLA: 8 case(s)

#### <u>Permanency</u>

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 29 of 31 cases reviewed.

The local Juvenile Court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 6 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the local Juvenile Court for the 6 cases.

#### Category of APPLA plan (8 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (5)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (3)

## <u>Permanent Connections (APPLA – 8 cases)</u>

All 8 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified, and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 8 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		'		10	,	4
7 to 11 months	1		2	3		
1 to 2 years	1					3
2 to 3 years				1		1
3 years or more	3		1	1		
Totals →31	5		3	15		8

## Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 30 of 31 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 6 cases. 9 children/youths were a post-TPR child under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for 10 cases.

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

# Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
2	None
2	Formal Kinship Care
9	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
8	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
2	Residential Group Home
4	Therapeutic Group Home
3	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Relative

In 24 of 31 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 29 cases reviewed.

#### Placement Stability

9 of the 31 cases reviewed had a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review.

4 cases had 1 placement changes, 3 cases had 2 changes, 1 case had 3 changes and 1 case had 4 Citizens Review Board for Children

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or more placement changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 3 of 9 cases.

The following levels of care were found in 9 most recent placement changes:

- 4 case(s) were in a less restrictive placement
- 2 case(s) were in a more restrictive placement
- 3 case(s) was the same level of care

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes were:

- 6 case(s) was transitioning towards permanency goal
- 3 case(s) move did not occur for a positive reason

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

• 9 case(s) placement not due to provider issue

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

- 6 case(s) change unrelated to behavior of child
- 1 case(s) behavioral
- 1 case(s) runaway
- 1 case(s) other

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 8 cases

#### Health/Mental Health

- > Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 15 of the 31 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 24 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 12 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 16 children/youths had a current dental exam.

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- > Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 10 eligible children/youths reviewed.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 9 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 20 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 20 children/youths.
- > Psychotropic Medication: 15 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was monitored at least quarterly for the 15 children/youths.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: None of the children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- ➤ Mental Health Issues: 20 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for 20 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 15 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the 20 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care, therefore no identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system was established.
- > Substance Abuse: 4 children/youths have substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the 4 child/youth.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues: Yes, for 16 children/youths.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 14 children/youths.
- > Standard Health Exams: None of the 31 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of 8 of the 31 children/youths had been met.



#### Education

24 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational Program. 23 children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade and 1 youth was in trade school. 4 youths graduated high school and 3 children/youths were under the age of 5.

16 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan, and 10 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 7 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that all 24 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 19 cases)
  - 3 children/youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.
  - 12 youths were not participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth did not participate due to being medically fragile and 2 youths did not attend due to mental health reasons. 1 youth was in a juvenile justice facility.
  - 3 children/youths employed were participating in work experience relevant to career field of choice.
  - 3 youths were referred to summer or year round training and employment opportunities. 2 youths were not eligible due to age and were not referred.
  - 2 youths were over 20 years old and earning a living wage.

The local board agreed that 7 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- ➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older 19 cases)
  - 11 youths were receiving appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living.
  - 1 youth did not receive appropriate services due to being medically fragile. 2 youths did not participate due to mental health reasons.



9 youths completed a Life Skill Assessment for successful transition to adulthood.

10 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

The local board agreed that 10 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 the 2 youths transitioning out of care.

Alternative housing options were provided to the 2 youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed with transitional housing plans for both youths.

The local board agreed that 2 youths were 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. 6 children/youths consented to adoption. 8 children/youths were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (none)

# Pre-Adoptive Placement (14 cases)

14 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The family structure was comprised of a married couple for 9 cases, single female for 4 cases and a single male for 1 case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child/youth was a relative foster parent for 2 cases and non-relative foster parent for 12 cases.

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

- > 2 case(s) 4 to 6 months
- > 12 case(s) 21 months or more

An adoptive home study was completed and approved for 3 cases.

Social summary was given for 3 cases.

The Board found the pre-adoptive placement appropriate for the 14 children/youths.

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# Adoptive Recruitment (none)

Not applicable.

# Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (14 cases)

Post-adoptive services were needed for 14 children/youths. The service needed was medical for all 14 cases.

Post adoptive subsidies were needed for all 14 cases.

Post adoptive subsidies were not approved for any of the 14 cases.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for the 14 cases.

# Miscellaneous Findings

# Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

11 cases had a CASA.

# Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 29 of 31 cases.

# Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives	
Yes	14	11	
No	17	20	

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives	
Daily			
Once a week			
More than once a week	4	2	
Once a month	3	1	
More than once a month		1	
Quarterly	1		
Yes, but undocumented	6	7	



Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	7	
Unsupervised	6	11

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives	
Yes	5	8	
No	5	6	

# Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 18 of 31 children/youths had siblings in care. Efforts were made to place both siblings together who did not reside with each other for 15 children/youths. 18 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

## **Summary**

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR - 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 29 of 31 children/youths reviewed.



# Barriers/Issues

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

Code	Third Quarter Baltimore County Barriers
AK	No service agreement with parents.
AL	No service agreement with youth.
AR	Missing or lack of documentation.
AN	Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
CY	No concurrent plan by court.
IZ	Other independence barrier.
FA	Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
BD	Child has behavior problems in the home.
BG	Refusal to locate or maintain employment.
BH	Issues related to substance abuse.
BY	Child/youth has runaway history.
BU	Undocumented child/youth.
BZ	Other child/youth related barrier.
EA	Youth not enrolled in school.
EB	Youth not attending school or in GED program.
EZ	Other education barrier.
ED	No current IEP.
EF	School not meeting youth's behavioral needs.
FG	No concurrent permanency plan in place.
IC	Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
MC	Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
MZ	Other mental health barrier.
HA	Annual physicals not current.
НВ	Dentals not current.
HC	Vision not current.
HD	No follow up or medical referrals.
HZ	Other physical health barrier.
1G	No service plan with parents.
1K	No service agreement with child.
SB	Youth engages in risky behavior.
SD	Family (including foster family) not following safety protocols.
SZ	Other safety barrier.
8B	Lack of employment.
5D	Over age 18 and still in care.
2E	Inadequate preparation for independence.



# **Cecil County**



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

➤ Non-Relative Custody & Guardianship: 1 case

> APPLA: 1 case

> Reunification: 1 case

# <u>Permanency</u>

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 2 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the local Juvenile Court for the 2 cases.

# Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

Emancipation/Independence (1)

# Permanent Connections APPLA ( 1 case)

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



# Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

## Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry 1 of 3 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 1 case. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process was made for 3 cases.

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

# Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Regular Foster Care
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Residential Treatment Center

2 of 3 children/youths 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 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. 1 case had 2 placement changes.

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



The following level of care was found for the 1 most recent placement changes:

1 case(s) was same level of care

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes were:

1 case(s) was transitioning towards permanency goal

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

1 case(s) incompatible match

Child specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

• 1 case(s) change unrelated to behavior of child

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 all 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: 3 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department did not ensure that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 2 children/youths reviewed.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported 1 child/youth had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.



- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 2 children/youth.
- > 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.
- > Refused Prescribed Medication: 1 of the 3 children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 3 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 3 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the 3 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care, therefore no identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system was established.
- > Substance Abuse: 1 of the 3 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for 1 child/youth.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues: 2 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child/youth.
- > Standard Health Exams: None of the 3 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of 1 of 3 children/youths had been met.

#### **Education**

2 of the 3 children/youths were enrolled in school. Both children/youths were enrolled in Pre-K through 12th grade. 1 child/youth not enrolled in school graduated high school.

2 children/youths enrolled in school, or another educational/vocational program had a 504 or IEP plan and had a copy in the child/youth's record. A current progress report card was available for review for 1 child/youth enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program.

The local board agreed that all 3 children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

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#### Ready By 21

## Employment (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

1 youth was participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

None of the 2 youths were referred to summer or year round training and employment opportunities.

1 youth was 20 years old and earning a living wage.

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

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

1 youth was receiving required independent living skills.

1 youth was receiving appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living when they leave home care.

The local board agreed that none of the youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

#### ➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)

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

Housing was specified for the 1 youth transitioning out of care.

Alternative housing options were provided to the 1 youth transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed with transitional housing plans for the 1 youth.

The local board agreed that 1 youth 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)



## Adoptive Recruitment (none)

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (none)

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	1	
No	2	3

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	1	



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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	1	

### Siblings/Visits

None of the 3 children/youths had siblings in care.

## **Summary**

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

## Barriers/Issues

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

Code	Third Quarter Cecil County Barriers
AK	No service agreement with parents.
AN	Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
AL	No service agreement with youth.
CF	Appeal by birth parents.
1G	No service agreement with parents.
EC	Youth not receiving adequate services.
EZ	Other education barrier.
MA	Youth has not been assessed for mental health concerns.
НС	Vision not current.
НА	Annual physicals not current.
IC	Inadequate preparation for independence (General).



## **Dorchester County**



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

> Non-Relative Custody & Guardianship: 3 cases

> Reunification: 1 case

#### Permanency

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

The local Juvenile Court identified concurrent permanency plan for 4 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the local Juvenile Court for 2 of 4 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (none)

Permanent Connections (APPLA - none)

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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



## Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for none of the 4 cases. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for 1 case.

## Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)		
1	None		
1	Regular Foster Care		
2	Independent Living Residential Program		

None of the 4 cases reviewed the children/youths were 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 3 of 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 2 placement changes.

It is unknown if the local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 1 case.

The following level of care was found for the 1 most recent placement changes:

• 1 case(s) child on runaway

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes were:

1 case(s) move did not occur for positive reason

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

• 1 case(s) placement not due to provider issue

Child specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

• 1 case(s) child on runaway



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

Yes, for the 1 case

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

• Runaway, SILA or other non-provider for 1 case.

## Health/Mental Health

- > Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of the 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 3 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 3 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- > Current Dental: 3 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 2 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- > Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 3 of 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- > Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 2 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Yes, for the 4 children/youths.
- > Refused Prescribed Medication: None of the 4 children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- 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 the 3 children/youths.



Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the 4 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care, therefore no identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system was established.

- ➤ Substance Abuse: 2 children/youths had substance abuse problem.
- ➤ Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child/youth.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues: 4 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- > Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 3 children/youths.
- > Standard Health Exams: None of the 4 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

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

#### Education

3 of 4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 3 children/youths were in Pre-k through 12th grade. 1 child/youth refused to attend school.

All 3 children/youths had a 504 or IEP plan and a copy was found in 2 children/youths records.

2 children/youths had a current progress report card available for review.

The local board agreed the educational goals were not met for the 2 of 3 children/youths.

#### Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

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

None of the youths were referred to summer or year-round training and employment opportunities.

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



- ➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older 3 cases)
  - 2 youths completed a life skills assessment for successful transition to adulthood.
  - 2 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

The local board agreed that 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)

## 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 (1 case)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (none)

Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

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

The local board found the adoptive recruitment efforts appropriate for the 1 child/youth

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

Post-adoptive services were not needed for the 1 child/youth.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

All 4 cases had a CASA.



## Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 1 of 3 cases.

### Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	4	4

## Siblings/Visits

3 of the 4 children/youths had siblings in care. All 3 children/youths had 2 siblings in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 2 children/youths. 3 children/youths with sibling in care had visits with their sibling who did not reside with them.

#### **Summary**

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

#### Barriers/Issues

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

Code	Third Quarter Dorchester County Barriers
AK	No service agreement with parents.
AL	No service agreement with youth.
AR	Missing or lack of documentation.
AN	Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
AG	Lack of concurrent planning.
IC	Inadequate preparation for independence (General).
IZ	Other independence barrier.
FA	Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
CY	No concurrent plan by court.
SA	No current safe custody & guardianship.
BD	Child has behavioral problems in the home.
BH	Issues related to substance abuse.
EZ	Other education barrier.
ED	No current IEP.
DH	Pre-Adoptive family cannot decide to adopt.
HB	Dentals not current.
HA	Annual physicals not current.
HC	Vision not current.



### **Frederick County**



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

Non-Relative Adoption: 1 case

> APPLA: 1 case

Reunification: 1 case

#### Permanency

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

The local Juvenile Court identified a concurrent plan for 1 case.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the local Juvenile Court for the 1 case.

## Category of APPLA plan (1 cases)

> Emancipation/Independence (1)

## Permanent Connections (APPLA - 1 case)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

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## 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 case. 1 case was of post-TPR child under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for the 2 cases.

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

## Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)	
1	Regular Foster Care	
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)	
1	Independent Living Residential Program	

1 of 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 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. 1 case had 2 placement changes.

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

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

• 1 case(s) was less restrictive placement

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes:

• 1 case(s) was transitioning towards permanency goal

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

1 case(s) placement not due to provider issue



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

1 case(s) change unrelated to behavior of child

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 all 3 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: 3 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 all 3 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- > Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 1 child/youth had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 3 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Yes, for the 3 children/youths.
- > Psychotropic Medication: 3 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Yes, for the 3 children/youths.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: 2 of the 3 children/youths refused to take prescribed medicine.
- Mental Health Issues: 3 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 3 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 3 children/youths.



- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the 3 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care, therefore no identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system was established.
- > Substance Abuse: None of the 3 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: None of the 2
- Behavioral Issues: None of the 3 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- > Behavioral Issues Addressed: Not applicable.
- > Standard Health Exams: None of the 3 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of 1 of 3 children/youths had been met.

#### Education

3 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 3 children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade

3 children/youths in Pre-K through 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 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 3 cases)
  - 1 youth was participating in paid or unpaid work experience.
  - 2 youths were participating in paid or unpaid work experience relevant career field of choice.
  - 2 youths were referred to summer or year-round training and employment opportunities.

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



- ➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older 3 cases)
  - 2 youths were receiving appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living.
  - 2 youths had completed a life skills assessment for successful transition to adulthood.
  - 2 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

The local board agreed that none of the 3 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

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

## 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 (1 case)

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

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

> 1 case(s) 21 months or more

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

The Board found the pre-adoptive placement appropriate for the 1 child/youth.

# Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

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

The local board found the adoptive recruitment efforts appropriate for the 1 child/youth.



## Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

Post-adoptive services were needed for the 1 child/youth. The service needed was medical, education and mental health for the 1 child/youth.

Post adoptive subsidies were needed for the 1 case.

Post adoptive subsidies were not approved for the 1 case.

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

## 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	1	2
No	2	1

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

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



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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	3	3

## Siblings/Visits

None of the 3 children/youths had siblings in care.

## **Summary**

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

### Barriers/Issues

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

Code	Third Quarter Frederick County Barriers
AK	No service agreement with parents.
AQ	Worker did not submit referral for needed resource/service.
AS	Lack of follow-up (General).
IZ	Other independence barrier.
MZ	Other mental health barrier.
FA	Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
HA	Annual physicals not current.
HC	Vision not current.

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### **Harford County**



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

Non-Relative Adoption: 3 cases

> Reunification: 4 cases

> APPLA: 1 case

#### <u>Permanency</u>

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

The local Juvenile Court identified a concurrent plan for none of the cases.

## Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

Emancipation/Independence (1)

## Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

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

# Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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



## Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for none of the 8 cases reviewed.

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

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

#### Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
3	None
1	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
2	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Diagnostic Center

In 2 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 5 of the 8 cases reviewed, there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 1 case had 1 placement changes, and 4 cases had 3 placement changes.

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

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

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

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 3 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal
- 2 case(s) did not occur for positive reason



Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

• 5 case(s) placement not due to provider issue

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

- 3 case(s) change unrelated to behavior of child
- 1 case(s) hospitalization
- 1 case(s) other

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 5 cases

#### Health/Mental Health

- > Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 4 of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 7 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 8 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 6 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- > Follow-up Health Concerns: Appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 3 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 5 of the 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 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 the 4 children/youths.

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- > Refused Prescribed Medication: None of the 8 children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 7 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 7 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- ➤ Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 7 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 of 7 children/youths with mental health issues was transitioning out of care, had no identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- > Substance Abuse: None of the 8 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues: 3 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 3 children/youths.
- > Standard Health Exams: 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of 7 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. All 7 children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade. 1 child/youth not enrolled in school was under the age of 5.

5 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan, and 4 children/youths had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in their records.

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

The local board agreed that 5 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

#### Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

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

1 youth did not participate in paid or unpaid work experience due to being medically fragile.

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- 1 youth was referred to summer or year round training and employment opportunities.
- 1 youth was not employed or working.

It in unknown if the local board agreed the 2 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- ➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older 2 cases)
  - 1 youth was receiving appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living when they leave home care.
  - 1 youth did not participate in receiving appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living due to mental health reasons.

None of the 2 youths completed a life skills assessment for successful transition to adulthood.

1 youths was receiving required independent living skills.

The local board agreed that none 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)

## 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 consented to adoption. 1 child/youth was unable to consent due to being medically fragile and 1 child/youth was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (1 case)

### Pre-Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

2 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The family structure was comprised of single female for 1 case and a single male for 1 case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child/youth was a non-relative foster parent for 1 case and a foster parent fictive-kin for 1 case.

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

2 case(s) 21 months or more



Adoptive home study was completed and approved for the 2 cases.

The Board found the pre-adoptive placement appropriate for the 2 children/youths.

## Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

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

The local board found the adoptive recruitment efforts appropriate for the 1 child/youth.

## Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (3 cases)

Post-adoptive services were needed for 1 of 3 children/youths. The service needed was medical, mental health and education for the 1 child/youth.

Post adoptive subsidies were needed for the 1 case.

Post adoptive subsidies were not approved for the 1 case.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for all 3 cases.

#### Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

4 of 8 cases had a CASA.

### Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 3 of 8 cases reviewed.

### Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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



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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	3	2
Unsupervised		

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	3	2

## Siblings/Visits

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

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### **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.

## **Barriers/Issues**

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

Code	Third Quarter Harford County Barriers	
AK	No service agreement with parents.	
AR	Missing or lack of documentation.	
AN	Youth placed outsider of home jurisdiction.	
AL	No service agreement with youth.	
CY	No concurrent plan by court.	
SA	No current safe custody & guardianship.	
BD	Child has behavioral problems in the home.	
LA	Youth needs more restrictive placement.	
EZ	Other education barrier.	
ED	No current IEP.	
HD	No follow up or medical referrals.	
HA	Annual physicals not current.	
НВ	Dentals not current.	
FA	Board does not agree with current permanency plan.	
IZ	Other independence barrier.	



## **Howard County**



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

Reunification: 2 cases

➤ APPLA: 2 cases

### <u>Permanency</u>

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

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

# Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

Emancipation/Independence (2)

## Permanent Connections (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						
7 to 11 months						1
1 to 2 years	1					1
2 to 3 years	1					
3 years or more						
Totals →4	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 families in the service agreement process were made for all 4 cases.

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

## Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Regular Foster Care
1	Residential Group Home
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Independent Living Residential Program

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 communities, which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

## **Placement Stability**

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

The local department held 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 reason for the most recent placement changes:

• 1 case(s) move did not occur for a positive reason

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

1 case(s) placement not due to provider issue



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

1 case(s) behavioral concerns

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 3 of 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: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for all 4 eligible children/youths reviewed.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 2 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Yes, for 2 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Yes, for 2 children/youths.
- Refused Prescribed Medicine: None of the 4 children/youths refused prescription medicine.
- Mental Health Issues: 3 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 3 children/youths.

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- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the 3 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care, therefore no identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system was established.
- > Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 1 child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- > Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for both children/youths.
- Standard Health Exams: None of the 4 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exam.

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

#### Education

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

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

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

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

#### Ready By 21

Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

3 youths were participating in paid or unpaid work experience. All 3 youths were participating in paid or unpaid work experience relevant to career field of choice.

2 youths were referred to summer or year-round training and/or employment opportunities.

The local board agreed that 2 of 3 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.



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

3 youths were receiving appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living.

3 youths completed a life skills assessment for successful transition to adulthood.

All 3 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

The local board agreed that 3 youths were receiving appropriate independent living skills.

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

## 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)

Adoptive Recruitment (none)

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (none)

Not applicable.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

All 4 cases had a CASA.

## Risk and Safety

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

### Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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



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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	1	2

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		2
No	4	2

# Siblings/Visits

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

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### **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.

## **Barriers/Issues**

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

Code	Third Quarter Howard County Barriers	
AQ	Worker did not submit referral for needed resource/service.	
AS	Lack of follow up (General).	
MZ	Other mental health barrier.	
НВ	Dentals not current.	
HC	Vision not current.	
HZ	Other physical health barrier.	
HD	No follow up or medical service.	
FA	Board does not agree with current permanency plan.	
EZ	Other education barrier.	
LZ	Other placement barrier.	



## **Kent County**



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

- > Relative Placement for Custody & Guardianship: 1 case
- Reunification: 1 case

#### <u>Permanency</u>

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 1 of 2 cases reviewed.

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

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

## Category of APPLA plan (None)

> Not applicable.

# Permanent Connections (None)

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months			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 both cases reviewed.

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

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

## Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Alternative Living Units
1	Residential Treatment Center

In the 2 cases reviewed none of the children/youths 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 both cases reviewed.

## Placement Stability

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

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

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

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

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement change included:

• 2 case(s) placement not due to provider issue

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

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



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

Yes, for 2 cases

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

Yes, for 2 cases

#### Health/Mental Health

- > Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 2 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 2 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 2 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for the 2 children/youths reviewed.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported 2 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- > Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Yes, for 2 children/youths.
- > Psychotropic Medication: 2 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Yes, for 2 children/youths.
- Refused Prescribed Medicine: None of the 2 youths refused to take prescribed medicine.
- Mental Health Issues: 2 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for 2 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: No, for 2 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the 2 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care, therefore no identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system was established.

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- > Substance Abuse: None of the 2 children/youths had substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- > Behavioral Issues: 2 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues Addressed: No, for 2 children/youths.
- Standard Health Exam: None of the 2 children/youths refused to comply with health exams.

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

#### **Education**

2 children/youths were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. The 2 children/youths were in Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Both children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had a 504 or IEP plan and 1 child/youth 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 2 children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program.

The local board agreed that none of the 2 children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

### Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older 1 case)
  - 1 youth was not participating in paid or unpaid work experience.
  - 1 youth was not referred to summer or year round training and employment opportunities.

It is unknown if the board agreed the 1 youth was appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (1 case)
  - 1 youth was not receiving appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living when they leave home care.
  - 1 youth completed a life skills assessment for successful transition to adulthood.

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1 youth did not receive required independent living skills.

The board agreed that the 1 youth was not receiving appropriate independent living skills.

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

Not applicable.

# Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (none)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (none)

Adoptive Recruitment (none)

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (none)

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 1 of 2 cases.

# Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	2
No	1	



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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	1	2

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	2
No		

# Siblings/Visits

None of the 2 children/youths had siblings in care.

## <u>Summary</u>

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 1 of 2 children/youths reviewed.



# Barriers/Issues

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

Code	Third Quarter Kent County Barriers
AN	Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
AR	Missing or lack of documentation.
AL	No service agreement with youth.
IC	Inadequate preparation for independence (General).
IZ	Other independence barrier.
MA	Youth has not been assessed for mental health concerns.
ED	No current IEP.
EZ	Other education barrier.
FA	Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
SA	No current safe custody & guardianship.



# **Montgomery County**



Montgomery County had a total of 16 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

➤ Non-Relative Adoption: 1 case

Relative Placement for Adoption: 1 case

Reunification: 8 cases

> APPLA: 6 cases

## Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 12 of 16 cases reviewed.

The local Juvenile Court identified concurrent permanency plans for 6 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the local Juvenile Court for the 6 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	2			1		1
7 to 11 months	2					2
1 to 2 years		1				1
2 to 3 years	2					1
3 years or more	2					1
Totals → 16	8	1		1		6

## Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 8 cases. 2 children/youths were a post-TPR child under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for 14 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 8 of 14 signed cases.

# Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
2	Formal Kinship Care
3	Regular Foster Care
5	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
3	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Other

In 8 of the 16 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 16 cases reviewed.

# **Placement Stability**

In 4 of the 16 cases reviewed, there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. All 4 cases had 2 placement changes.



The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 4 cases. The following levels of care were found for the 4 most recent placement changes:

4 case(s) less restrictive

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) placement not due to provider issue
- 1 case(s) provider home closed
- 2 case(s) unknown-info not available

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

- 3 case(s) change unrelated to behavior of child
- 1 case(s) unknown-info not available

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

Yes, for 4 cases

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

Yes, for 4 cases

#### Health/Mental Health

- ➤ Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 11 of the 16 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 16 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 14 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 16 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 16 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 14 of the 16 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 9 children/youths were taking prescription medication.



- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 9 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 8 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 8 children/youths.
- > Refused Prescribed Medication: 2 children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- ➤ Mental Health Issues: 15 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 14 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 13 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the 15 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care, therefore no identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system was established.
- ➤ Substance Abuse: None of the 16 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- > Behavioral Issues: 2 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 children/youths.
- > Standard Health Exams: None of the 16 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of 14 of the 16 children/youths had been met.

## **Education**

13 of 16 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 13 children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade. 2 children/youths graduated high school. 1 child/youth was under the age of 5.

8 of the 13 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 11 children/youths.



The local board agreed that all 15 of 16 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

## Ready By 21

# Employment (age 14 and older – 8 cases)

8 youths were participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

7 youths were participating in paid or unpaid work experience relevant to career field of choice.

1 youth did not participate in paid or unpaid work experience due to being medically fragile.

6 youths were referred to summer or year-round training and/or employment opportunities.

The local board agreed that 7 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

8 youths received appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living when they leave home care.

7 youths had completed a life skills assessment.

8 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

The local board agreed that 8 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 1 youth transitioning out of care.

Alternative housing options was provided to the 1 youth.

The local board agreed with the transitional housing plan for the 1 youth.

The local board agreed that the 1 youths 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 did not want to be adopted.

# Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (none)

# Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

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

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

> 1 case(s) 21 months or more

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

The Board found the pre-adoptive placement appropriate for the 1 child/youth.

Adoptive Recruitment (none)

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (none)

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

9 cases had a CASA.

#### Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 16 cases.

# Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	15	7
No	1	9



Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily	1	
Once a week	5	1
More than once a week	2	
Once a month	7	6
More than once a month		
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	2	
Unsupervised	13	7

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency	2	
Representative		
Other Agency		
Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Others/not specified		

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home		
LDSS Visitation Center	2	
Public Area		
Child's/Youth's Placement		
Others/not specified		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	6	4
No	10	12

## Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 8 children/youths had siblings in care. All 8 children/youths had 1 sibling in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 8 children/youths. 7 children/youths with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 3 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

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# **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 16 children/youths reviewed.

# **Barriers/Issues**

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

Code	Third Quarter Montgomery County Barriers
AL	No service agreement with youth.
AQ	Worker did not submit referral for needed resource/services.
AS	Lack of follow up (General).
EZ	Other education barrier.
IZ	Other independence barrier.
HD	No follow up or medical referrals.
HC	Vision not current.
BU	Undocumented child/youth.
SA	No current safe custody & guardianship.
LZ	Other placement barrier.
MZ	Other mental health barrier.
FA	Board does not agree with current permanency plan.



# **Prince George's County**



Prince George's County had a total of 19 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

Non-Relative Adoption: 3 cases

Non-Relative Custody & Guardianship: 1 case

> Reunification: 7 cases

> APPLA: 8 cases

## Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for all 19 cases reviewed.

The local Juvenile Court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 7 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the local Juvenile Court for all 7 cases.

# Category of APPLA plan (8 cases)

Emancipation/Independence (8)

## Permanent Connections (8 cases)

All 8 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified, and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 8 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	2			2	1	1
1 to 2 years	1			1		3
2 to 3 years	4					2
3 years or more						1
Totals →19	7			3	1	8

## Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 19 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department have signed service agreements for 2 cases. 1 child/youth was a post-TPR child under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for the 2 cases.

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

## Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement
4	None
6	Formal Kinship Care
3	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
2	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
2	Residential Group Home
2	Independent Living Residential Program

In 13 of the 19 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 15 of 19 cases reviewed.

#### Placement Stability

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



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

The following levels of care were found for the 7 most recent placement changes:

- 5 case(s) were less restrictive placement
- 1 case(s) were a more restrictive placement
- 1 case(s) were the same level of care

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 6 case(s) move did not occur for positive reason
- 1 case(s) transition towards permanency goal

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included

• 7 case(s) placement not due to provider issue

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

- 2 case(s) change unrelated to behavior of child
- 2 case(s) behavioral
- 3 case(s) other

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

No, for 6 cases

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

Yes, for 4 cases

#### Health/Mental Health

- ➤ Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of 19 children/youths reviewed had developmental or specials needs.
- Current Physical: 16 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 12 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 10 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: It was reported that the local department did not ensure appropriate follow-up occurred on all health-related concerns for 3 children/youths.

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- > Completed Medical Records: 5 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 2 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- > Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 1 child/youth.
- > Refused Prescribed Medication: None of the children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 10 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 10 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- ➤ Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 5 of 10 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the 10 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care, therefore no identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system was established.
- > Substance Abuse: 3 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for 3 children/youths.
- > Behavioral Issues: 3 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 children/youths.
- > Standard Health Exams: None of the 19 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board agreed that health needs of 6 of 19 children/youths were met.

#### Education

9 of the 19 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 9 children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade.

2 children/youths not enrolled in school graduated high school. 3 children/youths refused to attend school, and 4 children/youths were under the age of 5. 1 child/youth did not attend school due to other reasons.



1 of the 9 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan, and none had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report card was available to review for 1 child/youth in Pre-K through 12th grade.

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

## Ready By 21

# ➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 13 cases)

None of the 13 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

2 youths were referred to summer or year-round training and employment opportunities.

The local board agreed that none of the 13 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

# ➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 13 cases)

7 youths were receiving appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living.

6 youths completed a life skills assessment for successful transition to adulthood.

7 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

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

# ➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 3 cases)

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

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

Alternative housing options was provided to 1 youth.

The local board agreed with the transitional housing plan for 1 of 3 youths.

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. 3 children/youths were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (none)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (3 cases)

3 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The family structure was comprised of a married couple for the 1 case, unmarried couple for 1 case and a single female for 1 case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child/youth was a non-relative foster parent for the 2 cases and fictive kin foster parent for 1 case.

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

3 case(s) 21 months or more

Adoptive home study was not completed and approved for the 3 cases.

The local board found that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for the 3 cases.

Adoptive Recruitment (none)

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (3 cases)

Post-adoptive services were needed for 3 children/youths. The service needed was medical for 3 cases.

Post adoptive subsidies were needed for the 3 cases.

Post adoptive subsidies were not approved for 2 cases.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for the 3 cases.

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 15 of 19 cases. <u>Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings</u>



Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	12	16
No	7	3

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		5
Once a week	1	1
More than once a week	1	
Once a month		
More than once a month		
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented	10	10

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	2	
Unsupervised	10	15

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

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	8	16
LDSS Visitation Center	2	
Public Area	1	
Child's/Youth's Placement		
Other	1	

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	8	15
No	4	1

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# Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 7 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 7 children/youths. 1 child/youth had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 6 children/youths have visits with siblings who are not in care.

## <u>Summary</u>

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 19 children/youths reviewed.

# **Barriers/Issues**

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

Code	Third Quarter Prince George's County Barriers
AH	Notification not published.
AZ	Other agency related barriers.
AN	Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
AL	No service agreement with youth.
AK	No service agreement with parents.
BD	Child has behavior problems in the home.
BH	Issues related to substance abuse.
BY	Child/youth has runaway history.
BZ	Other child/youth related barrier.
EA	Youth not enrolled in school.
EB	Youth not attending school or GED program.
EZ	Other education barrier.
6Z	Other legal barrier.
1G	No service agreement with parents.
1K	No service agreement with child.
5D	Over age 18 and still in care.
HA	Annual physicals not current.
НВ	Dentals not current.
HC	Vision not current.
HD	No follow up or medical referrals.
CY	No concurrent plan by court.
FG	No concurrent permanency plan in place.
MC	Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
IA	Transitional housing has not been identified.
IB	Youth not employed and transitioning out of care.
IC	Inadequate preparation for independence (General).
SB	Youth engages in risky behavior.



## **Queen Anne's County**



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

➤ Non-Relative Adoption: 1 case

> APPLA: 1 case

## Permanency

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

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for none of the 2 cases. 1 child/youth was a Post-TPR child under the age of 14. Efforts were made to involve the families in the service agreement process for the 1 case.

## Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Residential Group Home

In 1 of 2 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 both cases reviewed.

# Placement Stability

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

It is unknown if local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for the 1 case.

The following level of care was found for the most 1 recent placement changes:

• 1 case(s) was less restrictive

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes:

• 1 case(s) transition towards permanency goal

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included

• 1 case(s) placement not due to provider issue

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

• 1 case(s) change unrelated to behavior of child



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 1 of 2 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: Yes, for both children/youths.
- Current Vision: Yes, for 1 child/youth.
- Current Dental: 2 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- > Follow-up Health Concerns: It was reported that the local department ensured appropriate follow-up occurred on all health-related concerns for 1 child/youth.
- > Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 1 child/youth had complete medical records.
- Prescription Medication: 1 child/youth was taking prescription medication.
- > Prescription Medication Monitored: Yes, for 1 child/youth.
- > Psychotropic Medication: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- > Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Yes, for the 1 child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues: 1 child/youth had mental health issues.
- ➤ Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for the 1 child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: No, for the 1 child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care, therefore no identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system was established.



- Substance Abuse: None.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- > Behavioral Issues: 1 child/youth had behavioral issues.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 1 child/youth.

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

#### Education

1 of 2 children/youths reviewed was enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 child/youth was in Pre-K through 12th grade. 1 child/youth was under the age of 5.

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

A current progress report/report card was not available for review for the 1 child/youth in Pre-K through 12th grade.

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

## Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older 1 case)
  - 1 youth was not employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.
  - 1 youth was not referred to summer or year round training and employment opportunities.

It is unknown if the local board agreed the 1 youth was being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- ➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older 1 case)
  - 1 youth did not completed a life skills assessment.
  - 1 youth was not receiving required independent living skills.

The local board agreed that the 1 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)

# 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 (none)

# Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

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

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

1 case(s) 10 to 12 months.

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

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

Adoptive Recruitment (none)

Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (none)

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 the 2 cases.



# Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	2	2

## Siblings/Visits

The local board found that none of the 2 children/youths had siblings in care.

# **Summary**

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services did not make adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for the 2 cases reviewed.

## Barriers/Issues

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

Code	Third Quarter Queen Anne County Barriers	
AR	Missing or lack of documentation.	
AN	Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.	
AL	No service agreement with youth.	
IC	Inadequate preparation for independence (General).	
IZ	Other independence barrier.	
НС	Vision not current.	



# St. Marv's County



St. Mary's County had a total of 4 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

Non-Relative Adoption: 4 cases

## **Permanency**

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

The local Juvenile Court identified no concurrent permanency plan for any of the cases.

Category of APPLA plan (none)

<u>Permanent Connections (APPLA – none)</u>

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

# 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: All 4 children/youths were a Post-TPR child under the age of 14.

# Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement
4	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home

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

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

# Placement Stability

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

#### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none 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: 4 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- > Follow-up Health Concerns: It was reported that the local department did not ensure appropriate follow-up occurred on all health-related concerns for 1 child/youth.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 3 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- > Prescription Medication: 4 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Yes, for the 4 children/youths.
- > Psychotropic Medication: 4 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- > Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Yes, for the 4 children/youths.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: None of the 4 children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 4 children/youths had mental health issues.

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- Mental Health Diagnosis: 4 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: No, for 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the 4 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care, therefore no identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system was established.
- ➤ Substance Abuse: None of the 4 children/youths had substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues: None of the 4 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- > Behavioral Issues Addressed: Not applicable.
- > Standard Health Exams: None of the 4 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

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

# **Education**

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

None of the 4 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan or had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

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

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

#### Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older none)
- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older none)
- Housing (Transitioning Youth none)
   (Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)



# 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. 2 children/youths 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 family structure was comprised of a single female for the 4 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child/youth was a non-relative foster parent for the 4 cases.

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

4 case(s) 21 months or more

Adoptive home study was not completed or approved for the 4 cases.

The local board found that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for the 4 cases.

Adoptive Recruitment (none)

Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (4 cases)

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

Post adoptive subsidies were needed for the 4 cases.

Post adoptive subsidies were not approved for the 4 cases.

The Board found the post-adoptive services appropriate for the 4 cases.

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

	With Parents	With Relatives
Child Visits		
Yes		4
No	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		3
Yes, but undocumented		1

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		4
Unsupervised		

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



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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives	
Yes			
No		4	

## Siblings/Visits

The local board found that all 4 children/youths had siblings in care. All 4 children/youths had 3 siblings in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for the 4 children/youths. It is unknown if the 4 children/youths with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. All 4 children/youths have visits with siblings who are not in care.

## **Summary**

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

## Barriers/Issues

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

Code	Third Quarter Saint Mary's County Barriers
HC	Vision not current.



# **Washington County**



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

> Reunification: 3 cases

➤ Non-Relative Adoption: 1 case

> APPLA: 1 case

## <u>Permanency</u>

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

The local Juvenile Court identified concurrent permanency plan for 3 case.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the local Juvenile Court for the 3 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 1 case.

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

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

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# Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 3 of 5 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department have a signed service agreement for none of the cases. 1 child/youth was a Post-TPR child under the age of 14 Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process was made for 1 case.

## Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement
2	None
1	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Diagnostic Center

1 of 5 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 5 cases reviewed.

# Placement Stability

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

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

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

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

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 3 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal
- 1 case(s) move did not occur for positive reason

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

• 4 case(s) placement not due to provider issue



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

- 3 case(s) change unrelated to behavior of child
- 1 case(s) behavioral

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 4 cases

# Health/Mental Health

- ➤ Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of 5 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 2 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: None of the 5 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 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 none of the 5 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- > Prescription Medication: 4 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Yes, for the 4 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Yes, for the 2 children/youths.
- > Refused Prescribed Medication: 1 child/youth refused prescription medicine.
- 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 4 children/youths.
- ➤ Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 of 4 children/youths with mental health issues was transitioning out of care, had no identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- > Substance Abuse: None of the 5 children/youths had substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues: 2 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- > Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 2 children/youths.
- Standard Health Exams: 2 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of 1 of 5 children/youths had been met.

#### Education

4 of 5 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 4 children/youths were in Pre-K thru 12th grade. 1 youth not enrolled in school already graduated high school.

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

Current progress report card was available for review for 3 of 4 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade.

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

# Ready By 21

- ➤ Employment (age 14 and older 1 case)
  - 1 youth was participating in paid or unpaid work experience.
  - 1 youth participated in paid or unpaid work experience relevant to career field of choice.
  - 1 youth was not referred to summer or year-round training and employment opportunities.
  - 1 youth was 20 years old and earning a living wage.



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

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

1 youth was not receiving appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living when they leave home care.

- 1 youth did not complete a life skills assessment for successful transition to adulthood.
- 1 youth was not receiving required independent living skills.

The local board agreed that the 1 youth was not being appropriately prepared 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.

Alternative housing options were provided to the 1 youth transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed with the transitional housing plan for the 1 youth.

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. 1 child/youth consented to adoption.

# Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (none)

#### Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

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

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

> 1 case(s) 7 to 9 months



Adoptive home study was not completed and approved for the 1 case.

A family social summary was given for the 1 case.

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

Adoptive Recruitment (none)

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (none)

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 5 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 3 of 5 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	2	1
No	3	4

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	2	1



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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	2	

### Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 2 of 5 children/youths had siblings in care. The 2 children/youths had 1 sibling in care. It is unknown if efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 2 children/youths. It is unknown if the 2 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.

## <u>Summary</u>

Based on the findings of the review, the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 5 children/youths reviewed.

#### Barriers/Issues

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

Code	Third Quarter Washington County Barriers
AK	No service agreement with parents.
AR	Missing or lack of documentation.
AL	No service agreement with youth.
AN	Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
HA	Annual physicals not current.
НВ	Dentals not current.
HC	Vision not current.
SA	No current safe custody & guardianship.
IC	Inadequate preparation for independence (General).
IZ	Other independence barrier.
MC	Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
MD	Youth non-compliant with medication.

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BD	Child has behavior problems in the home.
BY	Child/youth has runaway history.
ED	No current IEP.
EZ	Other education barrier.
DD	Home study not completed.
FA	Board does not agree with current permanency plan.

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### **Worcester County**



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

➤ Non-Relative Adoption: 1 case

> Non-Relative Custody & Guardianship: 1 case

> Reunification: 2 cases

### <u>Permanency</u>

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 cases.

The local department was not implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the local Juvenile Court for 2 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (none)

Permanent Connections (none)

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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



### Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 1 of 4 cases reviewed.

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

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

### Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangment (LA)
2	Formal Kinship Care
1	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Regular Foster Care

All 4 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 all 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. 2 cases had 1 placement changes.

It is unknown if the local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 2 cases.

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

• 2 case(s) was less restrictive

The primary reason for the 2 most recent placement changes were:

• 2 case(s) placement with relatives

Provider specific issues for the 2 most recent placement changes included:

• 2 case(s) placement not due to provider issue



Child specific issues for the 2 most recent placement changes included:

2 case(s) change unrelated to behavior of child

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

Yes, for 2 cases

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

Yes, for 2 cases

#### Health/Mental Health

- > Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 4 children/youths 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: The local department ensured 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 1 of the 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 2 of the 4 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Yes, for the 2 children/youths.
- > Psychotropic Medication: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Yes, for 1 the child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues: 3 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 3 children/youths had mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: No, for 3 children/youths.



- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the 3 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care, therefore no identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system was established.
- > Substance Abuse: None of the 4 children/youths had substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 1 child/youth had behavioral issues.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child/youth.
- > Standard Health Exams: None of the 4 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

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

## **Education**

3 of 4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 3 children/youths were enrolled in Pre-K thru 12th grade. 1 child/youth was under the age of 5.

None of the 3 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan or 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 3 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade.

The local board agreed that 1 of 3 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

## Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older 1 case)
  - 1 youth was not employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.
  - 1 youth was referred to summer or year round training and employment opportunities.

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



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

- 1 youth was receiving appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living.
- 1 youth completed a life skill assessment for successful transition to adulthood.
- 1 youth received required independent living skills.

The local board agreed the 1 youth was receiving appropriate independent living skills.

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

# 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 (none)

# Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

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

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 1 case.

A family social summary was given for the 1 case.

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

Adoptive Recruitment (none)

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (none)



# Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

3 of 4 cases had a CASA.

### Risk and Safety

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

### Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily	1	1
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	1	1

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	1	1

# Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 2 of 4 children/youths had siblings in care. 2 children/youths had 1 sibling in care. It is unknown if efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 2 children/youths.



## **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 4 children/youths reviewed.

## Barriers/Issues

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

Code	Third Quarter Worcester County Barriers
AG	Lack of concurrent planning.
AK	No service agreement with parents.
AR	Missing or lack of documentation.
CY	No concurrent plan by court.
EZ	Other education barrier.
MD	Youth non-compliant with medicine.
НВ	Dentals not current.
HC	Vision not current.



### **Baltimore City**



Baltimore City had a total of 70 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- ➤ Non-Relative Adoption: 1 case
- > Relative Placement for Custody & Guardianship: 4 cases
- > Non-Relative Custody & Guardianship: 5 cases
- > Reunification: 42 cases
- > APPLA: 16 cases
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 2 cases

### <u>Permanency</u>

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 34 of the 70 cases reviewed.

The local Juvenile Court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 11 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the local Juvenile Court for all 11 cases.

# Category of APPLA plan (16 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (14)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (2)

#### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 16 cases)

12 of 16 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for 12 cases.



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

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for	Relative for	Non-Rel	Non-Rel	APPLA
		Adoption	C & G	Adoption	Cust/Guad	
0 to 6 months	1		1		1	2
7 to 11 months	9	2	3		2	6
1 to 2 years	10			1		2
2 to 3 years	14					5
3 years or more	8	_			2	1
Totals → 70	42	2	4	1	5	16

### Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 45 of the 70 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 21 cases. 2 children/youths were a Post-TPR child under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for 47 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for 20 of the 21 signed cases.

# Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
6	None
12	Formal Kinship Care
3	Regular Foster Care
9	Restrictive Foster Care (Relative)
26	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
3	Residential Group Home
1	Teen Mother Home
4	Therapeutic Group Home
6	Independent Living Residential Program

In 23 of the 70 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 65 of the 70 cases reviewed.



#### **Placement Stability**

In 21 of the 70 cases reviewed, there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 5 cases had 1 placement change, 14 cases had 2 changes, and 2 cases had 3 placement changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 10 of 21 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 21 most recent placement changes:

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

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 9 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal
- 10 case(s) move did not occur for positive reason
- 1 case(s) placement with relatives
- 1 case(s) placement with siblings

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) allegation of provider abuse/neglect
- 1 case(s) founded incident of provider abuse/neglect
- 18 case(s) placement not due to provider issue
- 1 case(s) unknown info not available

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

- 14 case(s) change unrelated to behavior of child
- 7 case(s) behavioral

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

Yes, for 18 cases

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

Yes, for 21 cases



#### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 28 of the 70 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 42 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 32 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 26 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 30 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 17 of the 70 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- > Prescription Medication: 22 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 20 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 14 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 13 children/youths.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: Yes. 8 children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- ➤ Mental Health Issues: 46 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 46 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- ➤ Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 39 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 2 of 46 children/youths with mental health issues was transitioning out of care, had no identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- > Substance Abuse: 2 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 2 children/youths.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues: 18 children/youths had behavioral issues.



- ➤ Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 11 children/youths.
- Standard Health Exams: 4 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of 25 of the 70 children/youths had been met.

#### Education

59 of the 70 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 57 children/youths were in Pre-K thru 12th grade. 1 youth was enrolled in college and 1 youth was in trade school. 4 youths graduated high school. 5 children/youths refused to attend school. 2 children/youths were under the age of 5.

26 of the 57 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan, and 19 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 32 of the 57 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade.

The local board agreed that 43 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

### Ready By 21

- ➤ Employment (age 14 and older 32 cases)
  - 10 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.
  - 10 youths were participating in paid or unpaid work experience relevant to career field of choice.
  - 1 youth was unable to participate due to being medically fragile. 3 youths did not participate due to mental health reasons. 1 youth was in a juvenile justice facility. 1 youth did not participate due to other reasons.
  - 17 youths were referred to summer or year-round training and/or employment opportunities.
  - 3 youths were over 20 years of age and were earning a living wage.

The local board agreed that 10 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.



### Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 32 cases)

14 youths were receiving appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living.

2 youths did not participate due to being medically fragile. 3 youths did not participate due to mental health reasons. 1 youth was in a juvenile justice facility. 3 youths did not participate due to other reasons.

13 youths had completed a life skills assessment.

14 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

The local board agreed that 13 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

### Housing (Transitioning Youth – 4 cases)

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

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

Alternative housing options were provided to 3 youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed with the transitional housing plan for 3 youths.

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

### Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 1 child/youth consented to adoption. 2 children/youths were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (1 case)

#### Pre-Adoptive Placement (3 cases)

3 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 2 cases and a single female for 1 case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child/youth was foster parent relative for 2 cases and foster parent non-relative for 1 case.



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

- > 1 case(s) 12 to 15 months
- > 2 case(s) 21 months or more

A home study was completed for the 3 placements and approved. A family social summary was given for all 3 cases.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for the 3 cases.

## Adoptive Recruitment (none)

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

Post adoptive services were needed for the 1 child/youth. The service that was needed was education for the 1 case.

Post adoptive subsidies were needed for the 1 case.

It is unknown if the post adoptive subsidies were approved for the 1 case.

The Board found the post-adoptive services appropriate for the 1 case.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

1 of 70 cases had a CASA.

#### Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 61 of the 70 cases.

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

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	34	9
No	36	61

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily	2	
Once a week	17	2



More than once a week		
Once a month	9	5
More than once a month	4	
Quarterly	1	
Yes, but undocumented	1	2

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	16	2
Unsupervised	30	8

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	7	2
Other Agency Representative	5	
Biological Family Member	3	
Foster Parent		
Other/not indicated		

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	9	5
No	43	39

## Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 31 of 70 children/youths had siblings in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 26 children/youths. 25 children/youths with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 22 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not in care.



### **Summary**

Based on the findings of the review, the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 47 of the 70 children/youths reviewed.

### Barriers/Issues

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

Code	Third Quarter Baltimore City Barriers
AG	Lack of concurrent planning.
AK	No service agreement with parents.
AL	No service agreement with youth.
AG	Lack of concurrent planning.
AR	Missing or lack of documentation.
AN	Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
AQ	Worker did not submit referral for needed resource/services.
AS	Lack of follow up (General).
CY	No concurrent plan by court.
FA	Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
FZ	Other permanency barrier.
HA	Annual physicals not current.
НВ	Dentals not current.
HD	No follow up or medical referrals.
HC	Vision not current.
ED	No current IEP.
EZ	Other education barrier.
EC	Youth not receiving adequate services.
EE	School not implementing IEP.
SA	No current safe custody & guardianship.
LA	Youth needs more restrictive placement.
LZ	Other placement barrier.
IC	Inadequate preparation for independence (General).
IZ	Other independence barrier.
MA	Youth has not been assessed for mental health concerns.
MC	Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
MD	Youth non-compliant with medication.
MZ	Other mental health barrier.
BE	Non-compliant with service agreement.
BH	Issues related to substance abuse.



BD	Child has behavior problems in the home.
BU	Undocumented child/youth.
BY	Child/youth has runaway history.
1G	No service agreement with parents.
1K	No service agreement with child.
4A	Poor coordination within DSS.
4C	No coordination and communication between DSS & POC agency.
4E	Inadequate communication between DSS & POC agency.
3F	Lack of documentation.
5D	Over age 18 and still in care.
2A	Inadequate casework services.
2B	Lack of progress in implementation.
2C	Inadequate contact with client.



# 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 Services (DHS), 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. Additionally, each (LDSS) is required to improve their efforts for youth aged 14 and older with appropriate independent living skills.

#### **Permanent Connections**

• Each (LDSS) is encouraged to improve their efforts with identifying permanent connections for those youths with a plan of APPLA.

#### Adoption



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

### 3rd Quarter 2025 CRBC Metrics

Recommendation Reports to DSS - Number Sent:		
Recommendation Reports to DSS - Number Sent on Time:		
Recommendation Reports to DSS - Percentage Sent on Time:		
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Number of Responses Received: <sup>1</sup>	127	
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Percentage of DSS Responses:	73%	
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Number Received on Time:	97	
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Percentage Received on Time	76%	
Number of Boards Held		
Recommendation Reports - Number of DSS Agreement:		
Recommendation Reports - Percentage of DSS Agreement:		
Recommendation Reports - Number of DSS Disagreement:	0	
Recommendation Reports - Percentage of DSS Disagreement:		
Recommendation Reports - Number of Blank/Unanswered: <sup>2</sup>	0	
Recommendation Reports - Percentage of Blank/Unanswered:	0%	
Percentage of REUNIFICATION Children Reviewed for the Period:		
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT - Adoption Children Reviewed:		
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT - C & G Children Reviewed:		
Percentage of ADOPTION Children Reviewed for the Period:		
Percentage of CUSTODY/GUARDIANSHIP Children Reviewed for the Period:		
Percentage of APPLA Children Reviewed for the Period:		

Citizens Review Board for Children

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 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

Amy Potler

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

Dr. Corinne Vinopol

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

Dr. Elaine Reed

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

Dr. Edwin Green

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

Benia Richardson

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City



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> Cindy Hunter-Gray Lead Secretary

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