

Citizens Review Board For Children



SECOND QUARTER
FISCAL YEAR 2018 REPORT
(October 1st, 2017 – December 31st 2017)

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Our Mission Statement

To conduct case reviews of children in out-of-home care case reviews, make timely individual case and systemic child welfare recommendations; and advocate for legislative and systematic child welfare improvements to promote safety and permanency.

Our Vision Statement

We envision the protection of all children from abuse and neglect, only placing children in out-of-home care when necessary; and providing families with the help they need to stay intact; children will be safe in a permanent living arrangement.

Discrimination Statement

The Citizens Review Board for Children (CRBC) renounces any policy or practice of discrimination on the basis of race, gender, national origin, ethnicity, religion, disability, or sexual orientation that is or would be applicable to its citizen reviewers or staff or to the children, families, and employees involved in the child welfare system (CRBC, 2013).

Confidentiality

CRBC local board members are bound by strict confidentiality requirements. Under Article 88A, § 6, all records concerning out-of-home care are confidential and unauthorized disclosure is a criminal offense subject to a fine not exceeding \$500 or imprisonment not exceeding 90 days, or both. Each local board member shall be presented with the statutory language on confidentiality, including the penalty for breach thereof, and sign a confidentiality statement prior to having access to any confidential information.

CRBC Acknowledgements

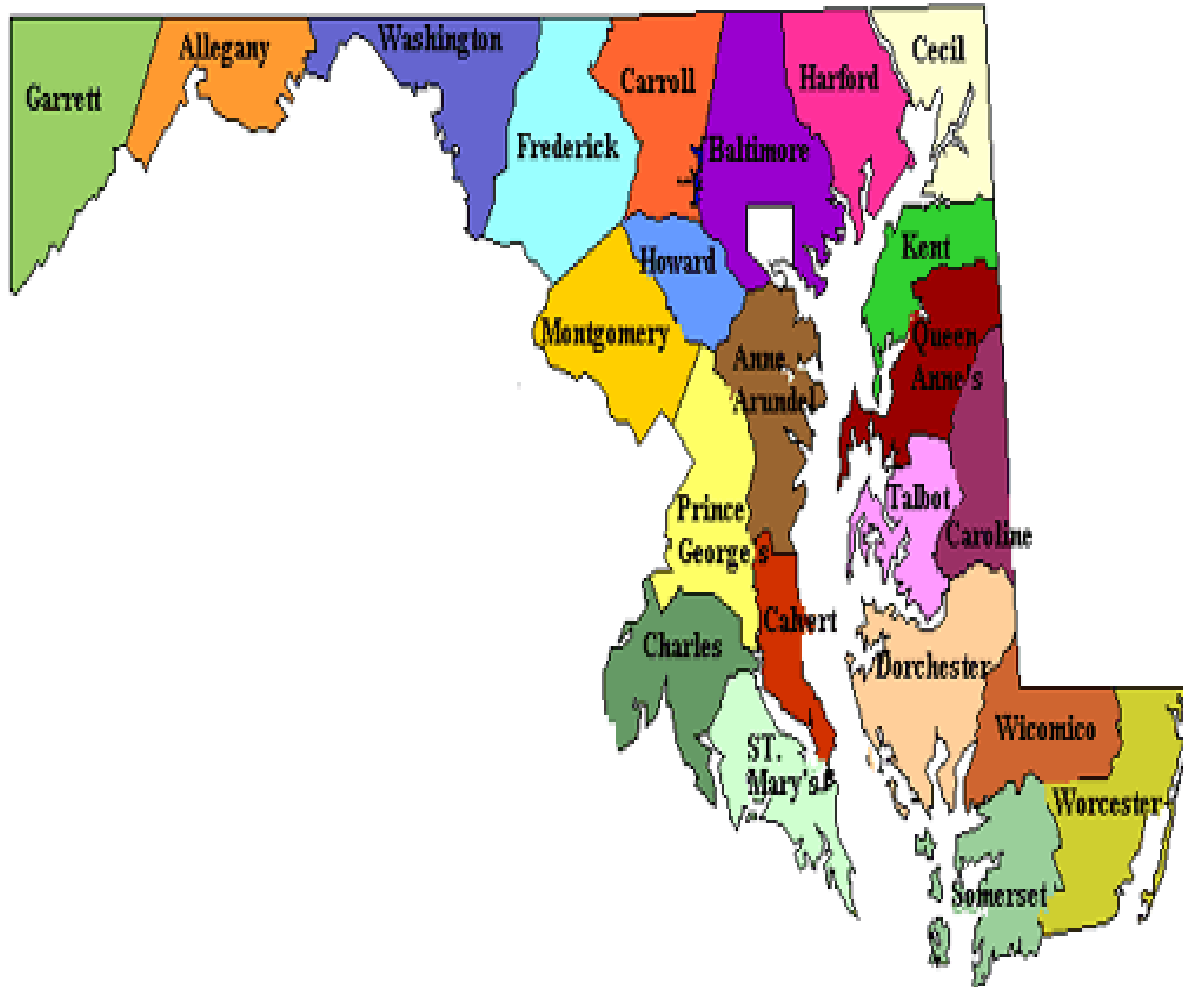
CRBC would like to acknowledge the commitment, dedication, passion and service of all stakeholders on behalf of Maryland's most vulnerable children including:

- ★ CRBC Governor Appointed Volunteers
- ★ The Department of Human Services (DHS)
- ★ The Social Services Administration (SSA)
- ★ The Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS) and (DHHS) Montgomery County
- ★ The Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children(CPMC)
- ★ The State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (SCCAN)
- ★ The State Child Fatality Review Team (SCFRT)
- ★ The Local Juvenile Courts of Maryland
- ★ All community partners

*Thank
You*

Introduction

The following pages contain data from CRBC's out-of-home-placement case review findings and recommendations for the 2nd Quarter Fiscal Year 2018.



CRBC conducts regular out-of-home placement case reviews in all 24 Maryland jurisdictions including Baltimore City throughout the year. For this quarterly report, the following counties did not have regularly scheduled case reviews during the quarter: Allegany, Caroline, Dorchester, Garrett, Kent, Queen Anne, Somerset, and Talbot counties. Therefore, this report only contains review findings and recommendations for the 15 counties and Baltimore City that had regularly scheduled reviews.

Targeted Review Criterion

The Social Services Administration (SSA) and the Citizens Review Board for Children (CRBC) together have created a review work plan for targeted reviews of children in out-of-home-placement. This work plan contains targeted review criteria based on out- of-home-placement permanency plans.

Reunification:

- ★ Already established plans of Reunification for youth 10 years of age and older. CRBC will conduct a review for a child 10 years of age and older who has an established primary permanency plan of Reunification, and has been in care 12 months or longer.

Adoption:

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

Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA):

- ★ Already established plans of APPLA for youth 16 years of age and younger. CRBC will conduct a full review of a child 16 years of age and younger who has an established primary permanency plan of APPLA. The primary purpose of the review is to assess appropriateness of the plan and review documentation of the Federal APPLA requirements.
- ★ Newly established plans of APPLA. CRBC will conduct a review of a child within 5 months after the establishment of APPLA as the primary permanency plan. Local Boards will review cases to ensure that local departments have made adequate and appropriate efforts to assess if a plan of APPLA was the most appropriate recourse for the child.

Older Youth Aging Out

- ★ Older youth aging-out or remaining in out-of-home care at age 17 and 20 years old. CRBC will conduct reviews of youth that are 17 and 20 years of age. The primary purpose of the review is to assess if services were provided to prepare the youth to transition to adulthood.

Re-Review Cases:

- ★ Assessment of progress made by LDSS. CRBC will conduct follow-up reviews during the fourth quarter of the current fiscal year of any cases wherein the Local Board identified barriers that may impede adequate progress. The purpose of the review is to assess the status of the child and any progress made by LDSS to determine if identified barriers have been removed.

Permanency Plan Hierarchy

In 2005, Maryland House Bill 771 adjusted the state permanency goals to align with the federal standards. The permanency plan hierarchy in Maryland is as follows: (Social Services Administration, 2012):

- Reunification with parent(s) or guardian
- Placement with a relative for adoption or custody/guardianship
- Adoption by a non-relative
- Custody/Guardianship with a non relative
- Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)

Family Centered Practice Model

According to the Social Services Administration, Family Centered Practice assures that the entire system of care engages the family in helping them to improve their ability to adequately plan for the care and safety of their children. The safety, well-being and permanence of children are paramount. The strengths of the entire family are the focus of the engagement (2010).

2nd Quarter Case Review Statistics

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

Jurn #	County	Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA	TOTAL	# Boards Held
02	Anne Arundel	5	1	5	0	2	13	2
03	Baltimore County	11	1	14	0	12	38	5
04	Calvert	6	0	0	0	2	8	1
06	Carroll	2	0	0	0	6	8	1
07	Cecil	4	0	0	0	4	8	1
08	Charles	3	0	2	4	0	9	1
10	Frederick	1	0	2	0	2	5	1
12	Harford	2	3	2	2	6	15	2
13	Howard	1	0	1	0	5	7	1
15	Montgomery	18	2	7	2	7	36	6
16	Prince Georges	8	0	3	1	15	27	4
18	Saint Mary's	4	0	1	0	0	5	1
21	Washington	4	0	2	0	2	8	1
22	Wicomico	1	0	2	0	0	3	1
23	Worcester	2	0	2	0	4	8	1
49	Baltimore City	16	10	8	0	52	86	12
	Statewide Totals	88	*17	51	9	119	284	41
	Percentages	31%	6%	18%	3%	42%	100%	

*(Note: Relative Placement is the combined total of Relative Placement for Adoption = 3; Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship = 14)

CRBC conducted a total of 284 individual out-of-home case reviews (each case reviewed represents 1 child/youth) in 16 Jurisdictions on 41 boards that held reviews during the 2nd quarter of fiscal year 2018.

Although CRBC collects data on a number of data elements, this report will focus on the following:

- Permanency Plan - (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (E))
- Placement Plan - (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (I))
- Progress towards Permanent Placement - (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F))
- Case Planning
- Health/Mental Health (family article 5-545)
- Education (family article 5-545)
- Ready by 21
- Independent Living Skills (14 and older)
- Employment (14 and older)
- Housing (Transitioning Youth age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the time of the review)
- Permanent Connections

- Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
- Pre-Adoption Services
- Post-Adoption Services
- Barriers/Issues to Permanency
- Miscellaneous Findings

Total Reviewed (284)

Gender Totals

Male	Female
124 (44%)	160 (56%)

Gender by Plan

Male(124)

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA
41 (33%)	4(3%)	23 (19%)	4 (3%)	52 (42%)

Female(160)

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA
47 (29%)	13 (8%)	28 (18%)	5 (3%)	67 (42%)

Ethnicity Overall

African American	Caucasian	Asian	Other
176 (62%)	91 (32%)	1 (<.03%)	16 (6%)

Age Range by Permanency Plan

[RE] = Reunification

[RA]= Relative Adoption

[RG] = Relative C & G

[AD] = Non Relative Adoption

[CG] = Non Relative C & G

[AP] = Appla

AGE RANGE	RE	RA	RG	AD	CG	AP	Totals
1_age 0 thru 5	17	3	3	22			45
2_age 6 thru 10	11		1	12	4		28
3_age 11 thru 13	17		3	9	2		31
4_age 14 thru 16	28		6	8	3	6	51
5_age 17 thru 19	15		1			60	76
6_age 20						53	53
Totals	88	3	14	51	9	119	284

Jurisdictional Case Reviews

Anne Arundel County



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

- Reunification: 5 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- Non Relative Adoption: 5 cases
- APPLA: 2 cases

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 13 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (2)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings: The local department held family involvement meetings within the last 6 months of the review for 9 of the 13 cases.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in all 13 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement in 9 of the 13 cases. 1 mother refused to sign in 1 case and both parents refused to sign in another case.

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

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
5	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
3	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
2	Therapeutic Group Home
2	None
1	Independent Living Residential Program

Placement Stability

In 7 of the 13 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 6 of the 13 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 4 cases had 1 change and 2 cases had 3 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in 12 of the 13 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 4 of the 13 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 11 children had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 12 children had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 10 children had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 10 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 6 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 children were taking psychotropic medication.

- Mental Health Issues: 8 children had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 7 of the 8 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 4 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 4 of the children.

The local board found that the health needs of 10 of 13 children had been met.

Education

8 of the 13 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 5 children were under the age of 5.

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

Ready by 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 7 cases)

None of the 7 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth with a mental health reason was unable to obtain employment.

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

The local board agreed that 5 of the 7 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – None)

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

Not applicable

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

8 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed in 12 of the 13 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. All 5 children with plans of adoption were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement (5 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

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

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

- 2 case(s) from 10 to 12 months
- 2 case(s) from 16 to 20 months
- 1 case(s) 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved for all 5 children.

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

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for all 5 cases. The service that was needed was medical for all 5 cases.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that 9 of the 13 children had visits with parents and in 3 of the 9 cases, the visits were supervised. Visits occurred at the parents' home, visitation center/local DSS, or at the child's placement.

The local board found that 5 of the 13 children had siblings in care. All 5 children had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers to Permanency

There were no barriers/issues identified.

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 13 children reviewed.

Baltimore County



Baltimore County had a total of 38 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 11 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- Non Relative Adoption: 14 cases
- APPLA: 12 cases

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 12 of the 38 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent plans set by the court for the 12 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (12 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (12)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 12 cases)

5 of the 12 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 5 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings: The local department held family involvement meetings within the last 6 months of the review for all 38 cases.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 22 of the 38 cases and had a signed service agreement in 9 cases. There was 1 case where the mother refused to sign and 2 cases where the youths refused to sign.

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

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
2	Formal Kinship Care
10	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
15	Treatment Foster Care (private)
1	Residential Group Home
4	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Independent Living Residential Program
2	Residential Treatment Center
1	Restricted Foster Care (relative)
1	None

Placement Stability

In 27 of the 38 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 13 of the 38 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 5 cases had 1 placement change and 8 cases had 2 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 38 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 6 of the 38 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 29 children had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 28 children had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 29 children had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 24 children had completed medical records in their case files.

- Prescription Medication: 18 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 17 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 20 children had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, 19 of the 20 children had mental health issues addressed.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and there was not an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child had substance abuse issues.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No.
- Behavioral Issues: 5 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 3 of the 5 children.

The local board found that the health needs of 24 of the 38 children had been met.

Education

24 of 38 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program, 6 youths had graduated from high school, 1 youth refused to attend school and 7 children were under the age of 5.

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

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 23 cases)

8 of the 23 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth was medically fragile and unable to obtain employment.

The local board agreed that 8 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

The local board agreed that 20 of the 23 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing(Transitioning Youth aged 20 – 6 cases)

Housing had been specified for 2 of the 6 youths that were transitioning out of care.

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

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

9 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed in 36 of the 38 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 3 children/youths consented to adoption, 10 children were under the age of consent and 1 youth did not consent to be adopted.

Adoptive Placement (14 Cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

10 of the 14 children with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple in 6 cases, an unmarried couple in 1 case, a single female in 1 case and a single male in 1 case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children was a non relative foster parent in the 10 cases.

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

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

A home study was completed and approved in all 10 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive families to meet the identified needs of the children in 6 of the 10 cases.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate in all 10 cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed in the 10 cases. The services that were needed were medical for the 10 cases and mental health for 3 cases.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for the 10 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that 25 of the 38 children had visits with parents and in 10 of the 25 cases, the visits were supervised. Visits occurred at the parent's home, the visitation center/LDSS, a public place or another location.

The local board found that 12 of the 38 cases had siblings in care. 11 of the 12 children had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers to Permanency

There were no barriers/issues identified.

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 35 of the 38 children reviewed.

Calvert County



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

- Reunification: 6 cases
- APPLA: 2 cases

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 5 of the 8 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent plans set by the courts in all 5 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (APPLA- 2 cases)

- Emancipation /Independence (2)

Permanent Connections (APPLA - None)

There were no permanent connections identified for the 2 APPLA 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	4					
1 to 2 years	2					
2 to 3 years						1
3 years or more						1

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings: The local department held family involvement meetings within the last 6 months of the review for all 8 cases.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in all 8 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement in 2 of the 8 cases.

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

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
4	Formal Kinship Care
1	Treatment Foster Care (private)
2	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Non Relative

Placement Stability

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

In 6 of the 8 cases reviewed, there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 5 cases had 1 placement change and 1 case had 2 placement changes.

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

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 8 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 8 children had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 8 children had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 7 children had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that all 8 of the children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 4 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children were taking psychotropic medication.

- Mental Health Issues: 4 children had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, 3 out of the 4 children had mental issues addressed.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and there was not an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for both children.

The local board agreed that the health needs of all 8 children had been met.

Education

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

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

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

1 youth was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

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

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

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

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

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

3 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. There were no children with plans of adoption.

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not applicable, no adoption cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not applicable, no adoption cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that 7 of the 8 children had visits with parents and the visits were unsupervised. Visits occurred at the parents' home or at the child's placement.

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

Barriers to Permanency

There were no barriers/issues identified.

Summary

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

Carroll County



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

- Reunification: 2 cases
- APPLA: 6 cases

Permanency

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (6 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (5)
- Transition to an Adult Supportive Living Arrangement (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 6 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings: The local department held family involvement meetings within the last 6 months of the review for 4 of the 8 cases.

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

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate in all 8 signed cases.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
2	Treatment Foster Care(Private)
3	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Residential Treatment Center
1	Regular Foster Care

Placement Stability

In 1 of the 8 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

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

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 6 of the 8 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 8 children had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 8 children had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 6 children had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 6 of the 8 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 7 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 6 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 7 children had mental health issues.

- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 7 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 2 youth with mental health issues were transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: 2 children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the 2 children.
- Behavioral Issues: 5 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 5 children.

The local board found that the health needs for 6 of the 8 children were met.

Education

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

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

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 7 cases)

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

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

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

The local board agreed that 6 of the 7 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

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

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

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

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

6 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. There were no children with plans of adoption.

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not applicable, no adoption cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not applicable, no adoption cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that 3 of the 8 children had unsupervised visits with parents and 1 child had supervised visits with a relative. The visits occurred at the parents' home, visitation center/LDSS, or in a public area.

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

Barriers to Permanency

There were no barriers/issues identified.

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 of the children reviewed.

Cecil County



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

- Reunification: 4 cases
- APPLA: 4 cases

Permanency

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

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (APPLA – 4 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (2)
- Transition to an Adult Supportive Living Arrangement (2)

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 all 4 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings: The local department held family involvement meetings within the last 6 months of the review for 3 of the 8 cases.

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

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

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Regular Foster Care
3	Treatment Foster Care(Private)
1	Own Dwelling
2	Residential Group Home
1	Therapeutic Group Home

Placement Stability

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

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

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

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 8 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 5 children had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 4 children had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 6 children had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 4 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 7 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 5 children were taking psychotropic medication.

- Mental Health Issues: 8 children had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 6 of the 8 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 3 youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system. 1 youth with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and there was not an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child.
- Behavioral Issues: 8 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 6 of the 8 children.

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

Education

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

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

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

1 of the 4 youths was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and 2 youths had mental health concerns and were unable to obtain employment.

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

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

The local board agreed that 1 of the 4 youths was receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 1 youth had mental health concerns and was unable to attain independent living skills.

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

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

The local board agreed that all 4 youths were being appropriately prepared for transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

5 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. There were no children with plans of adoption.

Adoptive Placement

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not applicable, no adoption cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Not applicable, no adoption cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that all 8 children had visits with parents and in 4 of the 8 cases the visits were supervised. Visits occurred at the parents' home or the visitation center/LDSS.

The local board found that 5 of the 8 children had siblings in care. 4 of the 5 children had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers to Permanency

There were no barriers/issues identified.

Summary

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

Charles County



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

- Reunification: 3 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 2 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 4 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan for all 9 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 7 of the 9 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plan identified by the courts in the 7 cases.

Category of APPLA plan

Not applicable, no APPLA cases.

Permanent Connections

Not applicable, no APPLA cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings: The local department held family involvement meetings within the last 6 months of the review for all 9 cases.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in all 9 cases reviewed and there were no signed service agreements for any of the cases.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
2	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
7	Treatment Foster Care (private)

Placement Stability

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

In 7 of the 9 cases reviewed, there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. The 7 cases had 2 placement changes.

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

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the children/youths had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 9 children had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 9 children had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 8 children had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that all 9 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 8 children had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 8 children.

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

The local board agreed that the health needs of all 9 children were being met.

Education

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

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

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – None)
Not applicable.
- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – None)
Not applicable.
- Housing (Transitioning Youth - None)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)
Not applicable.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

9 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed in all 9 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

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

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

- 2 case(s) from 12 to 15 months

A home study was completed and approved for both cases.

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

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for both cases. The services that were needed were medical and educational services.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that all 9 children had visits with parents and all of the visits were supervised. Visits occurred at the visitation center/LDSS or in a public area.

The local board found that all 9 children had siblings in care and they all had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers to Permanency

There were no barriers/issues identified.

Summary

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

Frederick County



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

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

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 5 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)

1 of the 2 APPLA cases 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				2		
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years	1					1
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more						1

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings: The local department held family involvement meetings within the last 6 months of the review for 1 of the 5 cases.

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

The local department found that the service agreements were appropriate in all 5 signed cases.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
2	Pre-finalized Adoptive Home
3	Residential Treatment Center

Placement Stability

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

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

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

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 5 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 5 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 5 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 3 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 4 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 1 child was taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child was taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 4 children had mental health issues
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 4 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child had a substance abuse problem.

- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 3 children.

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

Education

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

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

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

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

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

The local board agreed that 1 of the 3 youths were receiving appropriate independent living skills.

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

Not applicable.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

5 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed in all 5 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 1 child/youth was medically fragile and was unable to consent and 1 child was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

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

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

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

A home study was completed and approved in both cases.

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

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

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

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that 3 of the 5 children had visits with parents and in 2 of the 3 cases, the visits were supervised. Visits occurred at the parents' home and the visitation center/LDSS.

The local board found that none of children had siblings in care.

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Lack of concurrent planning
- Dental exams not current
- Other family related barrier
- Other independence barrier

Summary

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

Harford County



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

- Reunification: 2 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 3 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 2 cases
- Non-Relative Custody/Guardianship: 2 cases
- APPLA: 6 cases

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 4 of the 15 cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan (6 cases)

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

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 6 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings: The local department held family involvement meetings within the last 6 months of the review for 9 of the 15 cases.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 13 of the 15 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement in 10 cases.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate in all 10 signed cases.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
2	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
3	Regular Foster Care
1	Residential Group Home
1	Residential Treatment Center
3	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Own Dwelling
1	Restricted Foster Care (relative)
2	None

Placement Stability

In 6 of the 15 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 8 of the 15 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 4 cases had 1 placement change, 3 cases had 2 placement changes and 1 case had 3 placement changes.

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

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: 3 children had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 14 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 11 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 8 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 8 of the 15 children had completed medical records in their case files.

- Prescription Medication: 11 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 10 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 12 children had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 12 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child had substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child.
- Behavioral Issues: 9 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 9 children.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 8 of the 15 children were met and 1 youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

11 of the 15 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 youth had graduated from high school, 2 youths were attending college and 1 child was under age 5.

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

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 11 cases)

1 of the 11 youths was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and 3 youths had mental health concerns and were unable to obtain employment.

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

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

The local board agreed that 7 of the 11 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

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

Not applicable.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

9 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed in 13 of the 15 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

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

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

- 1 case(s) from 12 to 15 months
- 1 case(s) from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved for both cases.

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

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

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

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that 9 of the 15 children had visits with parents and in 5 of the 9 cases, the visits were supervised. Visits occurred at the parents' home, visitation center/LDSS or at child's placement.

The local board found that 4 of the 15 children had siblings in care, and 3 of the 4 children had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- Child has behavior problems in the home
- Non-compliant with service agreement
- Youth refuses mental health treatment
- Refusal to locate or maintain employment

Summary

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

Howard County



Howard County had a total of 7 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 1 case
- Adoption: 1 case
- APPLA: 5 cases

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court did not identify any concurrent permanency plans for the 7 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (5 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 5 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings: The local department held family involvement meetings within the last 6 months of the review for 3 of the 7 cases.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in all 7 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement in 5 of the 7 cases.

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

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
3	Treatment Foster Care (private)
1	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	None

Placement Stability

In 2 of the 7 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 3 of the 7 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. All 3 cases had 1 placement change.

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

Health/Mental Health

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

- Psychotropic Medication: 4 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child had a substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 3 children.
- Mental Health Issues: 5 children had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 4 of the 5 children
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 6 of the 7 children were being met.

Education

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

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

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older –6 cases)

2 youths were participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that the youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

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

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

Not applicable.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

6 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed in all 7 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 1 child was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement (1 case)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

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

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

- 1 child from 16 to 20 months

A home study was completed and approved for the child.

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

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

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

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that 4 of the 7 children had visits with parents and in all 4 cases, the visits were unsupervised. Visits occurred at the parent's home or at the child's placement.

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

Barriers to Permanency

There were no barriers/issues identified.

Summary

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

Montgomery County



Montgomery County had a total of 36 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 18 cases
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 1 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 1 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 7 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 2 cases
- APPLA: 7 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 31 of 36 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 2 of the 36 cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan (7 Cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (7)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 7 cases)

5 of the 7 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		1		1
7 to 11 months	2			1	1	
1 to 2 years	14		1	4	1	1
2 to 3 years	2			1		2
3 years or more						3

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings: The local department held family involvement meetings within the last 6 months of the review for 16 out of the 36 cases.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 24 of the 36 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement in 12 of the 36 cases.

The local board found the service agreement was appropriate in the 12 signed cases.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Formal Kinship Care
6	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
6	Regular Foster Care
6	Restricted Foster Home (Relative)
5	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
4	Therapeutic Group Home
3	Independent Living Residential Program
3	Residential Treatment Center
1	Relative
1	Own Dwelling

Placement Stability

In 17 of the 36 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 8 of the 36 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 6 cases had 1 placement change and 2 cases had 2 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in all 36 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: 8 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 30 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 25 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 28 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 25 children had completed medical records in their case files.

- Prescription Medication: 15 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 13 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 21 children had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 21 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with a mental health issue was transitioning out of care and there was an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system. 2 youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care and there was not an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child.
- Behavioral Issues: 10 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 10 children.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 24 children had been met and 1 youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

25 of the 36 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 1 youth had already graduated high school, 2 youths were enrolled in college, 1 youth was enrolled in trade school and 7 children were under age 5.

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

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 16 cases)

7 of the 16 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that 7 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

The local board agreed that 11 of the 16 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 1 youth had a mental health concern and was unable to attain independent living skills.

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

Housing had been specified for 4 of the 6 youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the 4 youths were being appropriately prepared for transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

20 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed in all 36 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 1 youth consented, 3 youths consented with conditions, 2 youths were medically fragile and unable to consent and 2 children were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement (8 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

7 of the 8 children with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure comprised of a married couple for 3 cases and 4 cases were comprised of a single female. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children was a non relative foster parent for 5 cases, a relative foster parent for 1 case and a fictive kin foster parent for 1 case.

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

- 1 case(s) from 7 to 9 months
- 1 case(s) from 16 to 20 months
- 5 case(s) from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved for 6 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive families to meet identified needs of the children in the 7 cases.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate in the 7 cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for the 8 adoption cases. The services that were needed

were medical for all 8 cases, mental health services for 2 cases, educational services for 3 cases, respite services for 2 cases, and DDA services for 2 cases.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that 22 of the 36 children had visits with parents and in 12 of the 22 cases, the visits were supervised. Visits occurred at the parents' home, visitation center/LDSS, public area, the child's placement or at another location.

The local board found that 15 of the 36 children had siblings in care and that 14 of the 15 children had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No Service Agreement With Parents
- Annual Physicals Not Current
- Dentals Exams Not Current

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 36 children reviewed.

Prince George's County



Prince George's County had a total of 27 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 8 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 3 cases
- Non Relative Custody & Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 15 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 26 of the 27 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 1 of the 27 cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan (15 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (15)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 15 cases)

6 of the 15 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 6 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings: The local department held family involvement meetings within the last 6 months of the review for all 27 cases.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 14 of the 27 cases reviewed and did not have signed service agreements for 25 cases.

2 youths refused to sign the service agreement and 2 cases were post TPR child under the age of 14.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
2	Relative
2	Pre Finalized Adoptive Home
11	Treatment Foster Care (private)
3	Independent Living Residential Program
4	Therapeutic Group Home
3	Residential Treatment Center
1	None
1	Own Dwelling

Placement Stability

In 19 of the 27 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 15 of the 27 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 9 cases had 1 placement change and 6 cases had 2 placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in 26 of the 27 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 4 of the 27 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 12 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 10 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 8 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 6 children had

completed medical records in their case files.

- Prescription Medication: 8 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 8 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 18 children had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 15 of the 18 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 5 youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care and there was not an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: 4 children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 4 children.
- Behavioral Issues: 7 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 6 of the 7 children.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 6 children had been met and 1 youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

14 of the 27 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 6 youths had graduated high school, 3 youths were attending college, 1 youth was in trade school, 2 youths refused to attend school and 1 child was under age 5.

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

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 20 cases)

11 of the 20 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that 11 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 20 cases)

The local board agreed that 16 of the 20 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

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

Housing had been specified for 3 of the 7 youths transitioning out of care.

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

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

5 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed in all 27 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 1 youth was medically fragile and unable to consent and 2 children were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement (3 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

2 of the 3 children with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple in 1 case and a single female for the other case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children for both cases was a non relative foster parent.

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

- 2 case(s) from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved in 1 of the 2 cases.

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

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for the 3 cases. The services that were needed were medical for all 3 cases, mental health for 1 case and educational for 1 case.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that 15 of the 27 children had visits with parents and in 2 of the 15 cases, the visits were supervised. Visits occurred at the parents' home, the visitation center/LDSS, a public area or the child's placement.

The local board found that 9 of the 27 children had siblings in care. 8 of the 9 children had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No Service Agreement With Parents
- Annual Physicals Not Current
- Dentals Not Current

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 27 of the children reviewed.

Saint Mary's County



St. Mary's County had a total of 5 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 4 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 1 case

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 3 of the 5 cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan (None)

Not applicable.

Permanent Connections (None)

Not applicable.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings: The local department held family involvement meetings within the last 6 months of the review for all 5 cases.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 4 of the 5 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement in 4 of the 5 cases. 1 case was a post TPR child under the age of 14.

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

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
3	Residential Treatment Center
1	Pre-finalized Adoptive Home

Placement Stability

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

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

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

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 5 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 5 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 5 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 5 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 5 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 4 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children had behavioral issues.

- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 2 children.
- Mental Health Issues: 4 children had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 4 children
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the health needs of all 5 children were being met.

Education

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

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

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

Neither of the youths was participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

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

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

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

Not applicable.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 5 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed in all 5 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 1 child was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement (1 case)

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

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources – (1 case)

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

- 1 case from 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved for the child.

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources – (1 case)

Post adoptive services were needed and the service needed was mental health.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that 2 of the 5 children had visits with parents, and in both cases the visits were supervised. Visits occurred at the parents' home or the child's placement.

The local board found that 3 of the 5 children had siblings in care. None of the 3 children had visits with their siblings.

Barriers to Permanency

There were no barriers/issues identified.

Summary

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

Washington County



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

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

Permanency

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (2 Cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (2)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 cases)

1 of the 2 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate.

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						
1 to 2 years	1					1
2 to 3 years	2					
3 years or more						1

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings: The local department held family involvement meetings within the last 6 months of the review for all 8 cases.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in all 8 of the cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement in 4 of the 8 cases.

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

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
5	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
2	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Own Dwelling

Placement Stability

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

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

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

Health/Mental Health

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

- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for both children
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and there was not an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 6 of the 8 children were being met.

Education

7 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program and 1 youth had already graduated high school.

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

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 6 cases)

1 of the 6 youths was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

The local board agreed that 5 of the 6 youths were receiving appropriate 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.

The local board agreed that the 1 youth was being appropriately prepared for transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

6 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

Both children with an adoption plan were not placed in pre-adoptive homes.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were not needed for the 2 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that 7 of the 8 cases had visits with parents and in 4 of the 7 cases, the visits were supervised. Visits occurred at the parents' home and at the visitation centers/LDSS.

The local board found that 6 of the children had siblings in care. All 6 children had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers to Permanency

There were no barriers/issues identified.

Summary

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

Wicomico County



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

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

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in all 3 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 3 cases.

Category of APPLA plan: None

Not applicable.

Permanent Connections (APPLA - None)

Not applicable.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings: The local department held family involvement meetings within the last 6 months of the review for all 3 cases.

Service Agreements: The local board found that the local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 1 of the 3 cases. There were no signed service agreements because 1 youth refused to sign the service agreement and 2 cases were post TPR and the children were under the age of 14.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Residential Treatment Center
2	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home

Placement Stability

In 2 of the 3 cases reviewed children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

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

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 3 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 3 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 3 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 2 children had received a current dental exam and 1 child under age 2.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that all 3 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 3 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child was taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child.
- Behavioral Issues: 1 child had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child.
- Mental Health Issues: 1 child had mental health issues.

- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the health needs of all 3 children were being met.

Education

1 of the 3 children/youths reviewed was enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program and 2 were under the age of 5.

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

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 1 case)

The youth was not employed nor participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

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

The local board agreed that the youth was not receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

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

Not applicable.

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 in all 3 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

Both children with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was a single female for 1 case and a married couple for the other case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children was a non relative foster parent for 1 child, and a fictive kin foster parent for the other child.

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

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

A home study was completed and approved for both cases.

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

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were not needed for the 2 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that 1 of the 3 children had visits with parents and the visits were unsupervised. The visits occurred at the child's placement for the 1 case.

The local board found that 2 of the 3 children had siblings in care. Both children had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers to Permanency

There were no barriers/issues identified.

Summary

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

Worcester County



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

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

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 6 of the 8 cases reviewed.

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

Category of APPLA plan (4 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (4)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 4 cases)

All 4 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for 3 of 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
1 to 2 years	2					2
2 to 3 years				1		
3 years or more				1		1

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings: The local department held family involvement meetings within the last 6 months of the review for 3 of the 8 cases.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in all 8 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement for 7 of the 8 cases. 1 mother refused to sign the service agreement.

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

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
1	Regular Foster Care
1	Pre Finalized Adoptive Home
4	Treatment Foster Care (private)
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Own Dwelling

Placement Stability

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

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

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

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 8 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 7 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 6 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 7 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 6 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 6 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 6 children were taking psychotropic medication.

- Mental Health Issues: 8 children had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 8 of the children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None of the children had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 4 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 4 children.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 5 children had been met and 1 youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

5 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 2 youths were attending college and 1 youth refused to attend school.

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

Ready by 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 7 cases)

4 of the 7 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and 2 youths had mental health concerns and were unable to obtain employment.

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

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

The local board agreed that 4 of the 7 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – None)

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

Not applicable.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

6 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed in 7 of the 8 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 1 youth consented to adoption.

Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

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

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

- 1 case(s) from 16 to 20 months

A home study was completed and approved for the child.

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

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for the 2 cases. The services that were needed for both cases were medical, mental health and educational services.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found that 2 of the 8 children had visits with parents and in both cases, the visits were supervised. Visits occurred at the visitation center/LDSS.

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

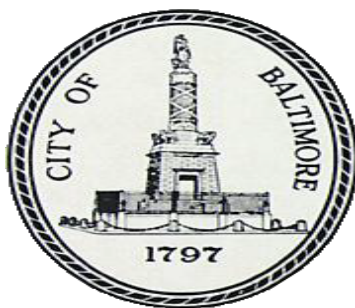
Barriers to Permanency

There were no barriers/issues identified.

Summary

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

Baltimore City



Baltimore City had a total of 86 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 16 cases
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 2 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 8 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 8 cases
- APPLA: 52 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the permanency plan in 78 of the 86 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 1 of the 86 cases reviewed.

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

Category of APPLA plan (52 cases)

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

- Emancipation/Independence (44)
- Transition to an Adult Supportive Living Arrangement (8)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 52 cases)

42 of the 52 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for 40 of the 42 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	2		5	2		12
7 to 11 months	4	2	2			4
1 to 2 years	3		1	2		16
2 to 3 years	4			3		10
3 years or more	3			1		10

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings: The local department held family involvement meetings within the last 6 months of the review for 29 of the 86 cases.

Service Agreements: The local department made efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process in 52 of the 86 cases reviewed and had a signed service agreement in 27 of the 86 cases. 5 mothers refused to sign the service agreement and 4 children were post TPR and under the age of 14.

The local board found that the service agreement was appropriate in the 27 signed cases.

Placement

Number of Cases	Placement
5	Formal Kinship Care
10	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
4	Regular Foster Care
23	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
4	Teen Mother Program
1	Therapeutic Group Home
19	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Non-Relative
4	Own Dwelling
6	Restricted Foster Care (Relative)
9	None

Placement Stability

In 51 of the 86 cases reviewed the children were placed in their home jurisdictions in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

In 49 of the 86 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 25 cases had 1 placement change, 16 cases had 2 placement changes, 4 cases had 3 placement changes and 4 cases had 4 or more placement changes.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan in 83 of the 86 cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 12 of the 86 children reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 53 children had received a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 33 children had received a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 22 children had received a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 16 children had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 33 children were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 21 children were taking psychotropic medication.
- Substance Abuse: 9 children had a substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 9 children.
- Behavioral Issues: 38 children had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 28 of the 38 children.
- Mental Health Issues: 53 children had mental health issues
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 37 of the 53 children.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 6 youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care and there was an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system. 12 youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care and did not have an identified plan.

The local board agreed that the health needs of 20 of the 86 children/youths had been met. 10 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

40 of the 86 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 15 youths had already graduated high school, 8 youths were attending college, 2 youths were in trade school, 11 youths refused to attend school, and 10 were under the age of 5.

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

Ready by 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 63 cases)

17 of the 63 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and the local board agreed that the 17 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals. 1 youth was medically fragile, 1 youth had mental health concerns and 1 youth was in a juvenile facility.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 63 cases)

The local board agreed that 36 of the 63 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 26 cases)

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

Housing had been specified for 16 of the 26 youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the 16 youths were being appropriately prepared for transitioning out of care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

5 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed in 73 of the 86 cases.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 4 children/youths wanted to be adopted, 1 child/youth wanted to be adopted with conditions, and 5 were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement (10 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

All 10 children with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure comprised of a married couple for 6 cases, an unmarried couple for 1 case and a single female for 3 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children was a non relative foster parent for 6 cases, a relative foster parent for 2 cases and a fictive kin foster parent for 2 cases.

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

- 2 case(s) from 1 to 3 months
- 1 case(s) from 7 to 9 months
- 7 case(s) from 21 months or longer

A home study was completed and approved in all 10 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive family to meet the identified needs of the children in all 10 cases.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate for all 10 cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post-adoptive services were needed for 9 of the 10 cases. The services that were needed were medical for all 9 cases, mental health services for 1 case, and educational services for 3 cases.

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive services and resources were appropriate for the 9 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Child Visits with Parents and Siblings

The local board found 43 of the 86 children had visits with parents and in 9 of the 43 cases, the visits were supervised. Visits occurred at the parent's home, visitation centers/LDSS, a public area, the child's placement or an another location.

The local board found that 33 of the 86 children had siblings in care. 30 of the 33 children had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers to Permanency

The following barriers/issues were identified:

- No Service Agreement With Parents
- No Service Agreement With Youth
- Non-Compliant With Service Agreement
- Other Education Barrier
- Other Independence Barrier
- Disrupted Pre-Adoption Placement
- Annual Physicals Not Current
- Dentals Not Current
- Vision Not Current
- Youth Placed Outside of Home Jurisdiction
- Inadequate Preparation For Independence (General)
- Youth Not Attending School Or In GED Program

- Youth Not Employed and Transitioning Out of Care
- Disrupted Pre-Adoption Placement
- Youth Refuses Mental Health Treatment Including Therapy
- Transitional Housing has Not been Identified
- Board Does Not Agree with Current Permanency Plan
- Lack of Concurrent Planning

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 83 out of the 86 children reviewed.

Required Supporting Documentation for CRBC Reviews

The following are reminders of the materials required in accordance with the work plan agreement created between the Department of Human Resources (DHR), Social Services Administration and the Citizens Review Board for Children.

- Each (LDSS) is required to continue to bring the child's complete case records and/or records containing requested supportive documentation to all CRBC case reviews.
- Each (LDSS) should continue supplying CRBC with the most recent and current contact information for all interested parties, including professionals and family members.

Recommendations to All Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS)

- Each (LDSS) should encourage the attendance of children and youth who are 10 years of age and older to attend his/her scheduled CRBC case review.
- Each (LDSS) should encourage foster parent attendance at scheduled CRBC case reviews.
- Each (LDSS) should improve their efforts with documenting concurrent permanency plans.
- Each (LDSS) should improve their efforts with getting parents to sign service agreements for those youth with a permanency plan of reunification.
- Each (LDSS) is required to include the paternal family members as possible resources for all youth who are in out-of-home-placement care.

Independent Living

- Each (LDSS) is required to improve their efforts with preparing youth that have a plan of APPLA to meet their employment goals.

Permanent Connections

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

Adoption

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

2nd Quarter 2018
CRBC Metrics

Total # of Children - Scheduled on the Preliminary:	563
Total # of Children - Closed, Non Submission & Rescheduled:	253
Total # of Children - Eligible for Review:	310
Total # of Children - Reviewed at the Board:	284
Total # of Children - Not Reviewed at the Board:	26
Percentage of Children Reviewed for the Period:	92%
Percentage of Children Not Reviewed for the Period:	8%
Recommendation Reports - Number Sent	284
Recommendation Reports - Number Sent on Time	284
Recommendation Reports - Percent Sent on Time	100%
Recommendation Reports - Number Received – DSS Response	225
Recommendation Reports - Percent Received % - DSS Response	79%
Recommendation Reports - Number Received on Time - DSS Response	59
Recommendation Reports - Percent Received on Time % - DSS Response	26%
Number of Boards Held	41
Recommendation Reports - # of DSS Agreement	218
Recommendation Reports - Percent of DSS Agreement	97%
Recommendation Reports - # of DSS Disagreement	6
Recommendation Reports - Percent of DSS Disagreement	3%
Recommendation Reports - # Blank/Unanswered	1
Recommendation Reports - Percent # Blank/Unanswered	0%
Percentage of REUNIFICATION Children Reviewed for the Period:	31%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT – Adoption Children Reviewed:	1%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT – C & G Children Reviewed:	5%
Percentage of ADOPTION Children Reviewed for the Period:	18%
Percentage of CUSTODY/GUARDIANSHIP Children Reviewed for the Period:	3%
Percentage of APPLA Children Reviewed for the Period:	42%

The State Board

Doretha "Dee" Henry

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

Vacant

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

Delores Alexander (Vice Chairperson)

Circuit 3: Representing Baltimore and Harford Counties

Nettie Anderson-Burrs (Chairperson)

Circuit 4: Representing Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties

Denise Messineo

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

Vacant

Circuit 6: Representing Frederick and Montgomery Counties

DaVina Richardson

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

Beatrice Lee

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

Rita Jones

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

Sarah Walker

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

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