





# FOURTH QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 2025 REPORT (April 1st 2025 – June 30th 2025)



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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:

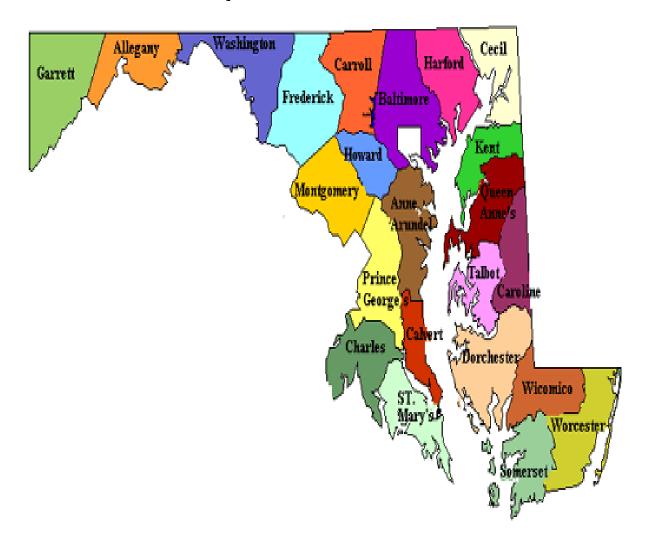
- ★ CRBC Governor-Appointed Volunteers
- ★ The Department of Human Services (DHS)
- ★ The Social Services Administration (SSA)
- ★ The Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS) and (DHHS) Montgomery County
- ★ The Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children (CPMC)
- ★ The State Council on Child Abuse 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 4th 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: Dorchester, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot and Worcester counties. Therefore, this report only contains review findings and recommendations for 18 jurisdictions, including Baltimore City that had regularly scheduled reviews.



## **Targeted Review Criterion**

The Social Services Administration (SSA) and the Citizens Review Board for Children (CRBC) together have created a 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).



## **4th 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	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	1
02	Anne Arundel	3	0	1	2	0	4	10	3
03	<b>Baltimore County</b>	5	0	0	11	0	5	21	5
04	Calvert	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	1
05	Caroline	2	0	0	2	0	0	4	1
06	Carroll	0	0	0	3	0	1	4	1
07	Cecil	0	0	0	1	0	3	4	1
08	Charles	1	0	2	1	0	0	4	1
09	Frederick	1	0	1	1	0	1	4	1
10	Garrett	0	0	0	2	0	2	4	1
11	Harford	2	0	1	0	0	2	5	2
12	Howard	0	1	1	0	0	2	4	1
13	Montgomery	11	0	5	6	0	8	30	7
14	Prince George's	1	1	4	7	0	11	24	6
15	St. Mary	0	2	1	1	0	0	4	1
16	Washington	3	0	0	0	0	5	8	2
17	Wicomico	0	0	0	1	0	3	4	1
18	Baltimore City	5	4	18	30	1	5	63	18
19	Statewide Totals	35	8	34	68	1	58	204	54
	Percentages	17%	4%	16%	33%	1%	29%	100%	

CRBC conducted a total of 204 individual out-of-home case reviews (each case reviewed represents 1 child/youth) in 18 Jurisdictions on 54 boards that held reviews during the 4th 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

Citizens Review Board for Children

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- Employment (14 and older)
- Independent Living Skills (14 and older)
- Housing (Transitioning Youth age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the time of the review)
- Permanent Connections
- Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
- Adoptive Services
  - Pre-Adoptive Placement
  - > Adoptive Recruitment
  - Post-Adoption Services
- > Child's Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings
- Miscellaneous Findings
- 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 (204)**

# **Gender Totals**

Male	Female
109 (53%)	95 (47%)

# **Gender by Plan**

# Male (109)

Non-Relative Adoption	Relative Placement for C & G	Non-Relative C & G	Reunification	APPLA	Relative Placement for Adoption
19 (17%)	3 (3%)	22 (20%)	34 (31%)	30 (28%)	1 (1%)

## Female (95)

Non-Relative Adoption	Relative Placement for C & G	Non-Relative C & G	Reunification	APPLA	Relative Placement for Adoption
16 (17%)	5 (5%)	12 (12%)	34 (36%)	28 (30%)	0 (0%)

# **Ethnicity Overall**

Asian	African American	Caucasian	Other
3 (2%)	125 (61%)	63 (31%)	13 (6%)



# **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	7	1	4	19	6	0	37
2_age 6 thru 10	18	0	4	11	11	0	44
3_age 11 thru 13	8	0	0	4	8	0	20
4_age 14 thru 16	25	0	0	8	0	2	35
5_age 17 thru 19	8	0	0	1	1	42	52
6_age 20	2	0	0	0	0	14	16
Totals	68	1	8	43	26	58	204



## **Jurisdictional Case Reviews**

## **Allegany County**



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

➤ Non-Relative Adoption: 1 case

➤ APPLA: 2 cases

## <u>Permanency</u>

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

The local Juvenile Court did not identify a concurrent plan for any of the 3 cases.

## Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

> Emancipation/Independence: 1 case

> Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement: 1 case

## Permanent Connections (APPLA - 2 cases)

Both APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified, and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate for the 2 cases.

# Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

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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 did not have a signed service agreement for any of the 3 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 not made for any of the 3 cases.

## Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangment (LA)
1	None
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Other

None of the 3 cases reviewed had children/youths 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 2 of 3 cases reviewed.

## **Placement Stability**

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

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

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

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

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes were:

- 1 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:

2 case(s) placement not due to provider issue



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

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

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

No, for 2 cases

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: 2 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 2 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- > Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 1 of the 3 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: 3 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Yes, for the 3 children/youths.
- > Psychotropic Medication: 2 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Yes, for the 2 children/youths.
- > Refused Prescribed Medication: None of the 3 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: No, for the 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.
- > Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child/youth.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues: 2 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 2 children/youths.
- > 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 2 of 3 children/youths had been met.

## Education

2 of 3 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 2 children/youths were enrolled in Pre-K through 12th grade. 1 child/youth refused to attend school.

All 2 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 1 child/youth in Pre-K through 12th grade.

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

## Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older 2 cases)
  - 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 did not participate in paid or unpaid work experience due to mental health reasons.



The local board agreed 1 youth was not being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

1 youth was receiving required Independent Living skills to adequately prepare for independent living.

1 youth did not receive appropriate services for independent living due to mental health reasons.

The local board agreed the 1 youth was receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

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

## 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 unable to consent due to being medically fragile.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (none)

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 was needed for the 1 child/youth. The service that was needed was medical for the 1 case.

Post adoptive subsidies was needed for the 1 case.

Post adoptive subsidies was not approved for the 1 case.



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

# Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 3 cases had a CASA.

# Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 2 of 3 cases.

# Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	1	
Unsupervised		1

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



Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	1	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 2 of 3 children/youths reviewed.

## Barriers/Issues

Code	Fourth Quarter Allegany County Barriers
AN	Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction
AA	ICPC Issues.
AL	No service agreement with youth.
BD	Child has behavioral problems in the home.
BF	No following up on referrals.
BH	Issues related to substance abuse.
EA	Youth not enrolled in school.
EB	Youth not attending school or GED program.
IC	Inadequate preparation for independence (General).
MZ	Other mental health barrier.
HA	Annual physicals not current.
НВ	Dentals not current.
HC	Vision not current.
1K	No service agreement with child.
5D	Over age 18 and still in care.
SB	Youth engages in risky behavior.



# **Anne Arundel County**



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

Non-Relative Adoption: 3 cases

➤ Non-Relative Custody & Guardianship: 1 case

➤ Reunification: 2 cases

➤ APPLA: 4 cases

## **Permanency**

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 8 of 10 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 1 of 2 cases.

# Category of APPLA plan (4 case)

> Emancipation/Independence: 3 cases

> Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement: 1 case

# Permanent Connections (APPLA - 4 cases)

All 4 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified, and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate for 3 of 4 cases.



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

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

## Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 2 cases. 3 children/youths were Post-TPR under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process was made for 7 cases.

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

# <u>Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)</u>

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	None
3	Formal Kinship Care
1	Regular Foster Care
3	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Independent Living Residential Program

In 4 of 10 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 9 of 10 cases reviewed.

# Placement Stability

5 of the 10 cases reviewed had a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. All 5 cases had 2 placement changes.

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



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

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

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes were:

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

Provider/youth 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:

5 case(s) change unrelated to behavior of child

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:

Unknown, for 5 cases

## Health/Mental Health

- ➤ Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 7 of the 10 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- > Current Physical: 7 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 6 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 7 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- > Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 1 eligible child/youth reviewed.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 3 of 7 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: 2 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 the 5 of 7 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the 7 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 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues: 1 child/youth had behavioral issues.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes for the 1 child/youth.
- > Standard Health Exams: None of the 10 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of 4 of 10 children/youths had been met.

#### Education

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

4 of 5 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan, and 3 children/youths had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child's/youth's record.

A current progress report card was available to review for 4 children/youths in



Pre-K through 12th grade.

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

## Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older 7 cases)
  - 4 youths were participating in paid or unpaid work experience.
  - 4 youths were participating in paid or unpaid work experience relevant to career field of choice.
  - 4 youths were referred to summer or year-round training and employment opportunities.
  - 2 youths were 20 years old and earning a livable wage.

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

- ➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older 7 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 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. 2 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 1 cases and unmarried couple for 2 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child/youth was a non-relative foster parent for 1 case and foster parent-fictive kin for 2 cases.

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

> 3 case(s) 21 months or more

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

Social summary was given for 2 cases.

The Board found the pre-adoptive placement appropriate for the 3 children/youths.

Adoptive Recruitment (none)

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (none)

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

9 of the 10 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 10 cases reviewed.

## Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	3	4
No	7	6

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	2	1
More than once a week		
Once a month	1	3

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More than once a month	
Quarterly	
Yes, but undocumented	

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

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	10	10

# Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 1 of 10 children/youths had siblings in care. 1 child/youth had 2 siblings in care. Efforts were made to place both siblings together who did not reside with each other for the 1 child/youth.

## **Summary**

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR - 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 9 of 10 children/youths reviewed.

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# Barriers/Issues

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

Code	Fourth Quarter Anne Arundel County Barriers		
AK	No service agreement with parents.		
AS	Lack of follow-up (General)		
AQ	Worker did not submit referral for needed resource/service.		
IZ	Other independence barrier.		
FA	Board does not agree with current permanency plan.		
EZ	Other education barrier.		
MZ	Other medical health barrier.		
НВ	Dentals not current.		
HC	Vision not current.		
HD	No follow up or medical referrals.		
HA	Annual physicals not current.		
LA	Youth needs more restrictive placement.		



# **Baltimore County**



Baltimore County had a total of 21 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

Non-Relative Adoption: 5 case(s)

Reunification: 11 case(s)

> APPLA: 5 case(s)

## <u>Permanency</u>

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 17 of 21 cases reviewed.

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

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

# Category of APPLA plan (5 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (4)
- > Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (1)

# Permanent Connections (APPLA - 5 cases)

All 5 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified, and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 5 cases.

# Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	1			2		
7 to 11 months	2			3		2
1 to 2 years	6					
2 to 3 years	2					2
3 years or more						1
Totals →21	11			5		5



## Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 21 cases reviewed.

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

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

## Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
2	None
5	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
10	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
3	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Residential Treatment Center

In 12 of 21 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 19 cases reviewed.

# Placement Stability

6 of the 21 cases reviewed had a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 4 cases had 1 placement change, 1 case had 2 changes, and 1 case had 4 or more changes.

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

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

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

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes were:

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



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

- 2 case(s) placement not due to provider issue
- 4 case(s) allegation of provider abuse/neglect

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

- 4 case(s) change unrelated to behavior of child
- 1 case(s) runaway
- 1 case(s) hospitalization

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

No, for 5 cases

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 9 of the 21 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- > Current Physical: 13 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 12 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 9 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 4 eligible children/youths reviewed.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 6 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 6 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.



- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was monitored at least quarterly for the 4 children/youths.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: None of the children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 16 children/youths had mental health issues.
- > Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for 16 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 13 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the 16 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: 6 children/youths have substance abuse problems.
- > Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the 2 children/youths.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues: Yes, for 10 children/youths.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 9 children/youths.
- > Standard Health Exams: None of the 21 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of 4 of the 21 children/youths had been met.

## **Education**

19 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational Program. All 19 children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade. 2 children/youths refused to attend school.

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

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

The local board agreed that 18 of 19 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 12 cases)
  - 2 children/youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.
  - 8 youths were not participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth did not participate due to being medically fragile and 1 youth did not attend due to mental health reasons.
  - 2 children/youths employed were participating in work experience relevant to career field of choice.
  - 4 youths were referred to summer or year round training and employment opportunities.
  - 1 youth was over 20 years old and earning a living wage.

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

- ➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older 12 cases)
  - 8 youths were receiving appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living.
  - 1 youth did not receive appropriate services due to being medically fragile and 1 youth did not participate due to mental health reasons.
  - 4 youths completed a Life Skill Assessment for successful transition to adulthood.
  - 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 – 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. 4 children/youths consented to adoption. 1 child/youth was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (none)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (5 cases)

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

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

> 5 case(s) 21 months or more

An adoptive home study was completed for none of the 5 cases.

The Board found the pre-adoptive placement appropriate for the 5 children/youths.

Adoptive Recruitment (none)

Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (5 cases)

Post-adoptive services were needed for 5 children/youths. The service needed was medical for all 5 cases.

Post adoptive subsidies were needed for the 5 cases.

Post adoptive subsidies were not approved for any of the 5 cases.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for the 5 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

5 cases had a CASA.



# Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 19 of 21 cases.

# Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives	
Yes	12	4	
No	9	17	

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	5	
More than once a week	1	
Once a month	2	
More than once a month		
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented	4	4

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	12	4

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	8	4
LDSS Visitation Center	1	
Public Area	3	
Child's/Youth's Placement		
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives	
Yes	9	4	
No	3		

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# Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 16 of 21 children/youths had siblings in care. Efforts were made to place both siblings together who did not reside with each other for 16 children/youths. 7 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 18 of 21 children/youths reviewed.

## Barriers/Issues

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

Code	Fourth Quarter Baltimore County Barriers		
AK	No service agreement with parents.		
AN	Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.		
AL	No service agreement with youth.		
AO	No siblings or family visit.		
BE	Non-Compliant with service agreement		
BH	Issues related to substance abuse.		
BD	Child has behavioral problems in the home.		
BG	Refusal to locate or maintain employment.		
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.		
IB	Youth not employed and transitioning out of care.		
IC	Inadequate preparation for independence (General).		
MA	Youth has not been assessed for mental health concerns.		
MC	Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.		
1G	No service agreement with parents.		
1K	No service agreement with child.		
SB	Youth engages in risky behavior.		
CN	Disagreement with permanency plan.		
IZ	Other independence barrier.		
FZ	Other permanency barrier.		
HA	Annual physicals not current.		
НВ	Dentals not current.		
HC	Vision not current.		
HD	No follow up or medical referrals.		
5D	Over age 18 and still in care.		

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# **Calvert County**



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

> AAPLA: 4 cases

## <u>Permanency</u>

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

The local Juvenile Court did not identify concurrent permanency plan for any case.

# Category of APPLA plan (4 cases)

- > Emancipation/Independence (3)
- > Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (1)

## Permanent Connections (4 cases)

4 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate for the 4 cases.

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

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

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## 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 were made for the 2 signed cases.

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

## Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangment (LA)		
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)		
1	Residential Group Home		
2	Therapeutic Group Home		

None of the 4 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**

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

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

The following levels of care were found in 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) move did not occur for positive reason

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?

No, 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 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: The local department ensured 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 that 3 of 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- > Prescription Medication: 4 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 4 children/youths.
- > Psychotropic Medication: 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: None of the 4 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: None of the children/youths had a substance abuse problem.

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- 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

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

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

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

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

#### Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older 4 cases)
  - 3 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.
  - 1 youth did not participate in paid or unpaid work experience due to being medically fragile.
  - 3 youths participated in paid or unpaid work experience relevant to career field of choice.

None of the 3 youths were referred to summer or year-round training and/or employment opportunities.

The local board agreed that 3 youths were being 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 had completed a life skills assessment for successful transition to adulthood.
  - 1 youth did not complete a life skills assessment due to being medically fragile.

The local board agreed that 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)

Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (none)

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

## Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	2	3
No	2	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		
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented	2	3

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	2	3

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	2	3
No		

## Siblings/Visits

None of the 4 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 4 children/youths reviewed.



# Barriers/Issues

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

Code	Fourth Quarter Calvert County Barriers
AN	Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
5D	Over age 18 and still in care.
BY	Child/youth has runaway history.
HD	No follow ups or medical referrals.
НС	Vision not current.



### **Caroline County**



Caroline 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 3 of 4 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 (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
		Adoption	101 C & C	Maoption	casy dada	
0 to 6 months				1		
7 to 11 months						
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 2 cases. 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 the 2 cases.

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

# Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Regular Foster Care
1	Restricted Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home

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

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

## **Placement Stability**

None of the 4 cases reviewed there was 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: 4 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 2 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 4 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- > Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 1 child/youth reviewed.



- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 2 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: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 1 child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues: 2 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, the 2 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 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.
- > Substance Abuse: None of the 4 children/youths had a substance abuse issue.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues: 1 child/youth had behavioral issues.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child/youth.
- > Standard Health Exam: 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

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 children/youths in Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade had a 504 or IEP plan. A current progress report card was available for review for 3 of 4 children/youths in Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.



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

### 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 vocational training

The local board agreed that the 1 youth was not 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.
  - 1 youth did not complete a life skill assessment for successful transition to adulthood.
  - 2 youth were not receiving required independent living skills.

The local 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)

#### 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 were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (none)

#### 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 a single female for both cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child/youth was a 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

An adoptive home study was completed and approved for 1 of 2 cases.

A home study was completed for 1 of 2 cases.

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

Adoptive Recruitment (none)

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

Post-adoptive services were needed for 1 of 2 children/youths. The service needed was medical and education for the 1 child/youth.

It is unknown if post adoptive subsidies were needed for the 2 cases.

It is unknown if post adoptive subsidies were approved for the 2 cases.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for the 2 cases.

### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

1 of 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	1	1
No	3	3



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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	1	1

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

## Siblings/Visits

The local board found that none of the 4 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 3 of 4 children/youths reviewed.



# Barriers/Issues

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

Code	Fourth Quarter Caroline County Barriers
AN	Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
AR	Missing or lack of documentation.
HC	Vision not current.
HD	No follow up or medical referrals.
ED	No current IEP.
EZ	Other education barrier.
DK	Not maintaining contact with the department.
IC	Inadequate preparation for independence (General).
IZ	Other independence barrier.
FA	Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
DD	Home study not completed.



### **Carroll County**



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

Reunification: 3 cases

> APPLA: 1 case

### <u>Permanency</u>

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

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

The local department was not implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the local Juvenile Court for the 3 cases.

# Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

>Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (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 one case.

# Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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



### Case Planning

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

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

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

### Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

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

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

## Placement Stability

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

#### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of the 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 4 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 4 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 4 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for all 4 children/youths reviewed.
- > Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that all 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.



- > Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 2 children/youths.
- > Psychotropic Medication: 2 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 2 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 3 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for all 3 children/youths.
- 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 4 children/youths had a substance abuse issue.
- 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 all 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.

3 of 4 children/youths enrolled in school, or another educational/vocational program had a 504 or IEP plan and 3 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for the 4 children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program.



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

### Ready By 21

- ➤ Employment (age 14 and older 2 cases)
  - 1 youth was participating in paid or unpaid work experience.
  - 1 youth did not participate in paid or unpaid work experience due to being medically fragile.
  - 1 youth participated in paid or unpaid work experience relevant to career field of choice.

The local board agreed that the 1 youth was 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.
  - 1 youth completed a life skills assessment for successful transition to adulthood.
  - 1 youth was receiving required independent living skills.

The local board agreed that 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.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (none)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (none)

Adoptive Recruitment (none)
Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (none)

Not applicable.

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# 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	1	
More than once a week		
Once a month		2
More than once a month		
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented		

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

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

The local board found that none of the 4 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 4 children/youths reviewed.

## **Barriers/Issues**

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

Code	Fourth Quarter Carroll County Barriers				
AS	Lack of follow up (General).				
FA	Board does not agree with current permanency plan.				



### **Cecil County**



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

➤ APPLA: 3 cases

Reunification: 1 case

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

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

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

# Category of APPLA plan (3 cases)

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

# Permanent Connections APPLA ( 3 cases)

3 APPLA case had a permanent connection identified, and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate for the 3 cases.

# Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

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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 4 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 2 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	None
1	Residential Group Home
2	Independent Living Residential Program

None of the 4 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**

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

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

The following level of care was found for the 2 most recent placement changes:

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

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes were:

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

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

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



Child specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

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

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:

Unknown, for 2 cases

### Health/Mental Health

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



- > Mental Health Diagnosis: 2 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 1 child/youth.
- 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: 2 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the 2 children/youths.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues: 2 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child/youth.
- > Standard Health Exams: 1 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

2 of the 4 children/youths were enrolled in school. 1 child/youth was enrolled in Pre-K through 12th grade and 1 child/youth was enrolled in a GED program. 1 child/youth refused to attend school and 1 youth graduated high school.

1 child/youth 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 none of the 2 children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program.

The local board agreed that 1 of 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 4 cases)
  - 1 youth was participating in paid or unpaid work experience.
  - 1 youth was participating in paid or unpaid work experience relevant to career field of choice.



1 youth was in a juvenile justice facility and was unable to participate in paid or unpaid work experience.

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

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

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older 4 cases)
  - 2 youths were receiving appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living when they leave home care.
  - 2 youths completed a life skills assessment for successful transition to adulthood.
  - 2 youths were receiving required independent living skills.
  - 1 youth was in a juvenile justice facility and was unable to prepare for independent living.

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 (none)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (none)

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	2
No	3	2

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week		
More than once a week		
Once a month		
More than once a month	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	1
No		



## Siblings/Visits

None of the 4 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 4 children/youths reviewed.

### Barriers/Issues

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

Code	Fourth Quarter Cecil County Barriers	
AG	Lack of concurrent planning.	
AK	No service agreement with parents.	
AN	Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.	
AL	No service agreement with youth.	
AR	Missing or lack of documentation.	
CY	No concurrent plan by court.	
EA	Youth not enrolled in school.	
EC	Youth not receiving adequate services.	
EE	School not implementing IEP.	
MA	Youth has not been assessed for mental health concerns.	
MC	Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.	
MD	Youth non-compliant with medicine.	
FA	Board does not agree with current permanency plan.	
НА	Annual physicals not current.	
НВ	Dentals not current.	
HC	Vision not current.	
LZ	Other placement barrier.	
BD	Child has behavioral problems in the home.	
BH	Issues related to substance abuse.	
BF	Not following up on referrals.	
BY	Child/youth has runaway history.	
BZ	Other child/youth related barrier.	
IC	Inadequate preparation for independence (General).	
IZ	Other independence barrier.	



### **Charles County**



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

➤ Non-Relative Adoption: 1 case

➤ Non-Relative Custody & Guardianship: 2 cases

Reunification: 1 case

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

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

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

The local department was implementing concurrent permanency plan set by the local Juvenile Court for the 3 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	1	
7 to 11 months	1				1	
1 to 2 years						
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more						
Totals →4	1			1	2	

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

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate to meet the needs of children/youths for the 2 signed cases.

### Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
2	Therapeutic Group Home

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

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

# Placement Stability

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

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

The following level of care was found for the 2 most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was a less restrictive placement
- 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
- 1 case(s) move did not occur for positive reason

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

2 case(s) placement not due to provider issue

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Child specific issues for the 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:

No, for 2 cases

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 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: 3 children/youths had completed medical records.
- > Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 2 children/youths.
- > Psychotropic Medication: 2 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- > Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 2 children/youths.
- > Refused Prescribed Medication: None 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 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.
- > Substance Abuse: None of the 4 children/youths had substance abuse issues.
- 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: 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

3 of the 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 was under the age of 5.

3 children/youths enrolled 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 the 2 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that the 2 children/youth's educational goals are being met.

### Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

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

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



The local board agreed that none of the 2 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

1 youth was receiving required independent living skills to adequately prepare for independent living when they leave out of home care.

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

The local board agreed that 1 of 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. 2 children/youths were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (none)

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

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

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

Adoptive home study was completed and approved for none of the 2 cases.

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

Adoptive Recruitment (none) Not applicable.



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

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

Post adoptive subsidies were needed for the 2 cases.

Post adoptive subsidies were not approved for the 2 cases.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for the 2 cases.

### Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

1 of the 4 cases had a CASA.

#### Risk and Safety

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

## Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	2	
No	2	4

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

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives	
Yes			
No	2		

## 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 3 of 4 children/youths reviewed.



# Barriers/Issues

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

Code	Fourth Quarter Charles County Barriers
AK	No service agreement with parents.
AL	No service agreement with youth.
AO	No sibling or family visits.
AN	Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
BD	Child has behavioral problems in the home.
BY	Child/youth has runaway history.
CN	Disagreement with permanency plan.
1G	No service agreement with parents.
1K	No service agreement with child.
SB	Youth engages in risky behavior.
IZ	Other planning barrier.
MZ	Other mental health barrier.



### **Frederick County**



Frederick 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

> APPLA: 1 case

> Reunification: 1 case

### **Permanency**

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

The local Juvenile Court did not identifify a concurrent plan for any of the cases.

# 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					1	1
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years	1					
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more			•	1	•	
Totals →4	1			1	1	1



### Case Planning

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

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

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

#### Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

2 of 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. Both cases had 2 placement changes.

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

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

• 2 case(s) were less restrictive placement

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes:

• 1 case(s) was transitioning towards permanency goal

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes:

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



Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

• 2 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

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:

Unknown, for 2 cases

### Health/Mental Health

- > Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 4 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 3 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 3 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for all 4 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that all 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- > Prescription Medication: 3 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: 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: 3 of the 4 children/youths refused to take prescribed 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 the 2 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 a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- > Behavioral Issues: None of the 4 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- > Behavioral Issues Addressed: Not applicable.
- > 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 through 12th grade

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

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 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 4 cases)
  - 4 youths were participating in paid or unpaid work experience.
  - All 4 youths were participating in paid or unpaid work experience relevant career field of choice.
  - 3 youths were referred to summer or year-round training and employment opportunities.



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

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older 4 cases)
  - 4 youths were receiving appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living.
  - 4 youths had completed a life skills assessment for successful transition to adulthood.
  - 4 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

The local board agreed that 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. 1 child/youth consented to adoption.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (none)

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 (none)

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

All 4 cases had a CASA.



## Risk and Safety

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

## Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		1
No	4	3

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		1
No	4	3

## 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.

#### <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	Fourth Quarter Frederick County Barriers
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.
НВ	Dentals not current.
HD	No follow-up or medical referrals.
MZ	Other mental health barrier.
LZ	Other placement barrier.



## **Garrett County**



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

Reunification: 2 cases

> APPLA: 2 cases

## **Permanency**

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

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

# Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

Emancipation/Independence (2)

# Permanent Connections (APPLA - 2 cases)

The 2 APPLA case 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
1 to 2 years	1					1
2 to 3 years						
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 all 4 cases. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for the 4 cases.

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

### Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	None
1	Formal Kinship Care
2	Non-Relative

2 of the 4 children/youths reviewed were placed in their home jurisdiction in a setting that was in close proximity to their communities, which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

## Placement Stability

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

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

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

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

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) placement with relatives
- 1 case(s) did not occur for positive reason

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

• 2 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
- 1 case(s) threats of harm to self or others

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:

Unknown, 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: 3 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 4 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: Appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 1 child/youth requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 3 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 1 child/youth was taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 1 child/youth.
- 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.
- Mental Health Issues: 3 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for the 3 children/youths.



- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 2 of 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: 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 found that the health needs of 3 of 4 children/youths had been met.

## **Education**

All 4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 3 children/youths were enrolled in Pre-K through 12th grade and 1 youth was enrolled in college.

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

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

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

## Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older 4 cases)
  - 1 youth was participating in paid or unpaid work experience.
  - 1 youth was participating in paid or unpaid work experience relevant to career field of choice.
  - 1 youth was 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 2 of the 4 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

All 4 youths were receiving appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living.

All 4 youths completed a life skills assessment for successful transition to adulthood.

All 4 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

The local board agreed that the 4 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 youth was being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

#### Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (none)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (none)

Not applicable.

Adoptive Recruitment (none)

Not applicable.



# Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (none)

Not applicable.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of 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	1	2
No	3	2

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

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

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

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Foster Parent	1
Other	

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives	
Yes		1	
No	1	1	

## Siblings/Visits

The local board found that none of the 4 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 3 of 4 children/youths reviewed.

### Barriers/Issues

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

Code	<b>Fourth Quarter Garrett County Barriers</b>
AN	Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
CN	Disagreement with permanency plan.
MC	Youth refuses mental treatment including therapy.
HC	Vision not current.
5D	Over age 18 and still in care.
SB	Youth engages in risky behavior.



### **Harford County**



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

Non-Relative Adoption: 2 cases

Non-Relative Custody & Guardianship: 1 case

> APPLA: 2 cases

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

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

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

## Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

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

## Permanent Connections (APPLA - 2 cases)

Both APPLA case had a permanent connection identified, and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate for the 2 cases.

# Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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



## Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for none of the cases. 1 child/youth was a post-TPR child under the age of 14.

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)
1	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Regular Foster Care
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home
1	Own Dwelling

In 4 of the 5 cases reviewed, the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities, which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for 3 of 5 cases reviewed.

#### **Placement Stability**

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

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

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

• 1 case(s) was the same level of care

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes:

• 1 case(s) 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

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

1 case(s) behavioral

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

Yes, for 1 case

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

Yes, for 1 case

#### Health/Mental Health

- > Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 5 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: 3 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: 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 1 of the 5 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 3 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 3 children/youths.
- > Psychotropic Medication: 2 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- > Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 2 children/youths.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: None of the 5 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 1 child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 of the 3 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: 1 of the 5 children/youths 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 1 of 2 children/youths.
- > Standard Health Exams: None of the 5 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of 2 of the 5 children/youths had been met.

#### Education

5 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 5 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 1 child/youth had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in their records.

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

The local board agreed that 3 of 5 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

#### Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older 2 cases)
  - 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 20 years old and earning a living wage.

The local board agreed that 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.

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

1 youth was receiving required independent living skills.

The local board agreed that 1 youth was receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

#### Housing (Transitioning Youth − 1 case)

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

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

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 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 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 a married couple for the 2 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child/youth was a non-relative foster parent for both cases.

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.

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## Adoptive Recruitment (none)

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

Post-adoptive services were needed for 2 children/youths. The service needed was medical, mental health and education for the 2 children/youths.

Post adoptive subsidies were needed for the 2 cases.

It is unknown if the post adoptive subsidies were approved for the 2 cases.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for the 2 cases.

## Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

1 of 5 cases had a CASA.

## Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 4 of 5 cases reviewed.

## Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives	
Yes	1		
No	4	5	

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

08/08/2025



Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives	
Supervised			
Unsupervised	1		

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives	
Yes	1		
No			

## Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 4 children/youths had siblings in care. The 4 children/youths had 1 sibling in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for the 3 children/youths. 1 child/youth 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 3 of 5 children/youths reviewed.

#### Barriers/Issues

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

Code	Fourth Quarter Harford County Barriers
AE	Worker failed to submit proper paperwork for timely TPR filing.
AN	Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
AR	Missing or lack of documentation.
BD	Child has behavioral problems in the home.
ВН	Issues related to substance abuse.
ED	No current IEP.
EZ	Other education barrier.



IC	Inadequate preparation for independence (General).
IZ	Other independence barrier.
CH	Legal representation for child.
CY	No concurrent plan by court
DA	Disrupted Pre-Adoption placement.
MA	Youth has not been assessed for mental health concerns.
MC	Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
MD	Youth non-compliant with medication.
HA	Annual physicals not current.
НВ	Dentals not current.
HC	Vision not current.
HD	No follow-up or medical referral.
LZ	Other placement barrier.
SA	No current safe custody & guardianship.



# **Howard County**



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

Relative Placement for Custody & Guardianship: 1 case

Non-Relative Custody & Guardianship: 1 case

➤ APPLA: 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 1 case.

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

### Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

Emancipation/Independence (2)

## Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

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## 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 4 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 4 signed cases.

### Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)	
1	Formal Kinship Care	
1	Restricted Foster Care (Relative)	
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)	
1	Own Dwelling	

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

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

## **Placement Stability**

None of 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 none of the 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 1 child/youth had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 1 child/youth had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 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 3 of 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: None of the 4 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Not applicable.
- > Psychotropic Medication: None of the 4 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- > Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Not applicable.
- Refused Prescribed Medicine: 1 of the 4 children/youths refused prescription medicine.
- Mental Health Issues: 4 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 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 a 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: None of the 4 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exam.

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

### **Education**

4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 3 of 4 children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade. 1 youth was enrolled in college.

1 of the 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 and 1 youth enrolled in college.



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

#### Ready By 21

- ➤ Employment (age 14 and older 2 cases)
  - 2 youths were participating in paid or unpaid work experience.
  - 2 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 the 2 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- ➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older 2 cases)
  - 2 youths were receiving appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living.
  - 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 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)

<u>Pre-Adoptive Placement (none)</u>

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	2	1
No	2	3

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives	
Supervised	2	1	
Unsupervised			

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency	2	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	1

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Public Area	
Child's/Youth's Placement	
Other	

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	4	4

## Siblings/Visits

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

## Barriers/Issues

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

Code	Fourth Quarter Howard County Barriers
AS	Lack of follow-up (General).
EZ	Other education barrier.
HA	Annual physicals not current.
НВ	Dentals not current.
НС	Vision not current.
HZ	Other physical health barrier.
MZ	Other mental health barrier.



## **Montgomery County**



Montgomery County had a total of 30 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

➤ Non-Relative Adoption: 11 cases

Non-Relative Custody & Guardianship: 5 cases

Reunification: 6 cases

> APPLA: 8 cases

## <u>Permanency</u>

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 26 of 30 cases reviewed.

The local Juvenile Court identified concurrent permanency plans for 3 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the local Juvenile Court for 2 of 3 cases.

## Category of APPLA plan (8 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (6)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (2)

# Permanent Connections (APPLA - 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		5	3		4
7 to 11 months				1		1
1 to 2 years	3			3		
2 to 3 years	1			1		2
3 years or more	1			3		1
Totals →30	6		5	11		8

## Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 8 cases. 11 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 18 cases.

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

## Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	None
12	Regular Foster Care
9	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home
4	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Relative

In 18 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 30 cases reviewed.



## **Placement Stability**

In 3 of the 30 cases reviewed, there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 1 case had 1 placement change and 2 cases had 2 placement changes.

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

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

- 1 case(s) was less restrictive placement
- 2 case(s) were same level of care

Primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes included:

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

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

• 3 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
- 1 case(s) hospitalization

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:

Unknown, for 3 cases

#### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 9 of the 30 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 28 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 21 children/youths had a current vision exam.



- Current Dental: 24 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 21 of the 30 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 17 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 17 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 11 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- > Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 11 children/youths.
- > Refused Prescribed Medication: 1 child/youth refused to take prescribed medication.
- ➤ Mental Health Issues: 21 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 20 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 19 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the 21 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 of the 30 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 3 of 4 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 4 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 4 children/youths.
- > Standard Health Exams: 2 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of 15 of the 30 children/youths had been met.



## Education

22 of 30 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 22 children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade. 2 children/youths graduated high school. 6 children/youths were under the age of 5.

12 of the 22 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 11 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 15 children/youths.

The local board agreed that 23 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

#### Ready By 21

- ➤ Employment (age 14 and older 14 cases)
  - 7 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.
  - 2 youths did not participate in paid or unpaid work experience due to being medically fragile.
  - 10 youths were referred to summer or year-round training and/or employment opportunities.

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

- ➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older 14 cases)
  - 10 youths received appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living when they leave home care.
  - 9 youths had completed a life skills assessment.
  - 9 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 – 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. 11 children/youths were under the age of consent.

## Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (none)

## Pre-Adoptive Placement (11 cases)

11 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The family structure was comprised of a married couple for 6 cases and a single female for 5 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child/youth was a non-relative foster parent for the 11 cases.

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

➤ 11 case(s) 21 months or more

Adoptive home study was completed and approved for the 11 cases.

The Board found the pre-adoptive placement appropriate for 10 of the 11 children/youths.

Adoptive Recruitment (none)

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (none)

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

17 cases had a CASA.

## Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 30 cases.

# Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	14	2
No	16	28



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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	9	
Unsupervised	5	2

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency	7	
Representative		
Other Agency		
Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent	2	
Others/not specified		

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives	
Parent/Relative Home			
LDSS Visitation Center	7		
Public Area	1		
Child's/Youth's Placement	1		
Others/not specified			

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	2	
No	28	30

### Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 15 children/youths had siblings in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for the 15 children/youths. 15 children/youths with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 11 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 30 children/youths reviewed.

## **Barriers/Issues**

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

Code	Fourth Quarter Montgomery County Barriers
AG	Lack of concurrent planning.
AQ	Worker did not submit referral for needed resources/service.
AS	Lack of follow-up (General).
AK	No service agreement with parents.
AL	No service agreement with youth.
IZ	Other independence barrier.
FA	Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
EZ	Other education barrier.
SA	No current safe custody & guardianship.
HA	Annual physicals not current.
НВ	Dentals not current.
HC	Vision not current.
HD	No follow up or medical referrals.
MZ	Other mental health barrier.
BG	Refusal to locate or maintain employment.



## **Prince George's County**



Prince George's County had a total of 24 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- ➤ Non-Relative Adoption: 1 case
- > Relative Placement for Custody & Guardianship: 1 case
- > Non-Relative Custody & Guardianship: 4 cases
- > Reunification: 7 cases
- > APPLA: 11 cases

### Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for all 24 cases reviewed.

The local Juvenile Court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 9 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the local Juvenile Court for all 9 cases.

## Category of APPLA plan (11 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (10)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (1)

## Permanent Connections (11 cases)

10 of 11 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified, and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for 9 of 10 cases.



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

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	1		1		1	1
7 to 11 months	1			1	2	4
1 to 2 years	2				1	3
2 to 3 years						2
3 years or more	3					1
Totals →24	7		1	1	4	11

### Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 24 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 6 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 6 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	
4	None	
1	Formal Kinship Care	
1	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home	
3	Regular Foster Care	
7	Treatment Foster Care (Private)	
4	Teen Mother Program	
1	Therapeutic Group Home	
1	Relative	
1	Psychiatric Respite	
1	Other	

In 12 of the 24 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 20 of 24 cases reviewed.



#### **Placement Stability**

In 7 of the 24 cases reviewed, there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 5 cases had 1 placement change, 1 case had 2 changes and 1 case had 4 or more placement changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 3 of 7 cases.

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

- 2 case(s) were less restrictive placement
- 3 case(s) were a more restrictive placement
- 1 case(s) was the same level of care
- 1 case(s) child on runaway

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes:

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

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included

- 6 case(s) placement not due to provider issue
- 1 case(s) incompatible match

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

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

#### Health/Mental Health

➤ Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 8 of 24 children/youths reviewed had developmental or specials needs.



- Current Physical: 18 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 15 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- > Current Dental: 18 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 9 children/youths.
- > Completed Medical Records: 10 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: 6 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 6 children/youths.
- > Refused Prescribed Medication: 1 child/youth refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 18 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 17 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- ➤ Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 11 of 18 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the 18 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: 9 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for 9 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 9 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 8 of 9 children/youths.
- > Standard Health Exams: None of the 24 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.



The local board agreed that health needs of 10 of 24 children/youths were met.

#### Education

17 of the 24 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 16 children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade and 1 child/youth was enrolled in a GED program.

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

9 of the 16 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan, and 5 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

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

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

### Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older 16 cases)
  - 2 youths were participating in paid or unpaid work experience.
  - 2 youths participated in paid or unpaid work experience relevant to career field of choice.
  - 1 youth was referred to summer or year-round training and employment opportunities.
  - 1 youth was in a correctional facility and was not able to participate.
  - 1 youth did not participate due to other reasons.
  - 2 youths were 20 years old and earning a livable wage.

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

- ➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older 16 cases)
  - 12 youths were receiving appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living.
  - 12 youths completed a life skills assessment for successful transition to adulthood.

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12 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

The local board agreed that 12 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 was provided to 3 of 4 youths.

The local board agreed with the transitional housing plan for 3 of 4 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 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 family structure was comprised of a single female 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) 21 months or more

Adoptive home study was not 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)

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

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



Post adoptive subsidies were needed for 1 case.

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

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

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

7 cases had a CASA.

### Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 20 of 24 cases.

# Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	14	19
No	10	5

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily	1	1
Once a week	2	1
More than once a week	1	1
Once a month	1	3
More than once a month		1
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented	9	12

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	1	1
Unsupervised	13	18



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

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	11	14
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area	3	4
Child's/Youth's Placement		1
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	8	12
No	6	7

# Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 5 children/youths had siblings in care. 2 children/youths had 2 siblings in care and 3 children/youths had 3 siblings in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 5 children/youths. 4 child/youth had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them.

#### <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 23 of 24 children/youths reviewed.



# Barriers/Issues

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

Code	Fourth Quarter Prince George's County Barriers
AK	No service agreement with parents.
AL	No service agreement with youth.
AN	Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
BD	Child has behavior problems in the home.
BF	Not following up on referrals.
BG	Refusal to locate or maintain employment.
BH	Issues related to substance abuse.
BY	Child/youth has runaway history.
BZ	Other child/youth related barrier.
BU	Undocumented child/youth.
CY	No concurrent plan by the court.
EA	Youth not enrolled in school.
EB	Youth not attending school or GED program.
EC	Youth not receiving adequate services.
ED	No current IEP.
EZ	Other education barrier.
IB	Youth not employed or transitioning out of care.
IC	Inadequate preparation for independence (General).
FG	No concurrent permanency plan in place.
1G	No service agreement with parents.
1K	No service agreement with child.
HA	Annual physicals not current.
НВ	Dentals not current.
HC	Vision not current.
HD	No follow up or medical referrals.
1C	No timeframe.
1K	No service agreement with child.
5D	Over age 18 and still in care.
SB	Youth engages in risky behavior.
MC	Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
MD	Youth non-compliant with medication.
MZ	Other mental health barrier.



# St. Marv's County



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

- > Relative Placement for Custody & Guardianship: 2 cases
- > Non-Relative Custody & Guardianship: 1 case
- > Reunification: 1 case

## **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)

Permanent Connections (APPLA - none)

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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



# Case Planning

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

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

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

### Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

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

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

# **Placement Stability**

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

#### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 3 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 3 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 4 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: It was unknown if the local department ensured appropriate follow-up occurred on all health-related concerns for the 4 children/youths.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 3 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.



- > Prescription Medication: 1 child/youth was taking prescription medication.
- > Prescription Medication Monitored: Yes, for the 1 child/youth.
- > Psychotropic Medication: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- > Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Yes, for the 1 child/youth.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: None of the 4 children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 1 child/youth was having mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 1 child/youth had a mental health diagnosis.
- ➤ Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 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 of the 4 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: 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

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

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

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

The local board agreed that the 3 of 4 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.
  - 1 youth did not participate due to mental health reasons.

The local board agreed that the 1 youth was not 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 when they leave home care.
  - 1 youth was unable to complete a life skills assessment due to mental health reasons.
  - 1 youth was receiving required independent living skills.

The local board agreed that the 1 youth was being appropriately prepared for 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)

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (none)

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	3	1
No	1	3

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	3	1

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	3	1

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# Siblings/Visits

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

### Barriers/Issues

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

Code	Fourth Quarter St. Mary's County Barriers	
AN	Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.	
HA	Annual physicals not current.	
HC	Vision not current.	



### **Washington County**



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

➤ Non-Relative Adoption: 3 cases

> APPLA: 5 cases

# **Permanency**

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

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

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

# Category of APPLA plan (5 cases)

- > Emancipation/Independence (1)
- > Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (4)

# <u>Permanent Connections (APPLA – 5 cases)</u>

3 of 5 APPLA case had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate for 2 of 3 cases.

# Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months				1		
7 to 11 months				1		
1 to 2 years						
2 to 3 years			•		•	4
3 years or more			•	1	•	1
Totals =>8				3		5

Citizens Review Board for Children

1100 Eastern Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21221 ● Phone: (410) 238-1320 ● Fax: (410) 238-1395 email: crbc.mail@maryland.gov website: http://dhr.maryland.gov/crbc



# Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for none of the cases. 2 children/youths were a Post-TPR child under the age of 14.

# Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement
2	None
2	Formal Kinship Care
1	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
2	Residential Group Home
1	Therapeutic Group Home

4 of 8 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 7 of 8 cases reviewed.

# **Placement Stability**

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

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for none of the 2 cases.

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

• 2 case(s) were less restrictive placements

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes:

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

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

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



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

- 1 case(s) child request removal
- 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:

Unknown, for 1 case

## Health/Mental Health

- ➤ Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 5 of 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 7 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 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 the 5 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: 3 children/youths refused to take prescription medicine.
- Mental Health Issues: 7 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 5 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.



- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 6 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: 2 of the 8 children/youths had substance abuse problem.
- ➤ Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 1 of 2 children/youths.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues: 5 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 4 children/youths.
- > Standard Health Exams: 4 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of 5 of 8 children/youths had been met.

#### Education

2 of 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 2 children/youths were in Pre-K thru 12th grade. 2 youths not enrolled in school already graduated high school. 3 children/youths refused to attend school. 1 child/youth was under the age of 5.

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

Current progress report card was available for review for 1 of 2 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade.

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

#### Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older 4 cases)
  - 2 youth were participating in paid or unpaid work experience.
  - 1 of 2 youths participated in paid or unpaid work experience relevant to career field of choice.

None of the 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 the 3 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older 4 cases)
  - 2 youths were 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.
  - 2 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

The local board agreed that the 2 youth were being appropriately prepared for independent living.

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

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

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

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

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

# Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (none)

<u>Pre-Adoptive Placement (2 cases)</u>

2 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 the 2 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child/youth was non-relative foster parent for the 1 case and fictive-kin foster parent 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.

A family social summary was given for 1 of 2 cases.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for the 2 cases.

## 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 was needed for the 1 child/youth. The service that was needed was mental health and education for the 1 child/youth.

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

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

# Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 8 cases had a CASA.

#### Risk and Safety

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

### Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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



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

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

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency		
Representative		
Other Agency		
Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		1
Other/not indicated		

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	2	2

# Siblings/Visits

The local board found that none of the 8 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 8 children/youths reviewed.

# **Barriers/Issues**

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

Code	Fourth Quarter Washington County Barriers
AL	No service agreement with youth.
AN	Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
AR	Missing or lack of documentation.
BD	Child has behavior problems in the home.
BF	Not following up on referrals.
BH	Issues related to substance abuse.
BG	Refusal to locate or maintain employment.
BZ	Other child/youth related barrier.
CI	Child in pre-adoptive home, but adoption not finalized.
EA	Youth not enrolled in school.
EB	Youth not attending school or GED program.
ED	No current IEP.
EZ	Other education barrier.
DZ	Other family related barrier.
IA	Transitional housing has not been identified.
IB	Youth not employed or transitioning out of care.
IC	Inadequate preparation for independence (General)
IZ	Other independence barrier.
MA	Youth has not been assessed for mental health reasons.
MC	Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
MD	Youth non-compliant with medication.
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.
LZ	Other placement barrier

Citizens Review Board for Children



# **Wicomico County**



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

Reunification: 1 caseAAPLA: 3 cases

#### Permanency

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

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

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

# Category of APPLA plan (3 cases)

Emancipation/Independence (3)

# Permanent Connections (APPLA - 3 cases)

2 of 3 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the board found the identified Permanent connection appropriate for the 2 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

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# 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 1 case. 1 child/youth was a post-TPR child under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were not made for the 1 case.

The local board agreed that the service agreement was not appropriate for the 1 signed case.

### Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

None of the 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 3 of the 4 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 2 cases had three placement changes and 1 case had four or more placement changes.

It is unknown if a family involvement meeting was held for the placement changes for the 3 cases.

The following level of care was found for the 3 most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was same level of care
- 2 case(s) were less restrictive placement

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes:

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



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

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

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included

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

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

• Unknown, for 1 case.

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

Unknown, for 3 cases.

# Health/Mental Health

- > Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- > Current Physical: 3 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 2 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 1 child/youth had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 1 child/youth requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 1 child/youth had completed medical records in their case files.
- > Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Yes, for the 2 children/youths.
- > Psychotropic Medication: 3 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Yes, for the 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 4 children/youths had mental health issues.



- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 1 of 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the 4 children/youth 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: 2 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the 2 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 4 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- ➤ Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 1 of 4 children/youths.
- Standard Health Exam: None of the 4 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

1 of 4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. The 1 child/youth was enrolled in Pre-K thru 12th grade. 2 children/youths refused to attend school and 1 child/youth did not attend school due to other reasons.

1 child/youth in Pre-K thru 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan. The 1 child/youth did not had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the record.

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

The local board agreed that 1 child/youth was not 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.
  - 1 youth was participating in paid or unpaid work experience relevant to career field of choice.



1 youth was referred to summer of 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 4 cases)
  - 1 youth was receiving appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living.
  - 2 youths completed a life skills assessment for successful transition to adulthood.
  - 1 youth was receiving required independent living skills.

The local board agreed that 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.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (none)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (none)

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			
No	4	4	

# Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 1 of 4 children/youths had siblings in care. 1 child/youth has 1 sibling in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for the 1 child/youth. 1 child/youth with siblings 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 3 of 4 children/youths reviewed.

#### Barriers/Issues

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

Code	Fourth Quarter Wicomico County Barriers
AN	Youth placed outside oh home jurisdiction.
AR	Missing or lack of documentation.
AK	No service agreement with parents.
AO	No siblings or family visits.
AL	No service agreement with youth.
BY	Child/youth has runaway history.
ВН	Issues related to substance abuse.
BE	Non-compliant with service agreement.
BF	Not following up on referrals.
BD	Child has behavior problems in the home.
4A	Poor coordination within DSS.
ED	No current IEP.
EB	Youth not attending school or GED program.
FA	Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
2A	Inadequate casework services.
2B	Lack of progress in implementation.
2C	Inadequate contact with client.



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.
HA	Annual physicals not current.
НВ	Dentals not current.
HC	Vision not current.
9A	Inadequate information on case plan.



### **Baltimore City**



Baltimore City had a total of 63 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Non-Relative Adoption: 5 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody & Guardianship: 4 cases
- > Non-Relative Custody & Guardianship: 18 cases
- > Reunification: 30 cases
- > APPLA: 5 cases
- ➤ Relative Placement for Adoption: 1 case

### <u>Permanency</u>

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 42 of the 63 cases reviewed.

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

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

# Category of APPLA plan (5 cases)

Emancipation/Independence (5)

# Permanent Connections (APPLA – 5 cases)

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



# Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	9	1	2	2	10	3
7 to 11 months	2		1	1	2	1
1 to 2 years	7		1	2	2	1
2 to 3 years	10				4	
3 years or more	2			•		
Totals →63	30	1	4	5	18	5

### Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 37 of the 63 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 8 cases. 6 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 30 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for 7 of the 8 signed cases.

# Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
2	None
12	Formal Kinship Care
1	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
3	Regular Foster Care
6	Restricted Foster Care (Relative)
28	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
4	Residential Group Home
1	Therapeutic Group Home
5	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Residential Treatment Cetner

In 31 of the 63 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 61 of the 63 cases reviewed.



### **Placement Stability**

In 11 of the 63 cases reviewed, there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 5 cases had 1 placement change, 4 cases had 2 changes, 1 case had 3 changes and 1 case had 4 or more placement changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 3 of 11 cases.

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

- 2 case(s) were less restrictive placements
- 8 case(s) were same level of care
- 1 case(s) unknown, info not available

The primary reason for the most recent placement changes:

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

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) provider home closed
- 1 case(s) provider request
- 2 case(s) allegation of provider abuse or neglect
- 1 case(s) incompatible match
- 4 case(s) placement not due to provider issue
- 2 case(s) unknown, info not available

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

- 10 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 5 cases

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 25 of the 63 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 38 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 24 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 35 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 24 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 17 of the 63 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 20 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 20 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 13 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 13 children/youths.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: Yes. 5 children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 40 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 39 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- ➤ Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 24 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 of 40 children/youths with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and had no 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: 20 children/youths had behavioral issues.



- ➤ Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 11 children/youths.
- > Standard Health Exams: 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of 19 of the 63 children/youths had been met.

### Education

47 of the 63 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 46 children/youths were in Pre-K thru 12th grade and 1 youth was enrolled in college. 4 children/youths refused to attend school. 12 children/youths were under the age of 5.

18 of the 46 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan, and 13 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 26 of the 46 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade.

The local board agreed that 22 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

### Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older 18 cases)
  - 8 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.
  - 8 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.
  - 10 youths were referred to summer or year-round training and/or employment opportunities.
  - 1 youths was 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 – 18 cases)

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

1 youth did not participate due to being medically fragile. 3 youths did not participate due to mental health reasons.

9 youths had completed a life skills assessment.

6 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

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

# ➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)

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

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

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (none)

# Pre-Adoptive Placement (7 cases)

7 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple for 3 cases and a single female for 4 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child/youth was foster parent relative for 2 cases and foster parent non-relative for 5 case.



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

- ➤ 1 case(s) 12 to 15 months
- > 1 case(s) 16 to 20 months
- > 5 case(s) 21 months or more

A home study was completed for the 6 of 7 placements and approved. A family social summary was given for 6 of 7 cases.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for all 7 cases.

### Adoptive Recruitment (4 cases)

The local board found that the local department had documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for the 4 children/youths not placed in pre-adoptive home. 1 of 4 children/youths were listed with Adopt Us Kids.

The local board found the adoptive recruitment efforts appropriate for the 4 children/youths.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (none)

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

1 of 63 cases had a CASA.

### Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 59 of the 63 cases.

### Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	28	4
No	35	59

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives	
Daily			
Once a week	14		

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More than once a week	1	
Once a month	7	
More than once a month	3	3
Quarterly	3	1
Yes, but undocumented		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives	
Supervised	18	1	
Unsupervised	10	3	

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency	16	1
Representative		
Other Agency		
Representative		
Biological Family Member	1	
Foster Parent		
Other/not indicated	1	

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	4	3
LDSS Visitation Center	10	
Public Area	2	
Child's/Youth's Placement	3	1
Other	9	

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	3	
No	36	35

# Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 35 of 63 children/youths had siblings in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 22 children/youths. 26 children/youths with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 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 44

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of the 63 children/youths reviewed.

# Barriers/Issues

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

Code	Fourth Quarter Baltimore City Barriers
AG	Lack of concurrent planning.
AR	Missing or lack of documentation.
AN	Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
AK	No service agreement with parents.
AQ	Worker did not submit referral for needed resource.
AL	No service agreement with youth.
AS	Lack of follow up.
AG	Lack of concurrent planning.
BE	Non-compliant with service agreement.
BF	Not following up on referrals.
BG	Refusal to locate or maintain employment.
BY	Child/youth has runaway history.
BZ	Other child/youth related barrier.
CY	No concurrent plan by court.
CZ	Other court related barrier.
FA	Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
EA	Youth not enrolled in school.
EC	Youth not receiving adequate services.
ED	No current IEP.
EE	School not implementing IEP.
EF	School not meeting youth's behavioral needs.
EZ	Other education barrier.
HA	Annual physicals not current.
НВ	Dentals not current.
HD	No follow up or medical referrals.
HC	Vision not current.
MA	Youth has not been assessed for mental health concerns.
MC	Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
MZ	Other mental health barrier.
IC	Inadequate preparation for independence.
IZ	Other independence barrier.
9Z	Other administrative barrier.
4A	Poor coordination within DSS.



4E	Inadequate communication between DSS and POC agency.
4G	Poor coordination between DSS and POC agency.
2A	Inadequate casework services.
2B	Lack of progress in implementation.
2H	Failure to initiate show cause committee.
2Z	Other implementation barrier.
SA	No current safe custody & guardianship



# 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.



# 4th 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:	100%
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Number of Responses Received: <sup>1</sup>	140
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Percentage of DSS Responses:	69%
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Number Received on Time:	108
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Percentage Received on Time	77%
Number of Boards Held	5 <del>4</del>
Recommendation Reports - Number of DSS Agreement:	
Recommendation Reports - Percentage of DSS Agreement:	97%
Recommendation Reports - Number of DSS Disagreement:	4
Recommendation Reports - Percentage of DSS Disagreement:	3%
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:	33%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT - Adoption Children Reviewed:	1%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT - C & G Children Reviewed:	4%
Percentage of ADOPTION Children Reviewed for the Period:	
Percentage of CUSTODY/GUARDIANSHIP Children Reviewed for the Period:	16%
Percentage of APPLA Children Reviewed for the Period:	29%

Citizens Review Board for Children

1100 Eastern Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21221 ● Phone: (410) 238-1320 ● Fax: (410) 238-1395 email: crbc.mail@maryland.gov website: http://dhr.maryland.gov/crbc

<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



## **CRBC Staff**

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Alexis Thomason Assistant Administrator

Hassan Aslam Information Technology Officer

Hope Smith IT Functional Analyst

Michele Foster, MSW Child Welfare Specialist

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

Nikia Greene Child Welfare Specialist

Lakira Whitaker Volunteer Activities Coordinator II

> Cindy Hunter-Gray Lead Secretary

Agnes Marie Smith Executive Assistant

> LeShae Harris Office Clerk II



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