

Citizens Review Board For Children



FOURTH QUARTER
FISCAL YEAR 2019 REPORT
(April 1st 2019 – June 30th 2019)

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Our Mission Statement

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

Our Vision Statement

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

Discrimination Statement

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

Confidentiality

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

CRBC Acknowledgements

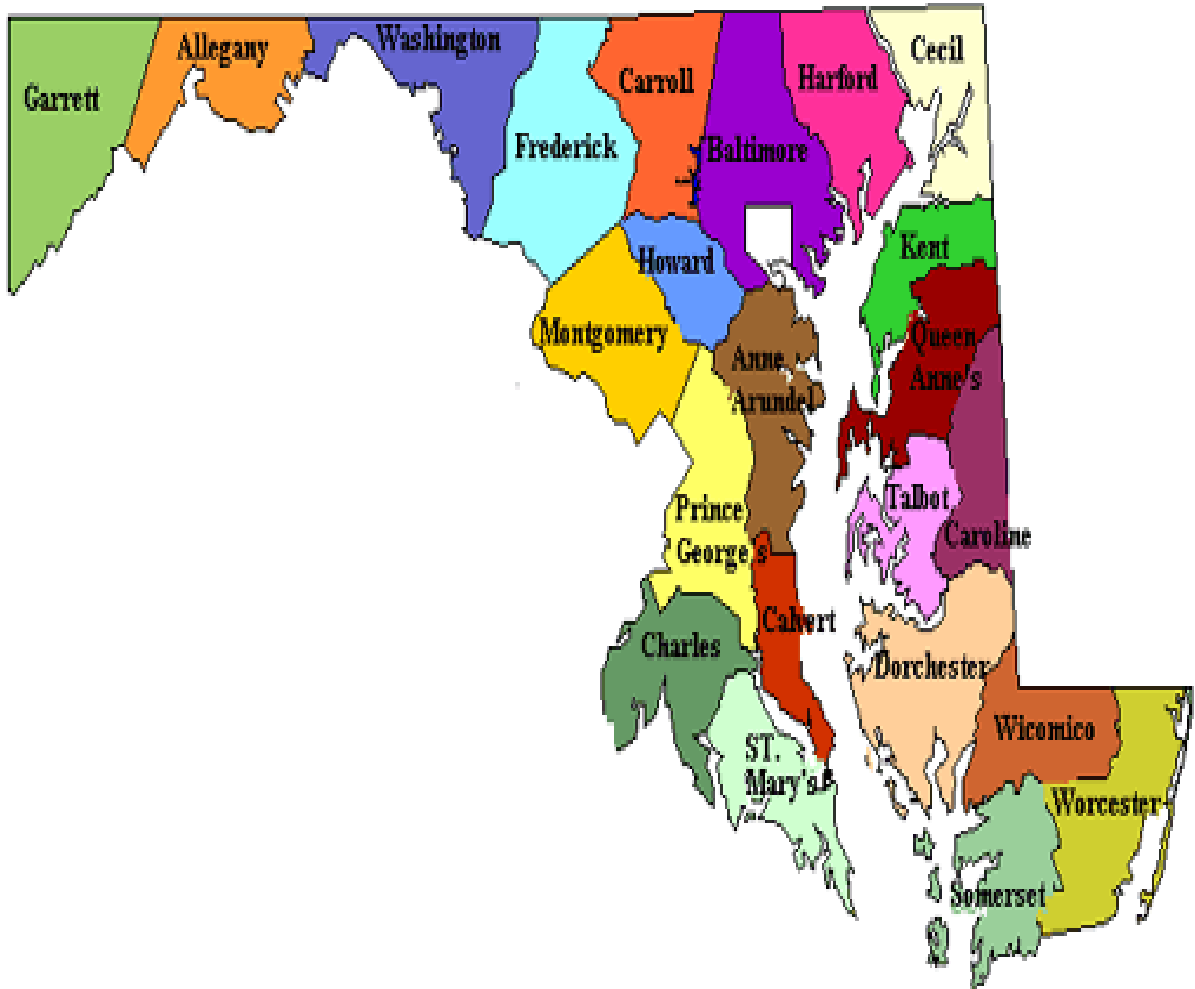
CRBC would like to acknowledge the commitment, dedication, passion and service of all stakeholders on behalf of Maryland's most vulnerable children including:

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

*Thank
You*

Introduction

The following pages contain data from CRBC's out-of-home-placement case review findings and recommendations for the 4th Quarter of Fiscal Year 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: Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's and Worcester counties. Therefore, this report only contains review findings and recommendations for the 20 jurisdictions 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).

4th 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	0	3	5	0	0	8	1
02	Anne Arundel	9	0	3	0	4	16	2
03	Baltimore County	20	0	4	0	9	33	5
04	Calvert	2	4	0	1	1	8	1
05	Caroline	3	0	4	0	1	8	1
06	Carroll	4	0	2	0	0	6	1
07	Cecil	3	0	3	0	2	8	1
08	Charles	0	0	1	0	5	6	1
10	Frederick	1	2	5	0	6	14	2
11	Garrett	6	0	2	0	1	9	1
12	Harford	6	1	2	0	6	15	2
13	Howard	3	0	0	1	4	8	1
15	Montgomery	22	5	8	2	11	48	7
16	Prince George's	10	2	6	1	24	43	6
18	St. Mary's	4	0	2	0	2	8	1
19	Somerset	0	1	3	0	1	5	1
20	Talbot	2	2	2	0	4	10	1
21	Washington	4	0	6	0	3	13	2
22	Wicomico	1	1	5	1	0	8	1
49	Baltimore City	38	6	13	6	59	122	18
20	Statewide Totals	138	27*	76	12	143	396	56
	Percentages	35%	7%	19%	3%	36%	100%	

*(Note: Relative Placement is the combined total of Relative Placement for Adoption = 6; Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship =21)

CRBC conducted a total of 396 individual out-of-home case reviews (each case reviewed represents 1 child/youth) in 20 Jurisdictions on 56 boards that held reviews during the 4th 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 (396)

Gender Totals

Male	Female
203 (51%)	193 (49%)

Gender by Plan

Male(203)

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA
75 (37%)	11 (5%)	43 (21%)	5 (2%)	69 (34%)

Female(193)

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA
63 (33%)	16 (8%)	33 (17%)	7 (4%)	74 (38%)

Ethnicity Overall

African American	Caucasian	Other
244 (62%)	123 (31%)	29 (7%)

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	20	2	2	31	2		57
2_age 6 thru 10	22	2	5	20	1		50
3_age 11 thru 13	34	1	4	10	3		52
4_age 14 thru 16	38	1	8	10	4	8	69
5_age 17 thru 19	21		2	5	2	95	125
6_age 20	3					40	43
Totals	138	6	21	76	12	143	396

Jurisdictional Case Reviews

Allegany County



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

- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 3 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 5 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.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 4 of the 8 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for the 4 cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
3	Formal Kinship Care
5	Regular Foster Care

In all 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. 3 cases had 2 placement changes and 2 cases had 3 changes.

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

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

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

Provider specific reasons for the most recent placement changes:

- 4 case(s) the provider home closed

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

- 1 case(s) child/youth showed threats of harm to self and/or others

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

- Yes, for 4 of the 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 5 of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: All 8 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: All 8 children/youths had a current vision exam.

- Current Dental: All 8 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that all 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: 3 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable, none of the 3 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None of the 8 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 the 4 children/youths.

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

Education

7 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 7 children/youths were in Pre-K thru 12th grade 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)

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

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

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

The local board agreed that 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. 4 of the 5 children/youths with a plan of adoption consented and 1 child was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (5 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (5 cases)

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

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

- 1 case(s) from 1 to 3 months
- 1 case(s) from 7 to 9 months
- 1 case(s) from 10 to 12 months
- 2 case(s) from 12 to 15 months

A home study was completed and approved for 4 of the 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 for all 5 cases.

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

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not Applicable. All 5 children/youths were already placed in pre-adoptive homes.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (5 cases)

Post-adoptive services were needed for all 5 adoption cases. The services that were needed were medical for all 5 cases, educational for 4 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)

5 of the 8 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	3	8
No	5	

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	3	
Unsupervised		8

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

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home		7
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area	3	

Child's/Youth's Placement		1
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		4
No	3	4

The local board found that all 8 children/youths had siblings in care and all 8 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.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.

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.

Anne Arundel County



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

- Reunification: 9 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 3 cases
- APPLA: 4 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 14 of the 16 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify concurrent permanency plans for any of the 16 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (4 cases)

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

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		2
7 to 11 months	2					
1 to 2 years	5					1
2 to 3 years	1					1
3 years or more	1					
Totals →	9			3		4

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 12 of the 16 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for all 16 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 12 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
2	Formal Kinship Care
3	Pre-Finalized Adoption
4	Regular Foster Care
1	Restricted Relative Foster Care
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
2	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Trial Home Visit (LA)
1	Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA)

In 9 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 15 of the 16 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 12 of the 16 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 9 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 11 of the 12 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 12 most recent placement changes:

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 5 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) provider home closed
- 2 case(s) incompatible match

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

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

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

- Yes, for 11 of the 12 cases

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

- Yes, for 11 of the 12 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 4 of the 16 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 13 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 11 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 9 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 5 of the 16 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: 10 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 9 of the 10 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 10 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.

- 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 16 children/youths had been met and 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

10 of the 16 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 10 children/youths were in Pre-K thru 12th grade. 1 of the 6 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had graduated high school, 2 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 – 5 cases)

1 of the 5 youths was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

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

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

The local board agreed that all 5 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. All 3 children with a plan of adoption were all 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 comprised of a married couple for each of the 3 children/youths. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children/youths was a relative foster parent for 1 case and non relative foster parents for 2 cases.

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

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

A home study was completed and approved for 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 the 3 cases.

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 service that was needed was medical for all 3 cases.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

12 of the 16 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	11	9
No	5	7

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	5	1
More than once a week	2	3
Once a month	2	4
More than once a month	1	
Quarterly		1
Yes, but undocumented	1	

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	10	7
Unsupervised	1	2

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	5	1
Other Agency Representative	3	2
Biological Family Member	1	1
Foster Parent		2
Other	1	1

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	1
No	10	8

The local board found that 9 of the 16 children/youths had siblings in care and all 9 had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.

- Appeal by birth parents.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other mental health barrier.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Issues with medical assistance card.
- Issues related to substance abuse.

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.

Baltimore County



Baltimore County had a total of 33 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 20 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 4 cases
- APPLA: 9 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 30 of the 33 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 7 of the 33 cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan (9 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (6)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (3)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 9 cases)

7 of the 9 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 7 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	13			3		5
7 to 11 months	2					1
1 to 2 years	1			1		2
2 to 3 years	2					1
3 years or more	2					
Totals →	20			4		9

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 32 of the 33 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 6 of the 33 cases. 4 cases were Post-TPR children under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 27 of 29 cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
2	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
2	Regular Foster Care
2	Restricted Relative Foster Care
9	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home
6	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Independent Residential Living Program
1	Own Dwelling
1	Psychiatric Respite
1	Diagnostic Center
1	Job Corp (LA)
5	Trial Home Visit (LA)
1	Other

In 17 of the 33 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 31 of the 33 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 13 of the 33 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 8 cases had 1 placement change, 4 had 2 changes and 1 case had 3 changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 11 of the 13 cases.

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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 7 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 2 case(s) allegation of provider abuse/neglect

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

- 4 case(s) had behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for all 13 cases

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

- Yes, for all 13 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 15 of the 33 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 19 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 12 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 17 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 10 of the 33 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 19 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 14 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 20 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 17 of 20 the children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 of 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: 3 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.

- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for all 3 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 12 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 10 of the 12 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 11 of the 33 children/youths had been met.

Education

23 of the 54 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 22 of the 23 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade and 1 youth was enrolled in a GED program. 1 of the 10 children/youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school, 2 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 – 17 cases)

5 of the 17 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 2 were not participating due to being medically fragile and 4 due to mental health reasons.

The local board agreed that 9 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 17 cases)

The local board agreed that 11 of the 17 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 2 were medically fragile and 2 had mental health reasons that prevented them from participating in independent living services.

- 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 2 youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

children were under the age of consent.

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 married couple for 2 cases and a single female for 1 case. 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:

- 1 case(s) from 10 to 12 months
- 1 case(s) from 12 to 15 months
- 1 case(s) from 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved for 2 of the 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 had documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for the 1 child/youth not placed in a pre-adoptive home. The adoptive resource was Wednesday's Child.

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (4 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for the 3 children/youths placed in adoptive homes. The service that was needed was medical for the 3 cases.

The local board found that the post adoptive service was appropriate for the 3 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

2 of the 33 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 33 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	12	5
No	21	28

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	9	2
Unsupervised	3	3

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	3	2
Other Agency Representative	4	
Biological Family Member	1	
Foster Parent		
Other	1	

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	2	
No	10	5

The local board found that 20 of the 33 children/youths had siblings in care and all 20 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.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth's psychotropic medications should be adjusted.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other legal 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 33 children/youths reviewed.

Calvert County



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

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

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 (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 5 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 7 of the 8 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
1	Treatment Foster Care
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
2	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Residential Treatment Center
2	Relative
1	Medical Group Home (LA)

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

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

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

- 1 case(s) had the same level of care
- 1 case(s) was less restrictive
- 1 case(s) was more restrictive

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was transitioning towards a permanency goal

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

- 2 case(s) were behavioral issues

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

- No, for all 3 cases

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

- No, for all 3 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 7 of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 7 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 6 of the 8 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 7 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 6 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 mental health issues were transitioning out of care and they did not have an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.
- 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 6 of the 8 children/youths had been met.

Education

7 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 7 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade, 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)

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

The local board agreed that the 3 youths were not being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

The local board agreed that the 3 youths were 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. 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)

2 of the 8 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	4	5
No	4	3

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

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

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

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

Other		
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Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	3
No	3	2

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:

- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Other agency related barrier.
- Other physical health 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 8 children/youths reviewed.

Caroline County



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

- Reunification: 3 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 4 cases
- APPLA: 1 case

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 (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						
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years	1			4		1
2 to 3 years	1					
3 years or more	1					
Totals →	3			4		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 a signed service agreement for 4 of the 8 cases. 4 cases were Post-TPR children under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for the 4 cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement
4	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Regular Foster Care
1	Residential Group Home
2	Trial Home Visit (LA)

In 3 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. All 5 cases had 1 placement change.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 4 of the 5 cases.

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

- 5 case(s) were in less restrictive placements

The local board found that the primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes were:

- 5 case(s) were transitions towards permanency goal

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 1 of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 8 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 5 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 3 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 2 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: 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/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None of the 8 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 2 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. 5 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade and 1 was in college. The 2 children not enrolled in school 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)

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

The local board agreed that 1 youth was 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. 1 youth had mental health reasons that prevented them from participating in independent living services.

➤ 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 all 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 a married couple for each of the 4 cases. The relationships to the pre-adoptive children/youths were relative foster parents for all 4 cases.

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

- 1 case(s) from 1 to 3 months
- 3 case(s) from 7 to 9 months

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

Adoptive Recruitment (none)

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (4 cases)

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

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

7 of the 8 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	7	7
No	1	1

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	6	5
Unsupervised	1	2

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

Foster Parent		
Other	1	1

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	2	6
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area	1	1
Child's/Youth's Placement	4	
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	2	2
No	5	5

The local board found that 7 of the 8 children/youths had siblings in care and all 7 had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- 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.

Carroll County



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

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

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court identified concurrent permanency plans for 3 of the 6 cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan (None)

Not applicable

Permanent Connections (APPLA – None)

Not applicable

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 4 of the 6 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 4 of the 6 cases. 2 cases were Post-TPR children under age 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for the 4 cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

In 1 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 2 of the 6 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

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 3 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: 4 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 4 of the 6 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 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: Not applicable. None of the 3 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for both children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 4 of the 6 children/youths had been met.

Education

5 of the 6 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 5 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade 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 – 2 cases)

1 of the 2 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 1 youth was 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 was receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 1 youth had mental health reasons that prevented them from participating in independent living services.

➤ 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 2 cases with a plan of adoption, 1 child/youth consented and the other was 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 for each case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children/youths was a non relative foster parent for both cases.

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

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

A home study was completed and approved for both cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive families to meet the identified needs of 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 (2 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for 1 of the 2 adoption cases. The service that was needed was mental health services for the 1 case.

The local board found that the post adoptive services were appropriate for the 1 case.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

5 of the 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	3	0
No	3	6

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	3	
Unsupervised		

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	3	

The local board found that 5 of the 6 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:

- Dentals not current.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 6 children/youths reviewed.

Cecil County



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

- Reunification: 3 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 3 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 3 of the 8 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent plans set by the court for the 3 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				2		1
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years	3			1		
2 to 3 years						1
3 years or more						
Totals →	3			3		2

Case Planning

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

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

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

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 3 of the 8 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. All 3 cases had 1 placement change.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 1 of the 3 cases.

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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 2 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes were;

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

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

- 2 case(s) had behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for all 3 cases

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

- Yes, for all 3 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 7 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 5 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 7 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: 4 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: 5 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 5 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 4 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 and 4 children were under the age of 5.

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

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

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

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

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

The local board agreed that both 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 who was transitioning out of care.

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. Of the 3 cases with a plan of adoption, 1 child/youth did not want to be adopted and 2 were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (3 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (2 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 married couple for each of the 2 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children/youths was a non relative foster parent for both cases.

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

- 1 case(s) from 4 to 6 months

- 1 case(s) from 16 to 20 months

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

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

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

Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

The local board found that the local department had no documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for the 1 child/youth not placed in a pre-adoptive home.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (2 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for 1 of the 2 adoption cases. The service that was needed was medical for the 1 case.

The local board found that the post adoptive services were appropriate for the 1 case.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

4 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	5	2
No	3	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	5	1

Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented		

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	5	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:

- Lack of concurrent planning.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Other agency related barrier.
- 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.

Charles County



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

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

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department’s permanency plan for all 6 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 6 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (5 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)
- Transition to an Adult Supportive Living Arrangement (4)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 5 cases)

3 of the 5 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 3 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 4 of the 6 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 1 of the 6 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for the 1 case.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Treatment Foster Care
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Own Dwelling
1	DDA Group Home
1	DDA Youth Home
1	Inpatient Psychiatric Care (LA)

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

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

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

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

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes were;

- 1 case(s) provider home closed

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

- 1 case(s) had behavioral issues

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that all 6 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 5 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 5 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 5 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 5 of the 6 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: 6 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 6 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 4 youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health care system.
- 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 6 children/youths had been met and 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

4 of the 6 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 3 of the 4 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade and 1 youth was enrolled in a GED program. 1 of the 2 youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school and 1 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 – 6 cases)

1 of the 6 youths was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and 3 were unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

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

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

The local board agreed that 3 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 3 youths had mental health reasons that prevented them from participating in independent living services.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 3 cases)

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

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

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (1 case)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

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

Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

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

The local board agreed that the adoptive recruitment efforts were not appropriate for the child/youth.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

Post adoptive services were needed for the 1 adoption case. The service that was needed was

medical for the case.

The local board found that the post adoptive service was appropriate for the 1 case.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

2 of the 6 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 5 of the 6 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	2	3

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	2	3

The local board found that none of the 6 children/youths had siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Other legal barrier.
- Other agency related barrier.
- Other physical health barrier.
- Lack of educational services/placements.

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.

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: 2 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 5 cases
- APPLA: 6 cases

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court did not identify concurrent permanency plans for any of the 14 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (6 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (6)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 6 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 9 of the 14 cases. 5 cases were Post-TPR children under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for the 9 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 9 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
5	Pre-Finalized Adoption
1	Regular Foster Care
4	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Diagnostic Center

In 2 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 8 of the 14 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 5 cases had 1 placement change and 3 had 2 changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 5 of the 8 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 8 most recent placement changes:

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 5 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- 4 case(s) had behavioral issues

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

- 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 1 of the 14 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 13 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 7 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 13 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 6 of the 14 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 10 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 7 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 9 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 9 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 9 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 9 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 9 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 7 of the 14 children/youths had been met and 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

11 of the 14 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 10 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade and 1 was in college. The 3 children/youth not enrolled in school were all 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 – 8 cases)

5 of the 8 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

The local board agreed that 5 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

The local board agreed that 7 of the 8 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – None)

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

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 5 cases with a plan of adoption, 1 child/youth did not want to be adopted and 4 were under the age of consent. 2 children/youths with a plan of relative placement for adoption were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (6 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (6 cases)

All 4 children/youths with an adoption plan and 2 with a plan of relative placement for adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple for 5 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 relative foster parents for 2 cases.

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

- 3 case(s) from 1 to 3 months
- 2 case(s) from 10 to 12 months
- 1 case(s) from 13 to 15 months

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

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

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate for all 6 cases.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (6 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for the 6 cases. The services that were needed were medical for all 6 cases, mental health services for 2 and educational services for 4 cases.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

All 14 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 11 of the 14 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	10	7
No	4	7

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	1	3
More than once a week	1	
Once a month	1	1
More than once a month	5	2

Quarterly	2	1
Yes, but undocumented		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	7	1
Unsupervised	3	6

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	3	1
Other Agency Representative	1	
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent	3	
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	2	6
LDSS Visitation Center	2	
Public Area	2	1
Child's/Youth's Placement	4	
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	3	1
No	7	6

The local board found that 10 of the 14 children/youths had siblings in care and all 10 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.
- 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 13 of the 14 children/youths reviewed.

Garrett County



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

- Reunification: 6 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 2 cases
- APPLA: 1 case

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 6 of the 9 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent plans set by the court for the 6 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						
7 to 11 months	2			2		1
1 to 2 years	4					
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more						
Totals →	6			2		1

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 7 of the 9 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 6 of the 9 cases. 1 case was a Post-TPR child under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 7 of 8 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)
5	Formal Kinship Care
2	Pre-Finalized adoptive Home
1	Restricted (Relative) Foster Care
1	Correctional Institution (LA)

In 6 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 3 of the 9 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 2 cases had 2 placement changes and 1 had 3 changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 2 of the 3 cases.

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

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

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) was delinquent behavior

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

- Yes, for all 3 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 9 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 9 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 9 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 9 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that all 9 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 2 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for both children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 2 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for both children/youths.

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

Education

5 of the 9 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 5 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade. 1 of the 4 children/youth not enrolled in school 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 – 1 case)

The youth was not employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience because the youth was in a Juvenile Justice Facility.

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

Not applicable, youth in Juvenile Justice Facility

➤ 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 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 for both cases. The relationships to the pre-adoptive children/youths were non relative foster parents for both cases.

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

- 2 case(s) from 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved for both cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive families to meet the identified needs of 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 (2 cases)

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 9 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	4	6
No	5	3

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

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

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		3
No	4	3

The local board found that 7 of the 9 children/youths had siblings in care and all 7 had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Other physical health barrier.
- Other permanency 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 9 children/youths reviewed.

Harford County



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

- Reunification: 6 cases
- Relative Placement Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- Non Relative Adoption: 2 cases
- APPLA: 6 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for all 15 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 1 of the 15 cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan (6 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (6)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 6 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had signed service agreements for 12 of the 15 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 13 of the 15 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 12 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
2	Regular Foster Care
2	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
2	Residential Group Home
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Own Dwelling
1	Diagnostic Center
1	Runaway (LA)
1	Secure Detention Facility (LA)
1	Unapproved Kinship Home (LA)
1	Trial Home Visit (LA)

In 3 of the 15 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

In 11 of the 15 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 6 cases had 1 placement change, 2 had 2 changes, 1 had 3 changes and 2 had 4 or more changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 6 of the 11 cases.

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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 6 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- 3 case(s) behavioral issues
- 1 case(s) delinquent behavior
- 1 case(s) runaway

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

- Yes, for all 11 cases

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

- Yes, for 9 of the 11 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 4 of the 15 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 13 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 11 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 9 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 6 of the 15 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 7 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 7 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 11 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 6 of the 11 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 11 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 2 children/youths had substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for both children/youths.

- Behavioral Issues: 8 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 8 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 6 of the 15 children/youths had been met.

Education

8 of the 15 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 8 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade. 4 of the 7 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school, 2 refused to attend school and 1 was under age 5.

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

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 13 cases)

6 of the 13 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and 1 was unable to participate due to being in a Juvenile Justice Facility.

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

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

The local board agreed that 10 of the 13 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living and 1 youth was unable to participate due to being in a Juvenile Justice Facility.

- 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. 2 children/youths with a plan of adoption were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

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

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

- 1 case(s) from 7 to 9 months

A home study was completed and approved for 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 found that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for the 1 case.

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.

The local board agreed that the adoptive recruitment efforts were not appropriate for the 1 case.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

Post-adoptive services were needed for the child/youth placed in a pre-adoptive home. The service that was needed was medical.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

5 of the 15 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed in 14 of the 15 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	8	5
No	7	10

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

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

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

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

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

The local board found that 1 of the 15 children/youths had siblings in care and he/she had visits with their sibling.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Lack of concurrent planning.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Youth not attending school or in a GED program.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 14 of the 15 children/youths reviewed.

Howard County



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

- Reunification: 3 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 4 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.

The local department was pursuing a concurrent permanency plan of Non Relative Adoption for 1 of the Reunification cases.

Category of APPLA plan (4 cases)

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

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

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had signed service agreements 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 the 6 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

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

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

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

- 1 case(s) same level of care

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) was an incompatible match

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

- Yes, for the case

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

- Yes, for the case

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 7 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 8 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 6 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- 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: Not applicable. None of the 7 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for both children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 6 of the 8 children/youths had been met and 2 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

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

1 of the 6 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 1 youth was being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

The local board agreed that 5 of the 6 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 1 youth had mental health reasons that prevented them from participating in independent living services.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – None)

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

Not applicable.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 1 child/youth with a plan of reunification consented to adoption with conditions.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (1 case)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

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

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

- 1 case(s) from 21 months or more

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

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

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable. The child/youth was already placed in a pre-adoptive home.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

Post-adoptive services were needed for the child/youth placed in a pre-adoptive home. The service that was needed was medical.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

All 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	2
No	2	6

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

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

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency	4	

Representative		
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other		

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No	5	2

The local board found that 1 of the 8 children/youths had siblings in care and that the child/youth had visits with their siblings.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- 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 7 of the 8 children/youths reviewed.

Montgomery County



Montgomery County had a total of 48 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 22 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 5 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 8 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 2 cases
- APPLA: 11 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 37 of the 48 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified concurrent permanency plans for 3 of the 48 cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan (11 cases)

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

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 11 cases)

All 11 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for all 11 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months			2	4	1	1
7 to 11 months	3		2			3
1 to 2 years	13		1	3	1	1
2 to 3 years	1			1		2

3 years or more	5					4
Totals →	22		5	8	2	11

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 19 of the 48 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 22 of the 48 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 36 of 46 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 22 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
2	Formal Kinship Care
3	Pre Finalized Adoptive Home
9	Regular Foster Care
1	Restricted Relative Foster Care
12	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
10	Therapeutic Group Home
4	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Diagnostic Center
1	College (LA)
1	Inpatient Psychiatric Care (LA)
1	Inpatient Medical Care (LA)
1	Unapproved Kinship Home (LA)
1	Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA)

In 23 of the 48 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 46 of the 48 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 23 of the 48 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 18 cases had 2 placement changes, 3 cases had 3 changes and 2 cases had 4 or more changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 11 of the 23 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 23 most recent placement changes:

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 5 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal
- 1 case(s) placement with relatives
- 1 case(s) placement with siblings

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) was an allegation of provider abuse/neglect
- 4 case(s) incompatible match between children/youths and the providers

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

- 7 case(s) were for behavioral issues
- 1 case(s) health
- 1 case(s) runaway
- 1 case(s) hospitalization

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

- Yes, for all 23 cases

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

- Yes, for 20 of the 23 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 9 of the 48 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 38 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 30 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 31 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 23 of the 48 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 22 children/youths were taking prescription medication.

- Psychotropic Medication: 18 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 37 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 33 of the 37 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 and 1 youth did not have a plan.
- Substance Abuse: 5 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 5 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 24 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 23 of the 24 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 26 of the 48 children/youths had been met and 3 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

44 of the 48 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 39 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade, 1 was enrolled in a GED program and 4 were in college. 1 of the 4 children/youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school, 2 refused to attend 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 – 25 cases)

4 of the 25 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 3 youths were unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

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

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 25 cases)

The local board agreed that 13 of the 25 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 3 youths had mental health reasons that prevented them

from participating in independent living services.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 3 cases)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had not been specified for the 3 youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that the 3 youths were not being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. Of the 8 cases with a plan of adoption, 1 child/youth consented with conditions, 5 children were under the age of consent and 2 children/youth's consent was unknown.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (8 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (3 cases)

3 of the 8 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 1 case and a single female for each of the 2 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children/youths was a non relative foster parent for each of the 3 cases.

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

- 1 case(s) from 10 to 12 months
- 1 case(s) from 13 to 15 months
- 1 case(s) 21 months or more

A home study was not completed and approved for 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 3 cases.

Adoptive Recruitment (5 cases)

The local board found that the local department had documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for 3 of the 5 children/youths not placed in a pre-adoptive home. The adoptive resources were current and previous Foster Parents.

The local board agreed that the adoptive recruitment efforts were appropriate for 3 of the 5 cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (6 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for 6 of the 8 adoption cases. The service that was needed was medical for the 6 cases.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

12 of the 48 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 45 of the 48 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	26	10
No	22	38

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily	1	
Once a week	4	
More than once a week	6	
Once a month	9	2
More than once a month	1	2
Quarterly	1	
Yes, but undocumented	4	6

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	8	
Unsupervised	18	10

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	8	
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		

Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	4	5
LDSS Visitation Center	7	
Public Area	6	4
Child's/Youth's Placement	6	1
Other	3	

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	4	3
No	22	7

The local board found that 20 of the 48 children/youths had siblings in care and all 20 had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Notification not published.
- Lack of concurrent planning.
- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other family related barrier.
- Other education barrier.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other independence barrier.
- 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 48 children/youths reviewed.

Prince George's County



Prince George's County had a total of 43 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 10 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 2 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 6 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 24 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 42 of the 43 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 1 of the 43 cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan (24 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (24)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 24 cases)

21 of the 24 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 21 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months				2		3
7 to 11 months			1	1	1	6
1 to 2 years	6		1			7
2 to 3 years	2					5
3 years or more	2			3		3
Totals →	10		2	6	1	24

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 19 of the 43 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 6 of the 43 cases. 4 cases were Post-TPR children/youths under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 10 of the 39 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for 5 of the 6 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Intermediate Foster Care
3	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Regular Foster Care
1	Restricted (Relative) Foster Care
5	Treatment Foster Care
11	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
2	Residential Group Home
2	Therapeutic Group Home
7	Independent Living Residential Program
2	Residential Treatment Center
2	Own Home/Apartment (LA)
3	Runaway (LA)
2	Secure Detention Facility (LA)
1	Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA)

In 23 of the 43 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 40 of the 43 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 27 of the 43 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 14 cases had 1 placement change, 4 had 2 changes, 3 had 3 changes and 6 cases had 4 or more changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 7 of the 27 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 27 most recent placement changes:

- 11 case(s) were in less restrictive placements

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 11 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 2 case(s) incompatible match
- 1 case(s) allegation of provider abuse/neglect

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

- 12 case(s) were for behavioral issues
- 1 case(s) delinquent behavior

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

- Yes, for 23 of the 27 cases

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

- Yes, for 23 of the 27 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 12 of the 43 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 26 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 22 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 17 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 11 of the 43 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 17 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 15 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 35 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 27 of the 35 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 and 3 youths did not have a plan.
- Substance Abuse: 13 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 13 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 30 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 22 of the 30 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 11 of the 43 children/youths had been met, and 5 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

33 of the 43 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 30 of the 33 children/youths were in Pre-K thru 12th grade and 3 youths were in college. 7 of the 10 children/youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school, 1 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 – 35 cases)

12 of the 35 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and 2 youths were unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

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

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 35 cases)

The local board agreed that 21 of the 35 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 2 youths had mental health reasons that prevented them from participating in independent living services.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 9 cases)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

Housing had been specified for 1 of the 9 youths 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 6 cases with a plan of adoption, 3 children/youths consented and 3 were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (6 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (6 cases)

All 6 children/youths with an adoption plan were placed in pre-adoptive homes. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple for each of 3 cases and a single female for each of the other 3 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children/youths were non-relative foster parents for all 6 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
- 1 case(s) from 7 to 9 months
- 3 case(s) 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved for 4 of the 6 cases.

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

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate for all 6 cases.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (6 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for 5 of the 6 cases. The services that were needed was medical for 5 cases, mental health for 4 cases and educational for 3 cases.

The local board found that the post adoptive services were appropriate for the 5 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

12 of the 43 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 35 of the 43 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	17	14
No	26	29

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	2	2
More than once a week	1	
Once a month	6	2
More than once a month	5	5
Quarterly	2	1
Yes, but undocumented	1	4

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	4	2
Unsupervised	13	12

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

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	7	9
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area	3	2
Child's/Youth's Placement	4	1
Other	3	2

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	7	8
No	10	6

The local board found that 9 of the 43 children/youths had siblings in care and all 9 had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Poor coordination within DSS.
- Lack of concurrent planning.
- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth not attending school or in GED program.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Transitional housing has not been identified.
- Non-compliant with service agreement.
- 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 32 of the 43 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: 4 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 2 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 1 of the 8 cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (2)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

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

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

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

Not applicable. No placement changes within the 12 months prior to the review.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 4 of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 7 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 6 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 6 of the 8 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 7 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 7 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 youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 1 of the 8 children/youths had substance abuse issues.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the 1 child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 4 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 4 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 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. 1 of the 2 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program 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)

None of the 6 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 2 youths were unable to participate due to being medically fragile.

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

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

The local board agreed that 4 of the 6 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 2 youths had mental health reasons that prevented them from participating in independent living services.

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

Not applicable.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 1 child/youth did not want to be adopted and 1 was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

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 married couple 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 16 to 20 months

A home study was completed and approved for 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 1 case.

Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

Not applicable. Child/youth does not want to be adopted.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

Post adoptive services were needed for the child/youth placed in a pre-adoptive home. The services that were needed were medical and mental health services for the 1 child/youth.

The local board found that the post adoptive services were appropriate for the child/youth.

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	4	1
No	4	7

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	1	
Unsupervised	3	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	2	
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area		
Child's/Youth's Placement	2	
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	4	1

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:

- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Other permanency 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 8 children/youths reviewed.

Somerset County



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

- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- Non Relative Adoption: 3 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 a concurrent permanency plan for 1 of the 5 cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months			1			
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years						
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more				3		1
Totals →			1	3		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 4 of the 5 cases. 1 child/youth was a Post-TPR child under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for the 4 cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

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 2 of the 5 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 2 changes.

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:

- 2 case(s) were in a less restrictive placement

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was transitioning towards permanency goal

Child/youth specific issues 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 5 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 3 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 3 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 3 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 2 of the 5 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: 5 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 4 of the 5 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues 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 a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 4 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 3 of the 4 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 3 of the 5 children/youths had been met.

Education

4 of the 5 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 3 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade and 1 was enrolled in a GED program. The 1 child/youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program, 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 – 4 cases)

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

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

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

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – None)

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

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 youth consented, 1 did not want to be adopted and 1 child was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (3 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

None of the 3 children/youths were placed in pre-adoptive homes.

Adoptive Recruitment (3 cases)

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

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (3 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for 2 of the 3 adoption cases. The services that were needed were medical, mental health and educational services for both cases.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 5 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	1	
No	4	5

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	1	
Unsupervised		

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

Foster Parent		
Other	1	

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	1	

The local board found that 2 of the 5 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:

- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.

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.

Talbot County



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

- Reunification: 2 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 2 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 2 cases
- APPLA: 4 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for all 10 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 3 of the 10 cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan (4 cases)

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

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 the 4 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Totals →	2		2	2		4
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Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had signed service agreements for 8 of the 10 cases. 2 children/youths were Post-TPR children under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for the 8 cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement
2	Regular Foster Care
2	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Therapeutic Group Home
3	Residential Treatment Center
1	Own Dwelling
1	Homeless Shelter (LA)

In 2 of the 10 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 10 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 6 of the 10 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 4 cases had 2 placement changes and 2 cases had 3 changes.

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

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

- 3 case(s) were in a less restrictive placements
- 2 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:

- 3 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- 1 case(s) had behavioral issues
- 1 case(s) was sexualized
- 1 case(s) was hospitalization

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

- Yes, for all 6 cases

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

- Yes, for all 6 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 10 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 9 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 9 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 10 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 7 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 7 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: All 10 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 9 of the 10 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues who was transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: None.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 10 children/youths had behavioral issues.

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

The local board found that the health needs of 9 of the 10 children/youths had been met and 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

7 of the 10 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 7 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade. 2 of the 3 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school and 1 refused to attend.

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)

1 of the 7 youths was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth was unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

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

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

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

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

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

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, 1 child/youth consented and the other child was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

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 for 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.

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

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 for the 1 case.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (2 cases)

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

9 of the 10 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 9 of the 10 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

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

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		3
No	3	

The local board found that 3 of the 10 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:

- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Non-compliant with service agreement.

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 10 children/youths reviewed.

Washington County



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

- Reunification: 4 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 6 cases
- APPLA: 3 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for all 13 cases reviewed.

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

Category of APPLA plan (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		1
7 to 11 months	1			1		2
1 to 2 years	2			2		
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more	1			2		
Totals →	4			6		3

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 12 of the 13 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had signed service agreements for 4 of the 13 cases. 6 cases were Post-TPR children/youths under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 6 of the 7 cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement
1	Intermediate Foster Care
5	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Regular Foster Care
2	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
3	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Relative

In all 13 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 13 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

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

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

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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 3 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

Child/youth specific issues 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 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 2 of the 13 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 13 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 7 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 10 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 6 of the 13 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 10 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 9 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 8 of the 9 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 8 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 8 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 6 of the 13 children/youths had been met.

Education

10 of the 13 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational

program. All 10 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade. 1 of the 3 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program 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 – 4 cases)

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

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

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

The local board agreed that 3 of the 4 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 1 youth had mental health reasons that prevented them from participating in independent living services.

➤ 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 6 cases with a plan of adoption, 3 children/youths consented, 1 was medically fragile and unable to consent and 2 were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (6 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (5 cases)

5 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 married couple in all 5 cases. The relationships to the pre-adoptive children/youths were non relative foster parents in all 5 cases.

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

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

A home study was completed and approved for 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 for all 5 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 resources were Heart Gallery and Adopt-Us-Kids.

The local board agreed that the adoptive recruitment efforts were appropriate for the 1 case.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (6 cases)

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

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

3 of the 13 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 13 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	6	3
No	7	10

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

More than once a month	3	2
Quarterly		1
Yes, but undocumented		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	5	3
Unsupervised	1	

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	6	3

The local board found that 9 of the 13 children/youths had siblings in care and all 9 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.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Dentals not current.
- No concurrent plan by court

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for all 13 children/youths reviewed.

Wicomico County



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

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

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 3 of the 8 cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan (None)

Not applicable.

Permanent Connections (APPLA – None)

Not applicable.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 1 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 agreement was appropriate for the 1 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement
5	Regular Foster Care
1	Residential Group home
1	Correctional Institution (LA)
1	Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA)

In 5 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 6 of the 8 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

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

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 more restrictive placement
- 1 case(s) was a child/youth on runaway

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

- 1 case(s) runaway

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 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 6 of the 8 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 8 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 7 of the 8 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: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the 1 child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 8 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 7 of the 8 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 6 of the 8 children/youths had been met. 2 children/youths 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. 1 of the 2 children/youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school and 1 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 – 3 cases)

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

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

➤ 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. 1 youth had mental health reasons and 1 was in a correctional facility that prevented them from participating in independent living services.

➤ 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 5 cases with a plan of adoption, 1 youth consented and 4 were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (5 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

1 of the 5 children/youths with an adoption plan was placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple for the 1 case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child/youth was non relative foster parents.

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

- 1 case(s) from 12 to 15 months

A home study was completed and approved for 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.

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

Adoptive Recruitment (4 cases)

The local board found that the local department had documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for the 4 children/youths not placed in pre-adoptive homes. The adoptive resources were respite foster parents for all 4 cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (5 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for all 5 adoption cases. The services that were needed were medical and mental health services for all 5 cases and educational services for 4 cases.

The local board found that the post adoptive services were appropriate for the 5 cases.

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	
No	2	8

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	5	
Unsupervised	1	

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	6	

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

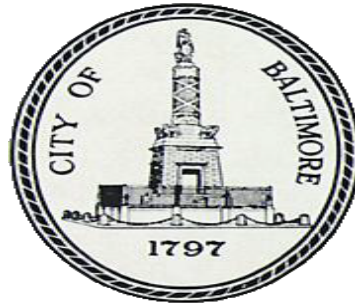
The local board identified the following barriers to permanency or issues:

- No current IEP.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Lack of concurrent planning.

Summary

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

Baltimore City



Baltimore City had a total of 122 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 38 cases
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 2 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 4 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 13 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 6 cases
- APPLA: 59 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 96 of the 122 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 7 of the 122 cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan (59 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (54)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (5)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 59 cases)

51 of the 59 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for all 51 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	6		3	7	2	15
7 to 11 months	12		1	1		9
1 to 2 years	10	1		1	2	19
2 to 3 years	5			3	2	9
3 years or more	5	1		1		7
Totals →	38	2	4	13	6	59

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 29 of the 122 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 66 of the 122 cases. 9 cases were Post-TPR children under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 94 of the 113 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 65 of the 66 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement
10	Formal Kinship Care
9	Pre Finalized Adoptive Home
5	Regular Foster Care
2	Restricted (Relative) Foster Care
1	Treatment Foster Care
44	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
4	Residential Group Home
6	Teen Mother Program
4	Therapeutic Group Home
20	Independent Living Residential Program
2	Relative
1	Non Relative
5	Own Dwelling
1	Diagnostic Center
2	Correctional Institution (LA)
1	Inpatient Medical Care (LA)
1	Job Corps (LA)
2	Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Secure Detention Facility (LA)
1	Trial Home Visit (LA)

In 63 of the 122 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 119 of the 122 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 53 of the 122 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 13 cases had 1 placement change, 23 cases had 2 changes, 12 cases had 3 changes and 5 cases had four or more changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 13 of the 53 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 53 most recent placement changes:

- 23 case(s) were in less restrictive placements
- 13 case(s) were in more restrictive placements
- 17 case(s) had the same level of care

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 26 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) provider home closed
- 4 case(s) were an allegation of provider abuse/neglect
- 3 case(s) were an incompatible match between child/youth and the providers

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

- 11 case(s) had behavioral issues
- 2 case(s) child/youth request removal
- 1 case(s) had delinquent behavior
- 3 case(s) runaway

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

- Yes, for 44 of the 53 cases

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

- Yes, for 48 of the 53 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 22 of the 122 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 81 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 66 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 46 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 35 of the 122 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 46 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Psychotropic Medication: 28 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 70 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 53 of the 70 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and 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: 22 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 22 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 42 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 33 of the 42 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 33 of the 122 children/youths had been met and 11 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

73 of the 122 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 66 of the 73 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade, 1 youth was enrolled in a GED program, 5 were in college and 1 was in a trade school. 27 of the 49 children/youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school, 10 refused to attend school and 12 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 – 83 cases)

32 of the 83 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth was medically fragile and unable to participate, 3 youths had a mental health reasons and 1 was in a correctional facility.

The local board agreed that 64 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 83 cases)

The local board agreed that 59 of the 83 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 1 youth was medically fragile, 3 youths had mental health reasons and 1 was in a correctional facility that prevented them from participating in independent living services.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 21 cases)

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

Housing had been specified for 15 of the 21 youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that 14 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 13 cases with a plan of adoption, 2 children/youths consented, 1 consented with conditions, 2 were medically fragile and unable to consent, 6 were under the age of consent and 2 children/youth's consent were unknown. 1 of the 2 children/youths with a plan of relative placement for adoption consented and the other was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (15 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (10 cases)

8 of the 13 children/youths with an adoption plan and 2 with a plan of relative placement for adoption were placed in pre-adoptive homes. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple in 1 case, an unmarried couple in 4 cases and a single female in 5 cases. The relationships to the pre-adoptive children/youths were non relative foster parents in 8 cases and a relative foster parent in 2 cases.

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

- 1 case(s) from 10 to 12 months

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

A home study was completed and approved for 7 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 all 10 cases.

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

Adoptive Recruitment (5 cases)

The local board found that the local department had documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for 3 of the 5 children/youths not placed in a pre-adoptive home. The adoptive resources were Digital Me, Wendy's Wonderful Kids, National Adoption List, Adopt-Us-Kids, Wednesday's Child and a foster parent.

The local board agreed that the adoptive recruitment efforts were appropriate for the 3 children/youths.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (10 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for the 10 children/youths placed in adoptive homes. The services that were needed were medical for all 10 cases, mental health for 2 cases, educational services for 3 cases, respite services for 1 case and DDA services for 2 cases.

The local board found that the post adoptive services were appropriate for the 10 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

7 of the 122 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 114 of the 122 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	62	40
No	60	82

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
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Daily	2	1
Once a week	20	9
More than once a week	7	6
Once a month	13	5
More than once a month	11	4
Quarterly	2	3
Yes, but undocumented	7	12

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	21	12
Unsupervised	41	28

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	17	9
Other Agency Representative	2	1
Biological Family Member	2	2
Foster Parent		
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	24	23
LDSS Visitation Center	8	2
Public Area	19	11
Child's/Youth's Placement	7	4
Other	4	

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	12	9
No	50	31

The local board found that 51 of the 122 children/youths had siblings in care and all 51 had visits with their siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with child.
- Worker not facilitating visits.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).

- Lack of Group Home placements.
- Lack of housing.
- Lack of employment.
- Lack of concurrent planning.
- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Not following up on referrals.
- No current IEP.
- School not meeting youth's behavioral needs.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- No follow up on medical referrals.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Other education barrier.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other family related barrier.
- Youth not enrolled in school.
- Youth not attending school or in GED program.
- Home study not completed.
- Non-compliant with service agreement.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Other coordination barrier.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Other family related barrier.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Child in pre-adoptive home but adoption not finalized.
- Other physical health barrier.
- Transitional housing has not been identified.
- Youth not employed and transitioning out of care.
- Other independence barrier.
- Youth needs more restrictive placement.
- Housing has not been identified for youth aging out of care.
- Other placement barrier.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- No current Safe-C/G.
- Youth engages in risky behavior.
- No sibling or family visits.

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 111 of the 122 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.

4th Quarter 2019

CRBC Metrics

Total # of Children - Scheduled on the Preliminary:	756
Total # of Children - Closed, Non Submission & Rescheduled:	321
Total # of Children - Eligible for Review:	435
Total # of Children - Reviewed at the Board:	396
Total # of Children - Not Reviewed at the Board:	39
Percentage of Children Reviewed for the Period:	91%
Percentage of Children Not Reviewed for the Period:	9%
Recommendation Reports - Number Sent	396
Recommendation Reports - Number Sent on Time	368
Recommendation Reports - Percent Sent on Time	93%
Recommendation Reports - Number Received – DSS Response	208
Recommendation Reports - Percent Received % - DSS Response	58%
Recommendation Reports - Number Received on Time - DSS Response	91
Recommendation Reports - Percent Received on Time % - DSS Response	44%
Number of Boards Held	56
Recommendation Reports - # of DSS Agreement	200
Recommendation Reports - Percent of DSS Agreement	96%
Recommendation Reports - # of DSS Disagreement	8
Recommendation Reports - Percent of DSS Disagreement	4%
Recommendation Reports - # Blank/Unanswered	0
Recommendation Reports - Percent # Blank/Unanswered	0%
Percentage of REUNIFICATION Children Reviewed for the Period:	35%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT – Adoption Children Reviewed:	2%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT – C & G Children Reviewed:	5%
Percentage of ADOPTION Children Reviewed for the Period:	19%
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

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

Sarah Walker

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

CRBC Staff

Denise E. Wheeler
Administrator

Crystal Young, MSW
Assistant Administrator

Jerome Findlay
Information Technology Officer

Hope Smith
IT Functional Analyst

Fran Barrow
Child Welfare Specialist

Michele Foster, MSW
Child Welfare Specialist

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

Sandy Colea
Volunteer Activities Coordinator

Cindy Hunter-Gray
Lead Secretary

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