

Citizens Review Board For Children



FOURTH QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 2022 REPORT

(April 1st 2022 – June 30th 2022)

Table of Contents

<u>Our Mission Statement</u>	3
<u>Our Vision Statement</u>	3
<u>Discrimination Statement</u>	3
<u>Confidentiality</u>	3
<u>CRBC Acknowledgements</u>	4
<u>Introduction</u>	5
<u>Targeted Review Criterion</u>	6
<u>Permanency Plan Hierarchy</u>	7
<u>Family Centered Practice Model</u>	7
<u>4th Quarter 2022 Case Review Statistics</u>	8
<u>Gender Totals</u>	10
<u>Gender By Plan</u>	10
<u>Ethnicity Overall</u>	10
<u>Age Range by Permanency Plan</u>	10
<u>Jurisdictional Case Reviews</u>	11
<u>Anne Arundel County</u>	11
<u>Baltimore County</u>	17
<u>Calvert County</u>	24
<u>Caroline County</u>	30
<u>Carroll County</u>	36
<u>Cecil County</u>	42
<u>Charles County</u>	49
<u>Frederick County</u>	55
<u>Garrett County</u>	61
<u>Harford County</u>	67
<u>Howard County</u>	73
<u>Montgomery County</u>	79
<u>Prince George’s County</u>	87
<u>St. Mary’s County</u>	94
<u>Washington County</u>	100
<u>Wicomico County</u>	107
<u>Baltimore City</u>	113
<u>Required Supporting Documentation</u>	121
<u>Recommendations to All LDSS</u>	121
<u>Independent Living</u>	121
<u>Permanent Connections</u>	121
<u>Adoption</u>	121
<u>CRBC Metrics</u>	122
<u>The State Board</u>	123
<u>CRBC Staff</u>	124
<u>References</u>	125

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

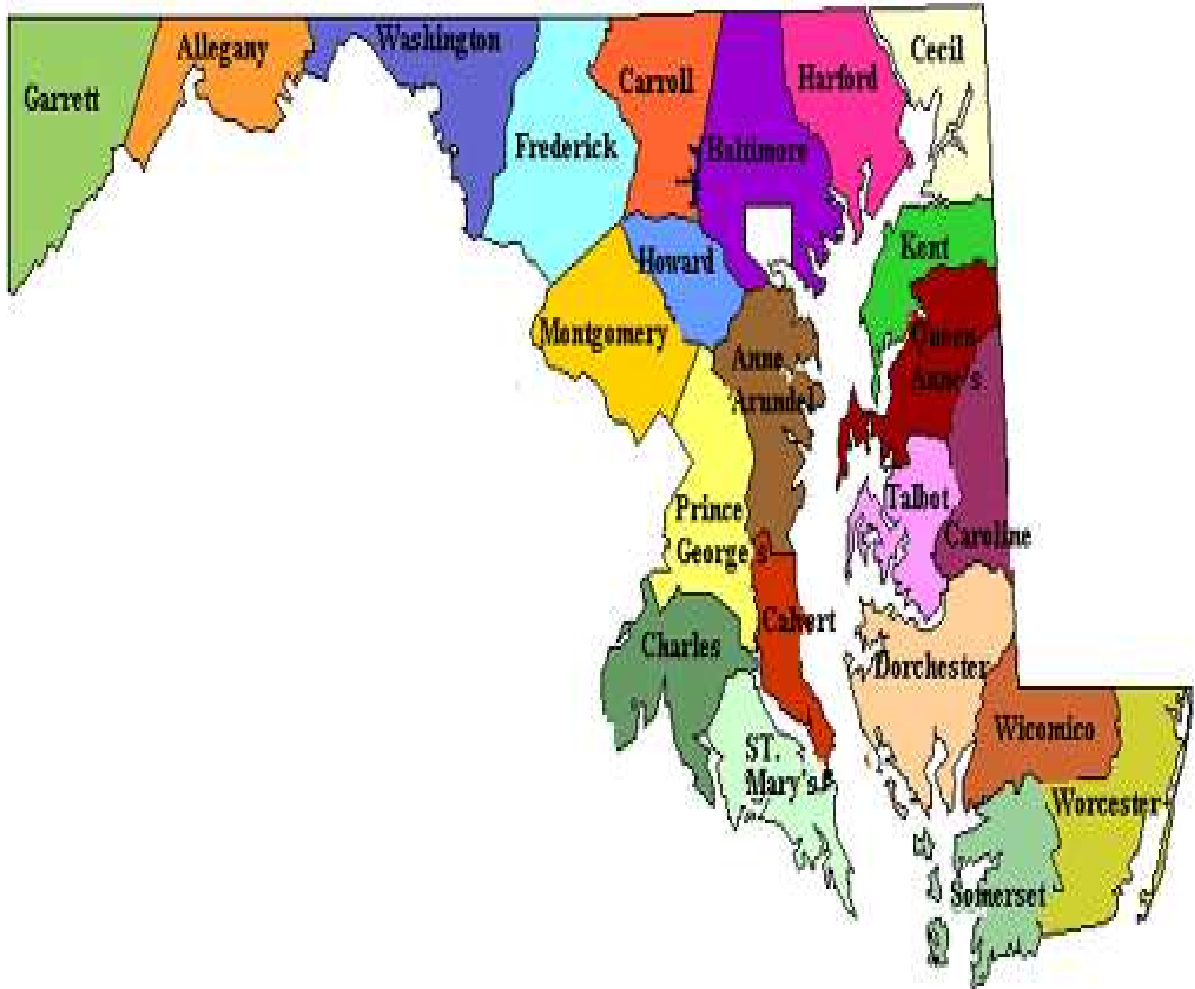
CRBC would like to acknowledge the commitment, dedication, passion and service of all stakeholders on behalf of Maryland's most vulnerable children including:

- ★ 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 2022.



CRBC conducts regular out-of-home placement case reviews in all 24 Maryland jurisdictions including Baltimore City throughout the year. For this quarterly report, the following counties did not have regularly scheduled case reviews during the quarter: Allegany, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot and Worcester. Therefore, this report only contains review findings and recommendations for the 17 jurisdictions including Baltimore City that had regularly scheduled reviews.

Targeted Review Criterion

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

4th Quarter 2022 Case Review Statistics

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

Jurn #	County	Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA	TOTAL	# Boards Held
02	Anne Arundel	4	0	0	1	2	7	2
03	Baltimore County	10	0	1	1	6	18	5
04	Calvert	0	1	0	0	3	4	1
05	Caroline	0	1	0	0	1	3	1
06	Carroll	2	0	0	0	1	3	1
07	Cecil	0	0	0	2	2	4	1
08	Charles	2	0	0	0	2	4	1
10	Frederick	0	0	0	0	2	2	1
11	Garrett	2	0	0	1	1	4	1
12	Harford	1	0	0	0	3	4	1
13	Howard	2	0	0	0	1	3	1
15	Montgomery	10	1	6	2	8	27	7
16	Prince George's	5	1	2	1	15	24	6
18	St. Mary's	1	0	2	1	0	4	1
21	Washington	0	3	0	0	5	8	2
23	Wicomico	2	0	0	0	2	4	1
49	Baltimore City	24	5	1	8	19	57	18
17	Statewide Totals	65	12*	12	17	74	180	51
	Percentages	36%	7%	7%	9%	41%	100%	

*(Note: Relative Placement is the combined total of Relative Placement for Adoption = 0; Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship =12)

CRBC conducted a total of 180 individual out-of-home case reviews (each case reviewed represents 1 child/youth) in 17 Jurisdictions on 51 boards that held reviews during the 4th quarter of fiscal year 2022.

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

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

time of the review)

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

Total Reviewed (180)

Gender Totals

Male	Female
92 (51%)	88 (49%)

Gender by Plan

Male (92)

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA
33 (36%)	7 (8%)	7 (8%)	9 (9%)	36 (39%)

Female (88)

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA
32 (36%)	5 (6%)	5 (6%)	8 (9%)	38 (43%)

Ethnicity Overall

African American	Caucasian	Asian	Other
109 (61%)	60 (33%)	3 (2%)	8 (4%)

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	10	0	2	3	0	0	15
2_age 6 thru 10	10	0	2	4	2	0	18
3_age 11 thru 13	9	0	2	1	5	0	17
4_age 14 thru 16	23	0	4	3	9	4	43
5_age 17 thru 19	9	0	2	1	1	43	56
6_age 20	4	0	0	0	0	27	31
Totals	65	0	12	12	17	74	180

Jurisdictional Case Reviews

Anne Arundel County



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

- Reunification: 4 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 2 cases

Permanency

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

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)
- Other (1)

Permanent Connections (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						
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years	3				1	

2 to 3 years						
3 years or more	1					2
Totals →	4				1	2

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 4 cases. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for 6 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
2	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Inpatient Psychiatric Care (LA)

In 5 of the 7 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department’s placement plan for 6 of the 7 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

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

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 6 of the 7 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 3 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 3 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 3 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 2 children/youths reviewed.

- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 2 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 5 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Yes, for all 5 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 5 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Yes, for all 5 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 6 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for all 6 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 4 of the 6 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: No, for the child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: Yes, for 5 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 3 of the 5 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 2 of the 7 children/youths were being met.

Education

5 of the 7 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 5 were in Pre-K through 12th grade. The 2 youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school.

3 of the 5 children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had a 504 or IEP plan and all 3 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 4 of the 5 children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program.

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

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

1 youth 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 – 3 cases)

The local board agreed that 2 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 1 youth had mental health reasons preventing them from receiving appropriate services.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 2 cases)

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

Housing had not been specified for the 2 youths transitioning out of care.

The local board agreed that 2 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.

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)

5 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		1
Unsupervised	5	4

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	4	4
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area		1
Child's/Youth's Placement	1	
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	3
No	4	2

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 4 of the 7 children/youths had siblings in care. 1 child/youth had 1 sibling in care and 3 had 2 siblings in care. Efforts were made to place siblings who did not reside together for 4 children/youths. 3 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other independence barrier.
- Other education barrier.
- No concurrent permanency plan in place.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- 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 7 children/youths reviewed.

Baltimore County



Baltimore County had a total of 18 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 10 cases
- Non-Relative Adoption: 1 case
- Non-Relative Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 6 cases

Permanency

The local boards agreed with the department's permanency plan for 13 of the 18 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified concurrent permanency plans for 8 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the court for the 8 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (6 cases)

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

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 6 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 18 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had signed service agreements for 5 of the 18 cases. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for 5 cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Formal Kinship Care
1	Treatment Foster Care
6	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home
1	Teen Mother Program
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Diagnostic Center
2	Other
1	College (LA)
1	Runaway (LA)

In 10 of the 18 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local boards agreed with the department's placement plan for 15 of the 18 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 9 of the 18 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 5 cases had 1 placement change, 2 cases had 2 changes and 2 cases had 4 or more changes.

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

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

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

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

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

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

- 3 case(s) behavioral issues
- 1 case(s) child/youth on runaway
- 1 case(s) hospitalization

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

- Yes, for 7 of the 9 cases

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

- Yes, for 8 of the 9 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 4 of the 18 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 8 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 4 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 10 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 1 child/youth requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 3 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 11 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 11 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 6 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 6 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 14 children/youths had mental health issues.

- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for the 14 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 10 of the 14 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 4 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 4 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 7 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 5 of the 7 children/youths.

The local boards found that the health needs of 3 of the 18 children/youths had been met.

Education

12 of the 18 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 10 were in Pre-K through 12th grade, 1 youth was enrolled in a GED program and 1 youth was in college. 2 of the 5 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational had already graduated high school, 2 refused to attend school and 1 child was under age 5.

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

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

The local boards agreed that 12 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 15 cases)

6 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 2 youths were medically fragile and unable to participate and 1 youth due to mental health reasons.

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

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 15 cases)

The local board agreed that 8 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 2 youths were medically fragile preventing them from receiving appropriate services and 1 youth due to mental health reasons.

➤ 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 transitioning out of care.

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (1 case)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

The child/youth with a plan of adoption was placed in a pre-adoptive home. The family structure was comprised of a married couple for the 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) 1 to 3 months

A home study was completed and approved for the case.

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

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

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

Post-adoptive services were needed for the case. The services that were needed were medical and mental health services.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local boards agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 18 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	11	6
No	7	12

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

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

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

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	5	5

LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area	4	1
Child's/Youth's Placement	2	
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	3	4
No	8	2

Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 3 of the 18 children/youths had siblings in care. The 3 children/youths had 2 siblings in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 3 children/youths. 3 children/youths with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 8 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- No current IEP.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- No follow up on medical referrals.
- Other mental health barrier.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth engages in risky behavior.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Lack of concurrent planning.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local boards 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 18 children/youths reviewed.

Calvert County



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

- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 3 cases

Permanency

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (3 cases)

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

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 3 cases)

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

Case Planning

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

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

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

None of the 4 children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

Not applicable. None of the 4 cases reviewed had a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 3 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 1 child/youth had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 2 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: None.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 1 child/youth had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 3 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 3 children/youths.

- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for 1 of the 2 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 2 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for both children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for both children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. Both children/youths with mental health issues were not transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 2 children/youths had a substance abuse issue.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 2 children/youths.
- 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 1 of the 4 children/youths had been met.

Education

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

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

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

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

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

2 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 – 2 cases)

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

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

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Not applicable.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Not applicable.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

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

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

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

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

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that none of the 4 children/youths had siblings in care. 1 child/youth had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with youth.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Child has behavior problems in home.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Undocumented child/youth.
- 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 4 children/youths reviewed.

Caroline County



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

- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 2 cases

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any 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						
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years						1
2 to 3 years			1			
3 years or more						1
Totals →			1			2

Case Planning

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

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

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

2 of the 3 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 3 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

Not applicable. None of the 3 cases reviewed had a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review.

Health/Mental Health

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

- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for both children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for both children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 3 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for all 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues who was transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse issue.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 1 child/youth had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the child/youth.

The local board found that the health needs of 2 of the 3 children/youths had been met and 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

1 of the 3 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. The child/youth was in Pre-K through 12th grade. The 2 youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school.

The child/youth in Pre-K through 12th grade did not have a 504 or IEP plan.

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

The local board agreed that 1 child/youth enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program was being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

Both youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

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

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

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 2 cases)

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

Housing had been specified for 1 of the 2 youths transitioning out of care. Alternative housing options were provided for both youths.

The local board agreed that the 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.

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)

1 case had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	2	1

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

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

Other		
-------	--	--

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No	1	2

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that none of the 3 children/youths had siblings in care. All 3 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with youth.
- No concurrent plan by court
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Dentals not current.
- Other independence barrier.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- 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 3 children/youths reviewed.

Carroll County



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

- Reunification: 2 cases
- APPLA: 1 case

Permanency

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

The 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						
2 to 3 years	1					
3 years or more	1					1
Totals →	2					1

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 2 of the 3 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 1 case. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 2 cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

None of the 3 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 3 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 2 of the 3 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 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 a less restrictive placement
- 1 case(s) had the same level of care

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

- 1 case(s) was transitioning towards permanency goal

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) provider home closed

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 2 of the 3 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 3 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 1 child/youth had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 1 child/youth had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 2 children/youths reviewed.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 1 child/youth had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for both children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for both children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 3 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for all 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 of the 3 youths with mental health issues who was transitioning out of care had an identified plan to obtain mental health services in the adult health care system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse issue.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: None.

- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Not applicable.

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

Education

2 of the 3 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. Both children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade. The youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school

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

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 1 of the 2 children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program.

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

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

None of the 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 – 3 cases)

The local board agreed that 3 youths were not receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

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

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

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

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 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	1	2

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		1
No	1	1

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that none of the 3 children/youths had siblings in care. All 3 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with parents.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other independence barrier.
- Youth not employed and transitioning out of care.
- 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 3 children/youths reviewed.

Cecil County



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

- Non-Relative Custody/Guardianship: 2 cases
- APPLA: 2 cases

Permanency

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

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

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

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had signed service agreements for 2 of the 3 eligible cases. 1 child/youth was a Post-TPR child under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for 2 cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Regular Foster Care
2	Residential Group Home
1	Relative

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

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

- 1 case(s) was a more restrictive placement

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

- 1 case(s) behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for 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 2 of the 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 2 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 2 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 2 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: None.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 1 child/youth had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for both children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for all 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 4 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for all 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues who was transitioning out of care had an identified plan to obtain mental health services in the adult health care system, and 1 youth did not have a plan.
- Substance Abuse: None.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 4 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 2 of the 4 children/youths had been met and 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

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

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

A current progress report/report card was available for review for the 3 children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program.

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

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

1 youth was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and 1 youth was medically fragile and unable to participate.

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 youth was receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 1 youth was medically fragile preventing them from receiving appropriate services.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 2 cases)

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

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

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Not applicable.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Not applicable.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

2 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

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

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

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

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

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 2 of the 4 children/youths had siblings in care. Both children/youths had 1 sibling in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 1 child/youth. 2 children/youths had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 1 child/youth had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with youth.
- Non-compliant with service agreement.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other independence barrier.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Not following up on referrals.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- 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 4 children/youths reviewed.

Charles County



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

- Reunification: 2 cases
- APPLA: 2 cases

Permanency

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

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

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

Case Planning

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

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

The local board agreed that the service agreement was appropriate for the 4 signed case.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
2	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Relative
1	Other

In 1 of the 4 cases reviewed the child/youth was placed in their home jurisdiction in a setting that was in close proximity to their community which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

- 1 case(s) was a less restrictive placement

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

- 1 case(s) behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for 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 all 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 3 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 3 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 4 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 2 children/youths reviewed.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 3 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 3 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 3 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 3 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, 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 3 of the 4 children/youths had been met.

Education

3 of the 4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 2 children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade and 1 youth was in college. The child not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational was under the age of 5.

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

A current progress report/report card was not available for review for the 2 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

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

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

1 youth was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

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 found that 2 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)

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

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

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. Not applicable.

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)

1 case had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	2	1

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

Foster Parent		
Other		

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	2	1
No		

Siblings/Visits

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

Barriers/Issues

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

- Disagreement with permanency plan.
- No concurrent permanency plan in place
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth engages in risky behavior.

Summary

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

Frederick County



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

- APPLA: 2 cases

Permanency

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

- Transition to an Adult Supportive Living Arrangement (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
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years						
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more						
Totals →						2

Case Planning

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

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

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Psychiatric Respite

Neither of the 2 children/youths reviewed were placed in their home jurisdiction in a setting that was in close proximity to their communities, which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

Not applicable. There were no placement changes within the 12 months prior to the review for both cases reviewed.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that both children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 2 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 1 child/youth had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 2 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: Both children/youths had follow-up health concerns noted by a physician.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that both children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: Both children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for both children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: Both children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for both children/youths.

- Mental Health Issues: Both children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for both children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for both 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: Both children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for both children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 1 of the 2 children/youths had been met.

Education

1 of the 2 children/youths reviewed was enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. The child/youth was in Pre-K through 12th grade. The 1 youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school.

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

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

The local board agreed that the child/youth enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program was being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

Neither of the 2 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 not being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

The local board agreed that 1 youth was receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 1 youth had mental health reasons preventing them from receiving appropriate 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.

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 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No	1	2

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

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	1	
Child's/Youth's Placement		
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	1	

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that none of the 2 children/youths had siblings in care. 1 child/youth had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Other placement barrier.
- Youth needs more restrictive placement.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth's psychotropic medications should be adjusted.
- Lack of special needs Foster 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 both children/youths reviewed.

Garrett County



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

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

Permanency

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for all 4 cases. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for all 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 (LA)
2	Regular Foster Care
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Own Dwelling

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

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

- 2 case(s) sexualized

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

- No, 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 none of the 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 4 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 2 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 4 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: 2 children/youths had follow-up health concerns noted by a physician.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 2 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 1 child/youth was taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the child/youth.
- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues: All 4 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for all 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 4 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 3 children/youths.

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

Education

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

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

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

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

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

Both youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

The local board agreed that both 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 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.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Not applicable.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Not applicable.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

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

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative		1

Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		1
Foster Parent	2	
Other		

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		1
No	2	2

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 2 of the 4 children/youths had siblings in care. Both children/youths had 1 sibling in care. Efforts were made to place siblings who did not reside together for both children/youths. 1 child/youth had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- No concurrent plan by court
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Vision not current.
- 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 4 children/youths reviewed.

Harford County



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

- Reunification: 1 case
- APPLA: 3 cases

Permanency

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (3 cases)

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

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 3 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 2 of the 4 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 2 cases. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for 3 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreement was appropriate for 1 of the 2 signed case.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

In 1 of the 4 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

Not applicable. There were no placement changes within the 12 months prior to the review.

Health/Mental Health

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

- Mental Health Issues: 3 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for all 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 3 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: None.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 3 children/youths.

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

Education

2 of the 4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. Both children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade. The 2 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school.

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

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

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

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

2 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth was medically fragile and unable to participate, and 1 youth 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 – 19 cases)

The local board found that 2 youths were not receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 1 youth was medically fragile preventing them from receiving appropriate services and 1 youth due to mental health reasons.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 2 cases)

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

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

The local board agreed that 1 youth was being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Not applicable.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Not applicable.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

2 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No	3	4

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	1	

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No		

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that none of the 4 children/youths had siblings in care. 2 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other independence barrier.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.

Summary

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

Howard County



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

- Reunification: 2 cases
- APPLA: 1 case

Permanency

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

The APPLA case had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connection was not 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						
2 to 3 years	1					1
3 years or more	1					
Totals →	2					1

Case Planning

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

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

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Diagnostic Center
1	Runaway (LA)

None of the 3 children/youths reviewed were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for 2 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 2 of the 3 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 1 case had 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 level of care was found for the 2 most recent placement changes:

- 2 case(s) were more restrictive placements

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

- 1 case(s) was transitioning towards permanency goal

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

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

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

- 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 all 3 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: 2 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for all 3 children/youths reviewed.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 2 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: None.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Not applicable.
- Psychotropic Medication: None.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Not applicable.
- Mental Health Issues: 3 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for all 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues who was transitioning out of care had an identified plan to obtain mental health services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 1 child/youth had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the child/youth.

The local board found that the health needs of 2 of the 3 children/youths had been met.

Education

1 of the 3 children/youths reviewed was enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. The child/youth was in Pre-K through 12th grade. 1 of the 2 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school and 1 refused to attend school.

The child/youth in Pre-K through 12th grade did not have a 504 or IEP plan.

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

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

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

1 youth was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

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 youth was receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)

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

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

The local board agreed that the youth was 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.

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)

3 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	2	
No	1	3

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	1	
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		
Unsupervised	2	

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	2	

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that none of the 3 children/youths had siblings in care. 2 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with youth.
- No concurrent permanency plan in place
- Dentals not current.
- Other independence barrier.
- Transitional housing has not been identified.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth not attending school or in GED program.
- Youth engages in risky behavior.

Summary

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

Montgomery County



Montgomery County had a total of 27 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 10 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- Non-Relative Adoption: 6 cases
- Non-Relative Custody/Guardianship: 2 cases
- APPLA: 8 cases

Permanency

The local boards agreed with the department's permanency plan for 25 of the 27 cases reviewed.

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (8 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (8)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 8 cases)

All 8 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local boards agreed that the connections were appropriate for all 8 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months				3		2
7 to 11 months	1				1	
1 to 2 years	1		1			1
2 to 3 years	1			1	1	3
3 years or more	7			2		2
Totals →	10		1	6	2	8

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 12 of the 27 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had signed service agreements for 8 of the 25 eligible cases. 2 children/youths were Post-TPR children under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for 15 cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
2	Regular Foster Care
10	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
4	Residential Group Home
5	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Relative
1	Diagnostic Center
1	Runaway (LA)
1	Trial Home Visit (LA)

In 14 of the 27 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 boards agreed with the department's placement plan for 25 of the 27 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

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

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 3 of the 6 cases.

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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

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

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

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

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

- Yes, for 5 cases

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

- Yes, for 5 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 12 of the 27 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 21 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 12 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 20 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 10 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 13 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 12 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 12 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 12 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 12 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 22 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for all 22 children/youths.

- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 19 of the 22 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 6 youths with mental health issues who were transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: None.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 12 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 10 of the 12 children/youths.

The local boards found that the health needs of 15 of the 27 children/youths had been met and 2 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

25 of the 27 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 23 were in Pre-K through 12th grade and 2 youths were in college. 1 of the 2 youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program refused to attend school and 1 child was under age 5.

13 of the 23 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 8 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 16 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local boards agreed that 19 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 17 cases)

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

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

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

The local boards agreed that 9 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 3 youths had mental health reasons preventing them from receiving appropriate services.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 3 cases)

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

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

The local boards agreed that 1 youth was being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (6 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (6 cases)

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

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

- 2 case(s) from 13 to 15 months
- 1 case(s) from 16 to 20 months
- 2 case(s) 21 months or more

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

The local board found 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 resource was Adopt-Us-Kids.

The local board agreed that the adoptive recruitment effort was appropriate for the case.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (5 cases)

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

15 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 26 of the 27 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	14	6
No	13	21

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	4	
Unsupervised	10	6

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	5	2
No	9	4

Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 10 of the 27 children/youths had siblings in care. 6 children/youths had 1 sibling in care and 4 had 2 siblings in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 7 children/youths. 5 children/youths with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 9 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- No follow up on medical referrals.
- Other physical health barrier.
- Other mental health barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Other placement barrier.
- Transitional housing has not been identified.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Youth engages in risky behavior.
- Youth's psychotropic medications should be adjusted.
- Housing has not been identified for youth aging out of care.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 23 of the 27 children/youths reviewed.

Prince George's County



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

- Reunification: 5 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- Non-Relative Adoption: 2 cases
- Non-Relative Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 15 cases

Permanency

The local boards agreed with the department's permanency plan for 22 of the 24 cases reviewed.

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (15 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (15)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 15 cases)

14 of the 15 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local boards agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 14 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	1			1	1	1
7 to 11 months				1		3
1 to 2 years	2		1			7
2 to 3 years	2					3
3 years or more						1
Totals →	5		1	2	1	15

Case Planning

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

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

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
2	Formal Kinship Care
1	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
2	Regular Foster Care
7	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Teen Mother Program
5	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Relative
2	Non-Relative
1	Psychiatric Respite
1	Diagnostic Center
1	Secure Detention Center (LA)

In 19 of the 24 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local boards agreed with the department's placement plan for 23 of the 24 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 7 of the 24 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 4 cases had 1 placement change, 2 cases had 2 changes and 1 case had 3 changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 5 of the 7 cases.

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

- 1 case(s) was a less restrictive placement
- 1 case(s) was a more restrictive placement
- 5 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

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

- Yes, for 5 cases

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

- Yes, for 6 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 24 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 15 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 15 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 16 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 4 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 10 of the 24 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 3 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 3 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 20 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for 18 of the 20 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 11 of the 20 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

- Substance Abuse: 7 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the 7 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 7 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 3 of the 7 children/youths.

The local boards found that the health needs of 12 of the 24 children/youths had been met.

Education

14 of the 24 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 10 of the 14 were in Pre-K through 12th grade, 2 youths were enrolled in a GED program and 2 youths were in college. 5 of the 10 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school, 4 refused to attend school and 1 child was under the age of 5.

3 of the 10 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 2 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 6 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local boards agreed that 14 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 17 cases)

9 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

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 boards agreed that 6 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 5 cases)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

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

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

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

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

- 1 case(s) from 13 to 15 months

A home study was not completed and approved for the case.

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

Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

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

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

6 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local boards agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 23 of the 24 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	12	13
No	12	11

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	2	1
More than once a week	2	
Once a month	1	1
More than once a month		
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented	7	11

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	1	
Unsupervised	11	13

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

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	10	13
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area	1	
Child's/Youth's Placement	1	
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	7	13
No	5	

Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 11 of the 24 children/youths had siblings in care. 8 children/youths had 1 sibling in care and 3 had 2 siblings. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 11 children/youths. 6 children/youths had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 13 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- No concurrent plan by court
- Child/Youth has runaway history.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth engages in risky behavior.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 19 of the 24 children/youths reviewed.

St. Mary's County



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

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

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 1 of the 4 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for all 4 cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan (None)

Not applicable.

Permanent Connections (None)

Not applicable.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department did not have a signed service agreement for any of the 4 cases. Efforts were not made to involve the family in the service agreement process for the cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Regular Foster Care
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Other
1	Runaway (LA)

None of the 4 children/youths reviewed were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their community which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

In 2 of the 4 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. Both cases had 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 a less restrictive placement
- 1 case(s) had the same level of care

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

- 1 case(s) was transitioning towards permanency goal

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 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 3 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 1 child/youth had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 2 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 1 child/youth reviewed.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 1 child/youth had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for both children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues: 3 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for all 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 1 of 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: 3 children/youths had a substance abuse issue.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 3 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 children/youths had behavioral issues.

- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 3 children/youths.

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

Education

3 of the 4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 2 children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade and 1 youth was enrolled in a GED program. The youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program refused to attend school.

All 3 children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had a 504 or IEP plan and 2 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was not available for review for the 2 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

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

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

None of the youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth was medically fragile and unable to participate.

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

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

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

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

Not applicable.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

None of the cases were placed in a pre-adoptive home.

Adoptive Recruitment (2 cases)

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (2 cases)

Not applicable. Both cases were not placed in pre-adoptive homes.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

2 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	3	4
No	1	

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	3	3

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

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	2	2
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area		
Child's/Youth's Placement	1	2
Other		

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

Siblings/Visits

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

Barriers/Issues

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

- Disrupted pre-adoption placement.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Child/Youth has runaway history.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Other independence barrier.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth not attending school or in GED program.

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 1 of the 4 children/youths reviewed.

Washington County



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

- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 3 cases
- APPLA: 5 cases

Permanency

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (5 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (5)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 5 cases)

All 5 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for 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						2
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years			1			1
2 to 3 years			2			
3 years or more						2
Totals =>			3			5

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 3 cases. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for 6 cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
2	Restricted (Relative) Foster Care
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Own Dwelling
1	Inpatient Psychiatric Care (LA)
1	Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA)

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

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

Placement Stability

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

The local department did not hold a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for the 4 cases.

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

- 1 case(s) was a less restrictive placement
- 1 case(s) was a more restrictive placement
- 1 case(s) had the same level of care
- 1 case(s) child/youth on runaway

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

- 2 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- 1 case(s) hospitalization

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

- Yes, for 3 cases

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

- Yes, for 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: 6 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 6 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 5 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: None.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 5 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 5 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 5 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 7 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for all 7 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 6 of the 7 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 child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 7 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 5 of the 7 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 7 of the 8 children/youths had been met and 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

4 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 4 children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade. The 4 youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school.

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

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

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

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 5 cases)

2 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth was medically fragile and unable to participate.

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

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

The local board agreed that 3 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 1 youth was medically fragile preventing them from receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 2 cases)

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

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

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

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)

4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	3
No	2	

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 5 of the 8 children/youths had siblings in care. 2 children/youths had 1 sibling in care and 3 had 2 siblings in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 2 children/youths. 2 children/youths with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 3 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with youth.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Not following up on referrals.
- Refusal to locate or maintain employment.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other independence barrier.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.

- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Youth needs more restrictive placement.

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.

Wicomico County



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

- Reunification: 2 cases
- APPLA: 2 cases

Permanency

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

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

- Transition to an Adult Supportive Living Arrangement (2)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 cases)

Both APPLA cases did not have a permanent connection identified.

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	2					
3 years or more						1
Totals =>	2					2

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 2 of the 4 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 2 of the 3 eligible cases. 1 case was a Post-TPR child/youth under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for the 3 eligible cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
4	Therapeutic Group Home

None of the 4 children/youths reviewed were placed in their home jurisdiction in a setting that was in close proximity to their community which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

- 1 case(s) same level of care

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) provider home closed

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 all 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 4 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 3 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 3 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: None.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 3 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 3 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 3 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for both children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 2 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for both children/youths.
- 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: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: None.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Not applicable.

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

Education

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

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

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

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

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

None of the youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth was medically fragile and unable to participate.

The local board agreed that 2 youths were not being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

The local board agreed that 2 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 1 youth was medically fragile preventing them from receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)

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

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

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Not applicable.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Not applicable.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No	3	4

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	1	

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative		

Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other		

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	1	

Siblings/Visits

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

Barriers/Issues

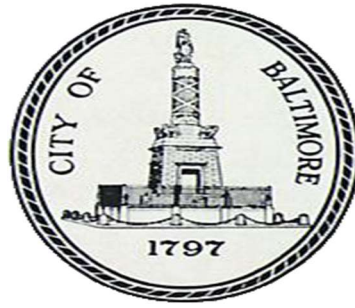
The local board identified the following barriers to permanency/issues:

- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- No service agreement with youth.
- No current IEP.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other physical health barrier.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- 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 4 children/youths reviewed.

Baltimore City



Baltimore City had a total of 57 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 24 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 5 cases
- Non-Relative Adoption: 1 case
- Non-Relative Custody/Guardianship: 8 cases
- APPLA: 19 cases

Permanency

The local boards agreed with the department's permanency plan for 40 of the 57 cases reviewed.

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

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the local juvenile court for 7 of the 9 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (19 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (18)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 19 cases)

16 of the 19 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local boards agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 16 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	5		1		1	3
7 to 11 months	3				1	2
1 to 2 years	3		1		2	9
2 to 3 years	8		2		2	5
3 years or more	5		1		2	
Totals →	24		5	1	8	19

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 16 of the 57 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 16 of the 53 eligible cases. 4 cases were Post-TPR children under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for 28 of the 53 eligible cases.

The local boards agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for 13 of the 16 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
5	Formal Kinship Care
1	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
9	Regular Foster Care
2	Restricted (Relative) Foster Care
18	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
3	Residential Group Home
3	Teen Mother Program
2	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Own Dwelling
1	Diagnostic Center
1	Inpatient Psychiatric Care (LA)
5	Runaway (LA)
2	Secure Detention Facility (LA)
2	Unapproved Kinship Home (LA)
1	Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA)

In 30 of the 57 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 boards agreed with the department's placement plan for 44 of the 57 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 17 of the 57 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 12 cases had 1 placement change, 3 cases had 2 changes, 1 case had 3 changes and 1 case had 4 or more changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 3 of the 17 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 17 most recent placement changes:

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 4 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) hospitalization
- 5 case(s) runaway

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

- Yes, for 12 cases

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

- Yes, for 12 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 16 of the 57 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 25 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 17 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 14 children/youths had a current dental exam.

- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 1 child/youth requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 7 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 16 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 16 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 12 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for 11 of the 12 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 43 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for all 43 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 18 of the 43 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 2 youths did not have a plan.
- Substance Abuse: 8 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 8 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 25 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 11 of the 25 children/youths.

The local boards found that the health needs of 12 of the 57 children/youths had been met and 6 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

30 of the 57 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 29 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade and 1 youth was enrolled in a GED program. 7 of the 27 children/youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school, 14 refused to attend school and 6 were under the age of 5.

16 of the 30 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 9 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 14 of the 30 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade.

The local boards agreed that 21 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 39 cases)

10 of the 39 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 2 youths were unable to participate due to mental health reasons and 1 youth due to being in a Correctional Facility.

The local boards agreed that 13 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 39 cases)

The local boards agreed that 14 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 2 youth had mental health reasons preventing them from receiving appropriate services and 1 youth due to being in a Correctional Facility.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 3 cases)

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

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

The local boards 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. The 1 case with a plan of adoption consented.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (1 case)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

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

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

- 1 case(s) from 16 to 20 months

A home study was completed and approved for the case.

The local boards 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 boards agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for the 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 case. The services that were needed were medical, mental health and educational services.

The local boards found that the post-adoptive services were appropriate for the case.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local boards agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 48 of the 57 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	26	6
No	31	51

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	12	6
More than once a week		
Once a month	3	
More than once a month	8	

Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented	3	

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	6	
Unsupervised	20	6

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

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	9	4
LDSS Visitation Center	7	
Public Area	8	2
Child's/Youth's Placement	2	
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	4	
No	22	6

Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 26 of the 57 children/youths had siblings in care. 16 children/youths had 1 sibling in care, 3 had 2 siblings, 4 had 3 siblings and 3 had 5 siblings. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 19 children/youths. 18 children/youths with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 17 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Poor coordination within DSS.
- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.

- No concurrent plan by court
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Agency related barriers.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Not following up on referrals.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- No current IEP.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- No follow up on medical referrals.
- Other education barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Other agency related barrier.
- Transitional housing has not been identified.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Youth has not been assessed for mental health concerns.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth engages in risky behavior.
- Home study not completed.
- Home study not approved.
- Housing has not been identified for youth aging out of care.
- No current Safe-C/G.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 29 of the 57 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 Services (DHS), Social Services Administration and the Citizens Review Board for Children.

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

Recommendations to All Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS)

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

Independent Living

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

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 2022 CRBC Metrics

Total # of Children - Scheduled on the Preliminary:	403
Total # of Children - Closed (adopted, reunified, exited care), Non-Submission:	157
Total # of Children - Rescheduled (DSS caseworker requests, board overload):	46
Total # of Children - Not taken to the Board:	203
Total # of Children - Taken to the Board:	200
Total # of Children - Reviewed at the Board:	180
Total # of Children - Not Reviewed at the Board (worker no shows/closed):	20
Percentage of Children Reviewed for the Period:	90%
Percentage of Children Not Reviewed for the Period:	10%
Recommendation Reports to DSS - Number Sent:	174
Recommendation Reports to DSS - Number Sent on Time:	162
Recommendation Reports to DSS - Percentage Sent on Time:	93%
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Number of Responses Received:	72
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Percentage of DSS Responses:	41%
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Number Received on Time:	50
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Percentage Received on Time	69%
Number of Boards Held	51
Recommendation Reports - Number of DSS Agreement:	70
Recommendation Reports - Percentage of DSS Agreement:	97%
Recommendation Reports - Number of DSS Disagreement:	2
Recommendation Reports - Percentage of DSS Disagreement:	3%
Recommendation Reports - Number of Blank/Unanswered: ¹	0
Recommendation Reports - Percentage of Blank/Unanswered:	0%
Percentage of REUNIFICATION Children Reviewed for the Period:	36%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT - Adoption Children Reviewed:	0%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT - C & G Children Reviewed:	7%
Percentage of ADOPTION Children Reviewed for the Period:	7%
Percentage of CUSTODY/GUARDIANSHIP Children Reviewed for the Period:	9%
Percentage of APPLA Children Reviewed for the Period:	41%

¹ The number of recommendation report responses received from the local Department of Social Services that did not indicate acceptance or non-acceptance of the local (CRBC) board's recommendation.

The State Board

Nettie Anderson-Burrs (Chair)

Circuit 4: Representing Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties

Delores Alexander (Vice Chair)

Circuit 3: Representing Baltimore and Harford Counties

Dr. Theresa Stafford

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

Reginald Groce Sr.

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

Vacant

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

Benia Richardson

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

Michele Foster, MSW
Child Welfare Specialist

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

Nikia Greene
Child Welfare Specialist

Sandy Colea, CVA
Volunteer Activities Coordinator Supervisor

Lakira Whitaker
Volunteer Activities Coordinator II

Cindy Hunter-Gray
Lead Secretary

Agnes Smith
Executive Assistant

Vacant
Office Clerk

References

Citizens Review Board for Children (2013). Policy and Procedures Manual. Baltimore, MD: Department of Human Services (formerly Dept. of Human Resources).

COMAR 07.01.06.05. Procedures for Conducting the Citizen Review of Out-of-Home Placement. Title 07 Department of Human Services (formerly Dept. of Human Resources).

COMAR 07.02.11.01. Purpose of Out-of-Home Placement Program. Title 07 Department of Human Services (formerly Dept. of Human Resources).

COMAR 07.02.11.03. Out of Home Placement: Definitions. Title 07 Department of Human Services (formerly Dept. of Human Resources).

COMAR 07.02.11.08. Out of Home Placement: Medical Care. Title 07 Department of Human Services (formerly Dept. of Human Resources).

COMAR 07.02.12.04. Post Adoption Services. Title 07 Department of Human Services (formerly Dept. of Human Resources),

Maryland Code, Family Law § 5-539

Maryland Code, Family Law § 5-545

Maryland Department of Human Resources (FY2015). State Stats. Place Matters Statewide Summary Department of Human Services (formerly Dept. of Human Resources).

Social Services Administration (2016). Out of Home Placement Services – Ready By 21 Manual (FY2017 Edition). Baltimore, MD: Department of Human Services (formerly Dept. of Human Resources).

Social Services Administration cw#16-10 (September 15th 2015). Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA). Baltimore, MD: Department of Human Services (formerly Dept. of Human Resources).

Social Services Administration cw#14-17 (April 15, 2014). Oversight and Monitoring of Health Care Services. Baltimore, MD: Department of Human Services (formerly Dept. of Human Resources).

Social Services Administration (2010). Out of Home Placement Program Manual. Baltimore, MD: Department of Human Services (formerly Dept. of Human Resources).

Social Services Administration cw#10-08 (August 14, 2009). Family Involvement Meetings (FIM). Baltimore, MD: Department of Human Services (formerly Dept. of Human Resources).