

Citizens Review Board For Children



THIRD QUARTER
FISCAL YEAR 2019 REPORT
(January 1st 2019 – March 31st 2019)

Table of Contents

<u>Our Mission Statement</u>	3
<u>Our Vision Statement</u>	3
<u>Discrimination Statement</u>	3
<u>Confidentiality</u>	3
<u>CRBC Acknowledgements</u>	4
<u>Introduction</u>	5
<u>Targeted Review Criterion</u>	6
<u>Permanency Plan Hierarchy</u>	7
<u>Family Centered Practice Model</u>	7
<u>3rd Quarter Case Review Statistics</u>	8
<u>Gender Totals</u>	10
<u>Gender By Plan</u>	10
<u>Ethnicity Overall</u>	10
<u>Age Range by Permanency Plan</u>	10
<u>Jurisdictional Reviews</u>	11
<u>Allegany County</u>	11
<u>Anne Arundel County</u>	17
<u>Baltimore County</u>	24
<u>Calvert County</u>	31
<u>Caroline County</u>	37
<u>Cecil County</u>	43
<u>Dorchester County</u>	50
<u>Frederick County</u>	57
<u>Harford County</u>	64
<u>Howard County</u>	71
<u>Kent County</u>	77
<u>Montgomery County</u>	83
<u>Prince George's County</u>	90
<u>Queen Anne's County</u>	98
<u>St. Mary's County</u>	104
<u>Washington County</u>	110
<u>Worcester County</u>	117
<u>Baltimore City</u>	123
<u>Required Supporting Documentation</u>	131
<u>Recommendations to All LDSS</u>	131
<u>Independent Living</u>	131
<u>Permanent Connections</u>	131
<u>Adoption</u>	131
<u>CRBC Metrics</u>	132
<u>The State Board</u>	133
<u>CRBC Staff</u>	134
<u>References</u>	135

Our Mission Statement

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

Our Vision Statement

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

Discrimination Statement

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

Confidentiality

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

CRBC Acknowledgements

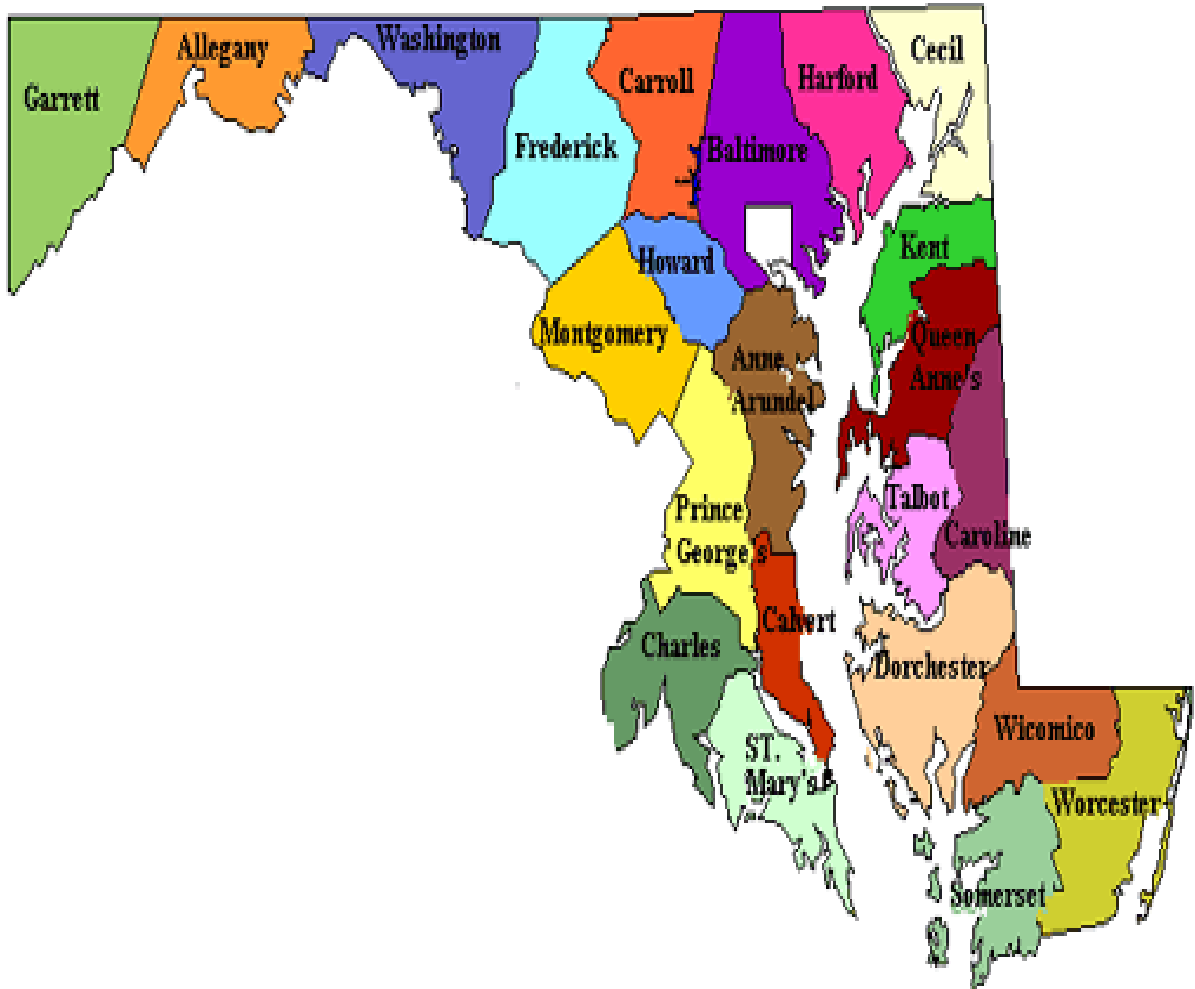
CRBC would like to acknowledge the commitment, dedication, passion and service of all stakeholders on behalf of Maryland's most vulnerable children including:

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

*Thank
You*

Introduction

The following pages contain data from CRBC's out-of-home-placement case review findings and recommendations for the 3rd Quarter of Fiscal Year 2019.



CRBC conducts regular out-of-home placement case reviews in all 24 Maryland jurisdictions including Baltimore City throughout the year. For this quarterly report, the following counties did not have regularly scheduled case reviews during the quarter: Carroll, Charles, Garrett, Somerset, Talbot and Wicomico counties. Therefore, this report only contains review findings and recommendations for the 17 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).

3rd Quarter 2019 Case Review Statistics

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

Jurn #	County	Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA	TOTAL	# Boards Held
01	Allegany	1	4	0	0	4	9	1
02	Anne Arundel	18	0	0	0	3	21	3
03	Baltimore County	22	0	6	3	23	54	8
04	Calvert	2	0	0	0	6	8	1
05	Caroline	3	0	3	0	0	6	1
07	Cecil	0	0	4	0	3	7	1
09	Dorchester	2	0	3	0	3	8	1
10	Frederick	1	1	7	1	4	14	2
12	Harford	6	0	5	1	4	16	2
13	Howard	5	0	0	0	3	8	1
14	Kent	2	0	0	2	1	5	1
15	Montgomery	22	4	2	1	9	38	6
16	Prince Georges	15	6	2	0	15	38	6
17	Queen Anne's	1	0	3	0	0	4	1
18	St. Mary's	5	0	2	0	1	8	1
21	Washington	3	0	2	0	3	8	1
23	Worcester	2	0	4	0	2	8	1
49	Baltimore City	38	2	12	2	46	100	15
18	Statewide Totals	148	17*	55	10	130	360	53
	Percentages	41%	5%	15%	3%	36%	100%	

*(Note: Relative Placement is the combined total of Relative Placement for Adoption = 2; Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship =15)

CRBC conducted a total of 360 individual out-of-home case reviews (each case reviewed represents 1 child/youth) in 18 Jurisdictions on 53 boards that held reviews during the 3rd quarter of fiscal year 2019.

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

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

of the review)

- Permanent Connections
- Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
- Pre-Adoption Services
- Post-Adoption Services
- Child's Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings
- Miscellaneous Findings
- Barriers/Issues to Permanency

Total Reviewed (360)

Gender Totals

Male	Female
164 (46%)	196 (54%)

Gender by Plan

Male(164)

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA
74 (45%)	9 (6%)	25 (15%)	3 (2%)	53 (32%)

Female(196)

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA
74 (38%)	8 (4%)	30 (15%)	7 (4%)	77 (39%)

Ethnicity Overall

African American	Caucasian	Asian	Other
202 (56%)	130 (36%)	6 (2%)	22 (6%)

Age Range by Permanency Plan

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

AGE RANGE	RU	RA	RG	AD	CG	AP	Totals
1_age 0 thru 5	24	1	3	19			47
2_age 6 thru 10	23		2	19	2		46
3_age 11 thru 13	19	1	4	9	2		35
4_age 14 thru 16	48		5	4	3	5	65
5_age 17 thru 19	32		1	3	3	75	114
6_age 20	2			1		50	53
Totals	148	2	15	55	10	130	360

Jurisdictional Case Reviews

Allegany County



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

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

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 5 of the 9 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified concurrent permanency plans for 3 of the 9 cases.

The local department was not implementing the concurrent plans set by the local juvenile court.

Category of APPLA plan (4 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (4)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 4 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 2 of the 9 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 5 of the 9 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for the 5 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 5 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

In 3 of the 9 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

In 8 of the 9 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 5 cases had 2 placement changes and 3 cases had 3 changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 4 of the 8 cases.

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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 3 case(s) placement was with relatives

Provider specific reasons for the most recent placement changes:

- 2 case(s) the provider home closed

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

- 3 case(s) child/youth had behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for 7 of the 8 cases

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

- Yes, for all 8 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 9 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 9 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 8 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 8 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 8 of the 9 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 6 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 5 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 7 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 7 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable, none of the 7 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 2 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the 2 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 2 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 8 of the 9 children/youths had been met.

Education

7 of the 9 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational

program. 6 children/youths were in Pre-K thru 12th grade, 1 youth was in a trade school 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 – 6 cases)

None of the 6 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

The local board agreed that 2 of the 6 youths were 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 – None)

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

Not applicable. None of the youths were transitioning out of care.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Not applicable.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Not applicable.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

6 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	3	4
No	6	5

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	3	4

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No	2	4

The local board found that 8 of the 9 children/youths had siblings in care and 4 had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Board Does Not Agree With Current Permanency Plan.
- Dentals Not Current.
- Vision Not Current.
- Other Independence Barrier.
- Youth Placed Outside Of Home Jurisdiction.
- No Service Agreement With Youth.

Summary

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

Anne Arundel County



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

- Reunification: 18 cases
- APPLA: 3 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 14 of the 21 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified concurrent permanency plans for 2 of the 21 cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan (3 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (3)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 3 cases)

2 of the 3 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for 1 of the 2 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	1					1
7 to 11 months	3					1
1 to 2 years	13					
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more	1					1

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 13 of the 21 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 15 of the 21 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 16 of the 21 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 15 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
4	Formal Kinship Care
7	Regular Foster Care
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
5	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Diagnostic Center
1	Trial Home Visit (LA)
1	Other (LA)

In 8 of the 21 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for 19 of the 21 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 10 of the 21 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 7 cases had 2 placement changes, 2 cases had 3 changes and 1 case had 4 or more changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 9 of the 10 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 10 most recent placement changes:

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

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

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) provider request
- 1 case(s) incompatible match

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

- 3 case(s) had behavioral issues
- 1 case(s) sexualized
- 2 case(s) child/youth request removal

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

- Yes, for all 10 cases

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

- Yes, for all 10 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 4 of the 21 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 20 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 14 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 20 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 8 of the 21 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 10 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 8 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 14 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 14 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 14 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 5 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.

- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 3 of the 5 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 13 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 13 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 7 of the 21 children/youths had been met and 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

14 of the 21 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 14 children/youths were in Pre-K thru 12th grade. Of the 7 children/youths not enrolled in school, 1 youth had graduated high school, 3 children/youths refused to attend school and 3 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 – 12 cases)

5 of the 12 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

The local board agreed that 8 of the 12 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 12 cases)

The local board agreed that 10 of the 12 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)

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

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Not applicable.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Not applicable.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

20 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	13	7
No	8	13

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily	3	
Once a week	5	6
More than once a week		
Once a month		1
More than once a month	4	
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented	1	

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	6	1
Unsupervised	7	6

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency	2	

Representative		
Other Agency Representative	2	1
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		1
Other	2	1

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home		2
LDSS Visitation Center	6	3
Public Area		1
Child's/Youth's Placement	6	1
Other	1	

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		1
No	13	6

The local board found that 13 of the 21 children/youths had siblings in care and 10 of the 13 had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Other service resource barrier.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth not attending school or in GED program.
- Other agency related barrier.
- Lack of Group Home placements.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- No follow up on medical referrals.
- Other independence barrier.
- Other mental health barrier.
- Other education barrier.
- Youth not enrolled in school.
- Not attending scheduled health visits.
- Court ordered permanency plan.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.

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 19 of the 21 children/youths reviewed.

Baltimore County



Baltimore County had a total of 54 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 22 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 6 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 3 cases
- APPLA: 23 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 47 of the 54 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 6 of the 54 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the local juvenile court for all 6 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (23 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (17)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (6)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 23 cases)

22 of the 23 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 22 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	8				1	6
7 to 11 months	6				1	6
1 to 2 years	4			6	1	8
2 to 3 years	3					1
3 years or more	1					2

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 51 of the 54 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 23 of the 54 cases. 3 cases were post TPR children under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 46 of 51 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 23 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
4	Regular Foster Care
22	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
3	Residential Group Home
2	Teen Mother Program
6	Therapeutic Group Home
4	Independent Residential Living Program
2	Residential Treatment Center
1	Own Dwelling
1	College (LA)
6	Trial Home Visit (LA)
2	Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Runaway (LA)

In 21 of the 54 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for 51 of the 54 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 18 of the 54 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 10 cases had 1 placement change, 7 had 2 changes and 1 case had 3 changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 14 of the 18 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 18 most recent placement changes:

- 8 case(s) had the same level of care
- 6 case(s) were in less restrictive placements
- 3 case(s) were in more restrictive placements
- 1 case(s) was a youth on runaway

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

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

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) provider home closed
- 2 case(s) allegation of provider abuse/neglect
- 1 case(s) incompatible match between youth and provider

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

- 2 case(s) had behavioral issues
- 1 case(s) threats of harm to self or others
- 1 case(s) runaway

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

- Yes, for 15 of the 18 cases

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

- Yes, for 14 of the 18 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 22 of the 54 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 41 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 33 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 28 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 22 of the 54 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 21 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 20 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 35 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 31 of 35 the children/youths.

- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 3 youths with mental health issues who were transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 7 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 7 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 17 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 12 of the 17 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 21 of the 54 children/youths had been met and 2 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

41 of the 54 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 37 of the 41 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade, 1 youth was enrolled in a GED program, and 3 were in college. Of the 13 children/youth not enrolled in school, 7 had already graduated high school, 4 refused to attend school 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 – 37 cases)

13 of the 37 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 2 were not participating due to being medically fragile and 4 had mental health reasons.

The local board agreed that 19 of the 37 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 37 cases)

The local board agreed that 20 of the 37 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 5 of the 7 youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that all 7 youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of

care.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. Of the 6 cases with a plan of adoption, 3 youths consented, 2 were medically fragile and unable to consent and 1 was unknown.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (6 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (6 cases)

2 of the 6 children/youths with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a single female for both cases. The relationships to the pre-adoptive children/youths were non relative foster parents in both cases.

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

- 1 case(s) from 7 to 9 months
- 1 case(s) from 16 to 20 months

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 the identified needs of the children/youths in both cases.

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

Adoptive Recruitment (4 cases)

The local board found that the local department had documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for the 4 children/youths not placed in a pre-adoptive home. The adoptive resources were Wendy's Wonderful Kids and Hearts Gallery. 3 children/youths were also listed on Adopt-Us Kids.

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (6 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for all 6 adoption cases. The services that were needed were medical for 5 cases, mental health services for 4, educational services for 3, respite services for 2 and DDA for 1 case.

The local board found that the post adoptive services were appropriate for the 6 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

19 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 52 of the 54 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	26	9
No	28	45

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	6	
More than once a week		
Once a month	7	3
More than once a month	8	4
Quarterly	3	2
Yes, but undocumented	2	

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	8	1
Unsupervised	18	8

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	5	
Other Agency Representative		1
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent	1	
Other	2	

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	10	6
LDSS Visitation Center	1	
Public Area	9	
Child's/Youth's Placement	4	1

Other	2	2
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Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	9	3
No	17	6

The local board found that 15 of the 54 children/youths had siblings in care and all 15 had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Lack of local residential treatment facilities.
- Lack of parent educational programs.
- Pre-Adoptive resources not identified.
- In-adequate pool of prospective adoptive families (general).
- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Not following up on referrals.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other family related barrier.
- Disrupted pre-adoption placement.
- Youth not enrolled in school.
- Youth not receiving adequate services.
- Youth not attending school or in GED program.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other physical health barrier.
- Transitional housing has not been identified.
- Other independence barrier.
- Other placement barrier.
- Delay in scheduling appointments.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 50 of the 54 children/youths reviewed.

Calvert County



Calvert 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 department's permanency plan for all 8 cases reviewed.

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (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 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						
7 to 11 months						1
1 to 2 years						4
2 to 3 years	2					1
3 years or more						

Case Planning

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

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

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement
1	Intermediate Foster Care
1	Regular Foster Care
1	Restricted Relative Foster Care
3	Residential Group Home
1	Independent Living Residential Program
1	College (LA)

In 2 of the 8 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 3 case(s) were transitioning towards a permanency goal

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

- 1 case(s) behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for all 4 cases

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

- Yes, for all 4 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 5 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 2 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 6 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 1 of the 8 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 4 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 7 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 5 of the 7 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 7 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 2 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for both children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 4 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 4 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 2 of the 8 children/youths had been met.

Education

All 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 6 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade, and 2 were in college.

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 – 8 cases)

3 of the 8 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 child/youth was unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

The local board agreed that 7 of the 8 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

The local board agreed that 6 of the 8 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)

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

Housing had not been specified for the 1 youth transitioning out care.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. Not applicable, no adoption cases

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Not applicable.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Not applicable.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 8 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	6	1
No	2	7

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	6	1

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

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

Other	1	
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Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	3	1
No	3	

The local board found that none of the 8 children/youths had siblings in care. 4 had siblings who were not in care and all 4 had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with parents.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Non-compliant with service agreement.
- No follow up on medical referrals.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other independence barrier.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.

Summary

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

Caroline County



Caroline County had a total of 6 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

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

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 4 of the 6 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify concurrent permanency plans for any of the 6 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				1		
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years	1			2		
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more	2					

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 3 of the 6 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 3 of the 6 cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement
2	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Regular Foster Care
1	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Residential Treatment Center

In 4 of the 6 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

- 1 case(s) was in more restrictive placements

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

- 1 case(s) was for hospitalization

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

- Yes, for the 1 case

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

- Yes, for the 1 case

Health/Mental Health

➤ Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 6 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.

- Current Physical: 6 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 5 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 6 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 5 of the 6 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 5 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 5 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 6 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 6 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 6 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None of the 6 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 5 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 5 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 5 of the 6 children/youths had been met.

Education

All 6 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program and all 6 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade.

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 – 3 cases)

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

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

The local board agreed that 1 of the 3 youths was receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

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

Not applicable.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. Of the 3 cases with a plan of adoption, 1 child/youth consented and 2 were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (3 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (3 cases)

2 of the 3 children/youths with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a single female for both cases. The relationships to the pre-adoptive children/youths were non relative foster parents in both cases.

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

- 2 case(s) from 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved in both cases.

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

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

Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

The local board found that the local department had documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for the 1 child/youth not placed in a pre-adoptive home. The adoptive resource was a relative of the foster parent.

The local board did not agree that the adoptive recruitment efforts were appropriate.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (3 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for all 3 adoption cases. The services that were needed were medical and mental health services for all 3 cases.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

All 6 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 6 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	5	
No	1	6

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	3	
Unsupervised	2	

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	3	
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	1	

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No	4	

The local board found that 2 of the 6 children/youths had siblings in care and both had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with youth.
- Child in pre-adoptive home but adoption not finalized.
- Vision not current.
- Other court related barrier.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- 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 6 children/youths reviewed.

Cecil County



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

- Non Relative Adoption: 4 cases
- APPLA: 3 cases

Permanency

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (3 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (2)
- Transition to an Adult Supportive Living Arrangement (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 3 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 3 of the 7 cases. 1 case was a Post-TPR child under age 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 4 of the 6 cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

In 4 of the 7 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

- 2 case(s) were in less restrictive placements

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- 1 case(s) had behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for both cases

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

- Yes, for both cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 7 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 6 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 6 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 4 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 4 of the 7 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 4 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 5 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 5 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 5 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 4 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 4 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 5 of the 7 children/youths had been met.

Education

5 of the 7 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 5 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade, 1 youth had already graduated high school 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 – 3 cases)

1 of the 3 youths was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and 1 youth was unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

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

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

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – None)

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

Not applicable.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. Of the 4 cases with a plan of adoption, 2 children/youths consented and 2 were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (4 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (4 cases)

All 4 children/youths with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of non relative foster parents for 3 cases and a fictive kin foster parent for 1 case.

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

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

A home study was completed and approved in all 4 cases.

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

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate in all 4 cases.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable, all 4 children/youths were placed in pre-adoptive homes.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (4 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for all 4 adoption cases. The services that were needed was medical for all 4 cases, mental health services for 3 cases and educational services for all 4 cases.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

3 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	1
No	6	6

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

Yes, but undocumented		
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Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	1	
Unsupervised		1

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		1
No	1	

The local board found that 5 of the 7 children/youths had siblings in care and all 5 had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with youth.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- TPR not granted.
- Child in pre-adoptive home but adoption not finalized.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other education barrier.
- Other placement 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 6 of the 7 children/youths reviewed.

Dorchester County



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

- Reunification: 2 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 3 cases
- APPLA: 3 cases

Permanency

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (3 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (3)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 3 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months				3		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 (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 8 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had signed service agreements for 5 of the 8 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 5 of the 8 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 5 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Formal Kinship Care
3	Regular Foster Care
1	Residential Group Home
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Other
1	Trial Home Visit (LA)

In 2 of the 8 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

In 7 of the 8 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. All 7 cases had 1 placement change.

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

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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 7 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- Yes, for all 7 cases

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

- Yes, for all 7 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 7 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 6 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 5 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 5 of the 8 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 6 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 5 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 8 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 6 of the 8 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 2 youths with mental health issues who were transitioning out of care did not have an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the 1 child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 6 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 6 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 5 of the 8 children/youths had been met, and 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

6 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 6 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade. Off the 2 children/youths not enrolled both 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 – 5 cases)

2 of the 5 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 2 youths were unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

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

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 5 cases)

The local board agreed that 4 of the 5 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)

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

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

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. The 3 children/youths with a plan of adoption consented.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (3 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (3 cases)

All 3 children/youths with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple for 2 cases and an unmarried couple for 1 case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children/youths was a non relative foster parent for all 3 cases.

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

- 1 case(s) from 4 to 6 months
- 2 case(s) from 10 to 12 months

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

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive families to meet the identified needs of the children/youths for all 3 cases.

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

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (3 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for all 3 children/youths. The services that were needed was medical, mental health and educational services for all 3 children/youths

The local board found that the post adoptive services were appropriate for the 3 children/youths.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

All 8 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	2	2

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	2	2

The local board found that 3 of the 8 children/youths had siblings in care and all 3 had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

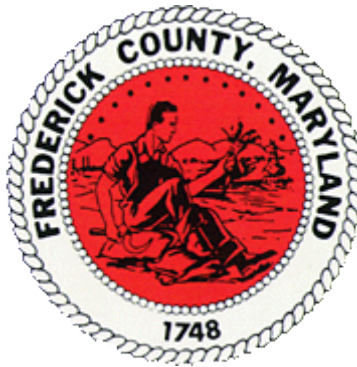
The local board identified the following barriers to permanency or issues:

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

Summary

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

Frederick County



Frederick County had a total of 14 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 1 case
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 1 case
- Non Relative Adoption: 7 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 4 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for all 14 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified concurrent permanency plans for 3 of the 14 cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan (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 connections were appropriate for all 4 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 11 of the 14 cases reviewed.

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

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

In 10 of the 14 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for all 14 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 2 of the 14 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. Both cases had 1 placement change.

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

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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 2 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- 1 case(s) had behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for both cases

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

- Yes, for 1 of the 2 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 5 of the 14 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 13 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 13 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 8 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 7 of the 14 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 6 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 5 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 10 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 10 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 2 youths with mental health issues who were transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: None of 14 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.

- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 7 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 7 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 7 of the 14 children/youths had been met.

Education

7 of the 14 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 7 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade. Of the 7 children/youth not enrolled in school, 2 had already graduated high school and 5 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)

2 of the 7 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 2 were not participating due to mental health reasons.

The local board agreed that 3 of the 7 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- 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 – 3 cases)

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

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

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. Of the 7 cases with a plan of adoption, 1 child/youth did not want to be adopted, 5 were under the age of consent and 1 child/youth's consent was unknown.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (7 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (7 cases)

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

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

- 1 case(s) from 4 to 6 months
- 2 case(s) from 16 to 20 months
- 2 case(s) from 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved in all 5 cases.

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

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate in all 5 cases.

Adoptive Recruitment (2 cases)

The local board found that the local department did not have documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for the 2 children/youths not placed in a pre-adoptive home.

The local board did not find that the adoptive recruitment efforts were appropriate.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (7 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for all 7 adoption cases. The services that were needed were medical for all 7 cases, mental health services for 5, educational services for 4 and respite services for 1 case.

The local board found that the post adoptive services were appropriate for all 7 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

8 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 12 of the 14 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	8	1
No	6	13

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	6	
Unsupervised	2	1

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No	7	1

The local board found that 4 of the 14 children/youths had siblings in care and all 4 had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Pre-Adoptive resources not identified.
- Lack of concurrent planning.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Child does not consent to adoption.
- Other education barrier.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- No follow up on medical referrals.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Other independence barrier.
- No current Safe-C/G.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 12 of the 14 children/youths reviewed.

Harford County



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

- Reunification: 6 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 5 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 4 cases

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 1 of the 16 cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan (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 connections were appropriate for all 4 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 15 of the 16 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had signed service agreements for 7 of the 16 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 14 of the 16 cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Formal Kinship Care
4	Regular Foster Care
4	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
3	Residential Group Home
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Own Dwelling
2	Trial Home Visit (LA)

In 6 of the 16 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for all 16 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 4 of the 16 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. All 4 cases had 1 placement change.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 1 of the 4 cases.

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

- 4 case(s) were in less restrictive placements

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 4 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- Yes, for 3 of the 4 cases

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

- Yes, for all 4 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 5 of the 16 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 13 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 13 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 11 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 10 of the 16 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 11 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 8 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 12 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 12 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues who was transitioning out of care, had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the 1 child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 11 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 10 of the 11 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 10 of the 16 children/youths had been met and 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

13 of the 16 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 13 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade. Of the 3 children/youths not enrolled, 1 had already graduated high school and 2 were 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 – 8 cases)

2 of the 8 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and 2 were unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

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

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

The local board agreed that 5 of the 8 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 2 cases)

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

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

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement (5 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Services and Resources

4 of the 5 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The family structure was comprised of a married couple in 3 cases and a single female in 1 case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children was a non relative foster parent in all 4 cases.

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

- 1 case(s) from 16 to 20 months
- 3 case(s) 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved in all 4 cases.

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

The local board found that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate for all 4 cases.

Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

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

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (5 cases)

Post-adoptive services were needed for all 5 cases. The services that were needed were medical for all 5 cases, mental health services for 3 cases, educational services for 4 cases and DDA services for 1 case.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

11 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	12	2
No	4	14

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

Once a month	1	
More than once a month	7	1
Quarterly	2	
Yes, but undocumented		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	8	
Unsupervised	4	2

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	2	
No	10	2

The local board found that none of the 16 children/youths had siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Lack of concurrent planning.
- No current IEP.
- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Not following up on referrals.
- Other physical health barrier.
- Other child/youth related barrier.

- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Youth not employed and transitioning out of care.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Not maintaining contact with the Department.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 16 children/youths reviewed.

Howard County



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

- Reunification: 5 cases
- APPLA: 3 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 4 of the 8 cases reviewed.

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

Category of APPLA plan (3 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (3)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 3 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 4 of the 8 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had signed service agreements for 7 of the 8 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for all 8 cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement
2	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
3	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Non Relative
1	Secure Detention Facility (LA)

In 2 of the 8 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

- 1 case(s) was in less restrictive placements
- 1 case(s) was in more restrictive placements

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) was an incompatible match

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

- 1 case(s) had behavioral issues
- 1 case(s) had delinquent behavior

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

- Yes, for both cases

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

- Yes, for 1 of the 2 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 7 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 6 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 3 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 1 of the 8 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 3 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 7 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 7 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with a mental health issue who was transitioning out of care did not have an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 5 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 4 of the 5 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 2 of the 8 children/youths had been met.

Education

6 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 5 of the 6 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade and 1 was in college. Of the 2 children/youth not enrolled, both 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 – 8 cases)

None of the 8 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

The local board agreed that 3 of the 8 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

The local board agreed that 4 of the 8 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 2 cases)

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

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

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Not applicable. No adoption cases.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable. No adoption cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Not applicable. No adoption cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

7 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

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

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	2	1

No	3	1
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The local board found that none of the 8 children/youths had siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with parents.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.

Summary

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

Kent County



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

- Reunification: 2 cases
- Non Relative Custody & Guardianship: 2 cases
- APPLA: 1 case

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 4 of the 5 cases reviewed.

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had signed service agreements for all 5 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for all 5 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for all 5 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

In 2 of the 5 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

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

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

- 1 case(s) had behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for the 1 case

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

- Yes, for the 1 case

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 5 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 4 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 4 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 3 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 2 of the 5 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 4 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 5 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 5 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 5 children/youth with a mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 4 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 4 children/youths.

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

Education

All 5 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 5 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade.

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 – 3 cases)

1 of the 3 youths was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and 1 was unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

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

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

The local board agreed that 2 of the 3 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – None)

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

Not applicable.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Not applicable. No adoption cases.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable. No adoption cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Not applicable. No adoption cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

3 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	5	1
No		4

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

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

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	3	
No	2	1

The local board found that 2 of the 5 children/youths had siblings in care and did not have visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with youth.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- 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/youths reviewed.

Montgomery County



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

- Reunification: 22 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 4 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 2 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 9 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 31 of the 38 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified concurrent permanency plans for 2 of the 38 cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan (9 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (9)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 9 cases)

8 of the 9 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for all 8 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months			1		1	2
7 to 11 months	4		2	2		3
1 to 2 years	15					1
2 to 3 years	3		1			1
3 years or more						2

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 15 of the 38 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 17 of the 38 cases. 2 cases were post TPR children under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 24 of 36 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 17 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
3	Formal Kinship Care
1	Pre Finalized Adoptive Home
5	Regular Foster Care
9	Restricted Relative Foster Care
6	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Teen Mother Program
4	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Residential Treatment Center
2	College (LA)
4	Trail Home Visit (LA)
1	Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Other (LA)

In 21 of the 38 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for 34 of the 38 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 22 of the 38 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 1 case had 1 placement change, 16 cases had 2 changes, 4 cases had 3 changes and 1 case had 4 or more changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 12 of the 22 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 22 most recent placement changes:

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 9 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 2 case(s) provider request (due to issues unrelated to child/youth)
- 3 case(s) incompatible match between youth and provider

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

- 6 case(s) were for behavioral issues
- 1 case(s) sexualized

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

- Yes, for 20 of the 22 cases

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

- Yes, for 18 of the 22 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 7 of the 38 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 24 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 17 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 18 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 12 of the 38 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 16 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 16 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 24 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 22 of the 24 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with a mental health issue who was transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.

- Substance Abuse: 2 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for both children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 18 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 18 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 10 of the 38 children/youths had been met and 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

34 of the 38 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 30 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade and 4 were in college. Of the 4 children/youth not enrolled in school, 1 had already graduated high school and 3 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 – 18 cases)

2 of the 16 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

The local board agreed that 14 of the 18 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 18 cases)

The local board agreed that 16 of the 18 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 3 cases)

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

Housing had been specified for 2 of the 3 youths transitioning out of care.

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. Of the 2 cases with a plan of adoption, 1 child/youth was under the age

of consent and 1 child/youth's consent was unknown.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

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

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

- 1 case(s) from 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved in the 1 case.

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

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

Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

The local board found that the local department had documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for the 1 child/youth not placed in a pre-adoptive home. The adoptive resource was Wendy's Wonderful Kids.

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (2 cases)

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

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

15 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 38 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	24	13
No	14	25

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	14	6
More than once a week		
Once a month	3	1
More than once a month	4	
Quarterly	2	2
Yes, but undocumented	1	4

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	15	1
Unsupervised	9	12

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	12	1
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member	1	
Foster Parent	2	
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	6	9
LDSS Visitation Center	7	1
Public Area	5	
Child's/Youth's Placement	3	2
Other	3	1

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	3	6
No	21	7

The local board found that 18 of the 38 children/youths had siblings in care and 12 had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Lack of housing.
- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Non-compliant with service agreement.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other education barrier.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- No follow up on medical referrals.
- Other physical health barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Other placement barrier.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Youth has not been assessed for mental health concerns.

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/youths reviewed.

Prince George's County



Prince George's County had a total of 38 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 15 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 6 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 2 cases
- APPLA: 15 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 36 of the 38 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 2 of the 38 cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan (15 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (15)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 15 cases)

14 of the 15 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 14 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		6	1		5
7 to 11 months	2					2
1 to 2 years	7					3
2 to 3 years	4					3
3 years or more	1			1		2

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 8 of the 38 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 9 of the 38 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 14 of 38 cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

In 25 of the 38 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for 37 of the 38 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 25 of the 38 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 14 cases had 1 placement change, 7 had 2 changes, 3 had 3 changes and 1 case had 4 or more changes.

The local department did not hold a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for any of the 25 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 25 most recent placement changes:

- 7 case(s) were in less restrictive placements
- 3 case(s) were in more restrictive placements
- 14 case(s) had the same level of care
- 1 case(s) child/youth on runaway

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 12 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

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

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

- 10 case(s) were for behavioral issues
- 1 case(s) runaway

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

- Yes, for 22 of the 25 cases

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

- Yes, for 23 of the 25 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 8 of the 38 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 9 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 8 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 10 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 3 of the 38 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 21 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 19 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 32 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 25 of the 32 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 3 youths with a mental health issue who were transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health

system and 3 youths did not have a plan.

- Substance Abuse: 4 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 4 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 29 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 23 of the 29 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 3 of the 38 children/youths had been met, and 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

30 of the 38 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 27 of the 30 children/youths were in Pre-K thru 12th grade and 3 youths were in college. Of the 8 children/youth not enrolled in school, 4 had already graduated high school, 1 refused to attend school and 3 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 – 26 cases)

8 of the 26 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and 4 youth were unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

The local board agreed that 12 of the 26 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 26 cases)

The local board agreed that 8 of the 26 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 8 cases)

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

Housing had been specified for 7 of the 8 youths transitioning out of care.

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. Of the 2 cases with a plan of adoption, 1 child/youth had mental health reasons and 1 child was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

1 of the 2 children/youths 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 pre-adoptive child/youth was a non relative foster parent.

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

- 1 case(s) from 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved in the case.

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

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

Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

The local board found that the local department had documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for the 1 child/youth not placed in a pre-adoptive home. The adoptive resource was Wendy's Wonderful Kids.

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (2 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for both adoption cases. The services that were needed was medical, mental health and educational services.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

12 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 15 of the 38 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	25	11
No	13	27

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	8	5
More than once a week	1	
Once a month	2	1
More than once a month	7	2
Quarterly	7	3
Yes, but undocumented		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	11	2
Unsupervised	14	9

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	9	1
Other Agency Representative	2	
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		1
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	11	10
LDSS Visitation Center	6	
Public Area	2	
Child's/Youth's Placement	3	1
Other	3	

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	10	6
No	14	5

The local board found that 13 of the 38 children/youths had siblings in care and 9 had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Inadequate casework services.
- Other implementation barrier.
- Other agency related barrier.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other education barrier.
- Other physical health barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth not attending school or in GED program.
- Youth not employed and transitioning out of care.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- No follow up on medical referrals.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Not following up on referrals.
- Refusal to locate or maintain employment.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Disrupted pre-adoption placement.
- Non-compliant with service agreement.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- No current Safe-C/G.
- Not attending scheduled health visits.
- Home study not approved.
- No current IEP.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Worker did not submit referral for needed resource/service.
- Lack of concurrent planning.
- Poor coordination within DSS.
- Inadequate communication between DSS and POC agency.

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 15 of the 38 children/youths reviewed.

Queen Anne's County



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

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

Permanency

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (None)

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

Case Planning

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

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

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
4	Regular Foster Care

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

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- Yes, for the 1 case

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

- Yes, for the 1 case

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 3 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 4 children/youths had a current vision exam.

- Current Dental: 3 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 3 of the 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: None of the 4 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: None of the 4 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 4 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 3 of the 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 4 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None of the 4 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 4 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 4 children/youths.

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

Education

3 of the 4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 3 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade 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 – 1 case)

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

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

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

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – None)

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

Not applicable.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. Of the 3 cases with a plan of adoption, all 3 children/youths were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (3 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (3 cases)

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

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

- 3 case(s) from 21 months or more

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

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive families to meet the identified needs of the children/youths in all 3 cases.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate for the children/youths.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (3 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for all 3 adoption cases. The services that were needed were medical, mental health and educational services for all 3 cases.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

All 4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	4	
No		4

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	3	
Unsupervised	1	

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	3	
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	1	
LDSS Visitation Center	3	
Public Area		

Child's/Youth's Placement		
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No	3	

The local board found that 3 of the 4 children/youths had siblings in care and all 3 had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with youth.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Not following up on referrals.
- Refusal to locate or maintain employment.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- 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 3 of the 4 children/youths reviewed.

St. Mary's County



St. Mary's County had a total of 8 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 5 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 2 cases
- APPLA: 1 case

Permanency

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

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 5 of the 8 cases. 2 cases were post TPR children under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 6 of the 8 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 5 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement
2	Pre Finalized Adoption
4	Regular Foster Care
1	Treatment Foster Care
1	Non Relative

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

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was transitioning towards permanency goal

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was an incompatible match between youth and provider

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

- Yes, for 1 of the 2 cases

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

- Yes, for both cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 8 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 7 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 6 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 4 of the 8 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: None of the children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: None of the children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 3 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with a mental health issue who was transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: None of the 8 children/youths had substance abuse issues.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: None of the 8 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Not applicable.

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

Education

5 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 5 were in Pre-K thru 12 grade. Of the 3 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program 1 had already graduated high school 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 – 2 cases)

1 of the 2 youths was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

The local board agreed that 1 of the 2 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)

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

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

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Pre-Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

Both children/youths with an adoption plan 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 in the other case. The relationships to the pre-adoptive children/youths were a relative foster parent in 1 case and non relative foster parents in the case.

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

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

A home study was completed and approved in both cases.

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

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

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

Post adoptive services were needed for both adoption cases. The services that were required were medical and respite services for both cases and educational services for 1 case.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

5 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	6	1
No	2	7

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	2	
Unsupervised	4	1

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No	5	1

The local board found that 5 of the 8 children/youths had siblings in care and all 5 had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.

Summary

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

Washington County



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

- Reunification: 3 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 2 cases
- APPLA: 3 cases

Permanency

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (3 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (3)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 3 cases)

1 of the 3 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 1 case.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 1 of the 8 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 6 of the 8 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for all 8 cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement
2	Regular Foster Care
2	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
2	Residential Group Home
2	Residential Treatment Center

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

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

Placement Stability

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

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 3 of the 5 cases.

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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 2 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) provider home closed

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

- 3 case(s) had behavioral issues
- 1 case(s) was a runaway

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

- Yes, for all 5 cases

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

- Yes, for all 5 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 8 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 6 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 8 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 6 of the 8 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 6 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 6 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 7 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 7 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues who was transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 7 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 7 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 6 of the 8 children/youths had been met.

Education

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

1 of the 6 youths was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

The local board agreed that 4 of the 6 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

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

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

- 2 case(s) from 4 to 6 months

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 the identified needs of the children/youths in both cases.

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

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable. Both children/youths with a plan of adoption were already placed in pre-adoptive homes.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources

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

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

3 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	3	
No	5	8

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

More than once a month	2	
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	3	

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No	2	

The local board found that 3 of the 8 children/youths had siblings in care and all 3 had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Other education barrier.
- Lack of concurrent planning.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- No current IEP.
- Vision not current.
- Missing or lack of documentation.

Summary

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

Worcester County



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

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

Permanency

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

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

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

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department did not hold family involvement meetings prior to entry for any of the 8 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department did not have a signed service agreement for any of the 8 cases and 1 case was a post TPR child under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 3 of the 7 cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement
5	Regular Foster Care
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home
1	Own Dwelling

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

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

Placement Stability

None of the 8 cases reviewed had a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 8 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 7 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 7 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 7 of the 8 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 5 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 6 children/youths had mental health issues.

- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 6 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 2 youths with a mental health issue who were transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system and 1 youth did not have a plan.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 5 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 5 children/youths.

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

Education

4 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 4 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade. Of the 4 children/youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program, 1 had already graduated high school and 3 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 – 3 cases)

1 of the 3 youths was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and 2 were unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

The local board agreed that 1 of the 3 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

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

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 2 cases)

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

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

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. Of the 4 cases with a plan of adoption, 3 children/youths were under the age of consent and in 1 case the child/youth's consent was unknown.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (4 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (3 cases)

3 of the 4 children/youths with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a single female in all 3 cases. The relationships to the pre-adoptive children/youths were non relative foster parents in all 3 cases.

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

- 3 case(s) from 12 to 15 months

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

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive families to meet the identified needs of the children/youths in all 3 cases.

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

Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (4 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for all 4 adoption cases. The services that were required were medical for all 4 cases, mental health for 3 cases and educational services for 1 case.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

6 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	3
No	7	5

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

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

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	1	3

The local board found that 5 of the 8 children/youths had siblings in care and all 5 had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

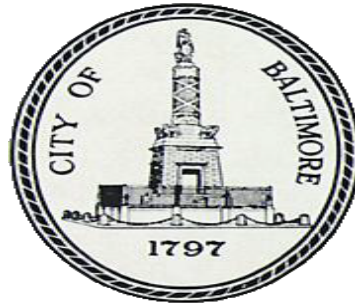
The local board identified the following barriers to permanency or issues:

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

Summary

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

Baltimore City



Baltimore City had a total of 100 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 38 cases
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 1 case
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- Non Relative Adoption: 12 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 2 cases
- APPLA: 46 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 77 of the 100 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 6 of the 100 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the local juvenile court for all 6 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (46 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (43)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (3)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 46 cases)

39 of the 46 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for 37 of the 39 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	11			4	1	14
7 to 11 months	6			1		4
1 to 2 years	13					14
2 to 3 years	2	1	1	2		6
3 years or more	6			5	1	8

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 25 of the 100 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 39 of the 100 cases. 10 cases were post TPR children under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 65 of 90 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 39 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement
4	Formal Kinship Care
10	Pre Finalized Adoptive Home
16	Regular Foster Care
2	Restricted Relative Foster Care
1	Treatment Foster Care
17	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
2	Residential Group Home
11	Teen Mother Program
10	Therapeutic Group Home
9	Independent Residential Living Program
2	Residential Treatment Center
1	Relative
7	Own Dwelling
2	College (LA)
2	Runaway (LA)
2	Secure Detention Facility (LA)
1	Unapproved Kinship Home (LA)
1	Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA)

In 66 of the 100 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for 92 of the 100 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 52 of the 100 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 7 cases had 1 placement change, 24 cases had 2 changes, 12 cases had 3 changes and 9 cases had four or more changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 12 of the 52 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 52 most recent placement changes:

- 17 case(s) were in less restrictive placements
- 8 case(s) were in more restrictive placements
- 24 case(s) had the same level of care
- 2 case(s) the children/youths were on runaway

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 16 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal
- 3 case(s) were placement with relatives
- 2 case(s) were placement with siblings

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) was an allegation of provider abuse/neglect
- 5 case(s) were an incompatible match between children/youths and the providers

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

- 19 case(s) had behavioral issues
- 1 case(s) child/youth request removal
- 1 case(s) had delinquent behavior
- 2 case(s) were runaways

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

- Yes, for 37 of the 52 cases

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

- Yes, for 41 of the 52 cases

Health/Mental Health

➤ Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 17 of the 100 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.

- Current Physical: 63 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 37 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 35 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 21 of the 100 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 28 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 19 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 58 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 36 of the 58 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 3 youths with mental health issues who were transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system. 6 youths with mental health issues who were transitioning out of care did not have a plan.
- Substance Abuse: 25 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 3 of the 25 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 49 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 39 of the 49 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 17 of the 100 children/youths had been met and 17 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

56 of the 100 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 47 of the 56 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade, 4 youths were enrolled in a GED program and 5 were in college. Of the 44 children/youth not enrolled in school, 16 had already graduated high school, 21 refused to attend school and 7 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 – 75 cases)

27 of the 75 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth was medically fragile and unable to participate and 2 youths had a mental health reason.

The local board agreed that 53 of the 75 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 75 cases)

The local board agreed that 46 of the 75 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 21 cases)

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

Housing had been specified for 11 of the 21 youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that 13 of the 21 youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. Of the 12 cases with a plan of adoption, 3 children/youths consented, 1 consented with conditions, 6 were under the age of consent and 2 children/youth's consent were unknown.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (12 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (10 cases)

10 of the 12 children/youths with an adoption plan were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple in 2 cases and a single female in 8 cases. The relationships to the pre-adoptive children/youths were relative foster parents in 3 cases and non relative foster parents in 7 cases.

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

- 1 case(s) from 1 to 3 months
- 1 case(s) from 4 to 6 months
- 3 case(s) from 16 to 20 months
- 5 case(s) from 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved in 3 of the 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/youths in 9 of the 10 cases.

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

Adoptive Recruitment (2 cases)

The local board found that the local department had documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for 1 of the 2 children/youths not placed in a pre-adoptive home. The adoptive resources were Ready & Waiting and Family Weeks.

The local board agreed that the adoptive recruitment efforts were appropriate for the 1 child/youth.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (8 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for all 12 adoption cases. The services that were needed were medical for 12 cases, mental health for 5 cases and educational services for 1 case.

The local board found that the post adoptive services were appropriate for all 12 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

3 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 92 of the 100 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	47	22
No	53	78

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily	1	3
Once a week	12	5
More than once a week	8	2

Once a month	6	2
More than once a month	8	2
Quarterly	4	1
Yes, but undocumented	8	7

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	17	2
Unsupervised	30	20

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	14	1
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member	2	1
Foster Parent	1	
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	24	16
LDSS Visitation Center	11	1
Public Area	8	4
Child's/Youth's Placement	2	
Other	2	1

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	10	7
No	37	15

The local board found that 37 of the 100 children/youths had siblings in care and all 37 had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Lack of progress in implementation.
- Uncovered/unassigned case.
- Poor coordination within DSS.
- Other legal barrier.
- Other service resource barrier.
- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.

- No sibling or family visits.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Other agency related barrier.
- Need for siblings to be placed together.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Non-compliant with service agreement.
- Refusal to locate or maintain employment.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Delay in obtaining court date.
- Appeal by birth parents.
- Disrupted finalized adoption.
- Other family related barrier.
- Youth not enrolled in school.
- Youth not attending school or in GED program.
- No current IEP.
- Other education barrier.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- No follow up on medical referrals.
- Issues with medical assistance card.
- Delay in scheduling medical appointment.
- Other physical health barrier.
- Youth not employed and transitioning out of care.
- Transitional housing has not been identified.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Other independence barrier.
- Other placement barrier.
- Youth has not been assessed for mental health concerns.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Youth engages in risky behavior.
- No current Safe-C/G.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 78 of the 100 children/youths reviewed.

Required Supporting Documentation for CRBC Reviews

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

- Each (LDSS) is required to 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 children/youths with a permanency plan of reunification.
- Each (LDSS) is required to include the paternal family members as possible resources for all children/youths who are in out-of-home-placement care.

Independent Living

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

Permanent Connections

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

Adoption

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

3rd Quarter 2019
CRBC Metrics

Total # of Children - Scheduled on the Preliminary:	692
Total # of Children - Closed, Non Submission & Rescheduled:	297
Total # of Children - Eligible for Review:	395
Total # of Children - Reviewed at the Board:	360
Total # of Children - Not Reviewed at the Board:	35
Percentage of Children Reviewed for the Period:	91%
Percentage of Children Not Reviewed for the Period:	9%
Recommendation Reports - Number Sent	360
Recommendation Reports - Number Sent on Time	337
Recommendation Reports - Percent Sent on Time	94%
Recommendation Reports - Number Received – DSS Response	187
Recommendation Reports - Percent Received % - DSS Response	52%
Recommendation Reports - Number Received on Time - DSS Response	13
Recommendation Reports - Percent Received on Time % - DSS Response	7%
Number of Boards Held	53
Recommendation Reports - # of DSS Agreement	177
Recommendation Reports - Percent of DSS Agreement	95%
Recommendation Reports - # of DSS Disagreement	9
Recommendation Reports - Percent of DSS Disagreement	5%
Recommendation Reports - # Blank/Unanswered	1
Recommendation Reports - Percent # Blank/Unanswered	1%
Percentage of REUNIFICATION Children Reviewed for the Period:	41%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT – Adoption Children Reviewed:	4%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT – C & G Children Reviewed:	1%
Percentage of ADOPTION Children Reviewed for the Period:	15%
Percentage of CUSTODY/GUARDIANSHIP Children Reviewed for the Period:	3%
Percentage of APPLA Children Reviewed for the Period:	36%

The State Board

Dr. Theresa Stafford

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

Sandra "Kay" Farley

Circuit 6: Representing Frederick and Montgomery Counties

Davina Richardson

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

Beatrice Lee

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

Rita Jones

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