



# FIRST QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 2023 REPORT (July 1st 2022 – September 30th 2022)

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### **Our Mission Statement**

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

### **Our Vision Statement**

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

### **Discrimination Statement**

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

### **Confidentiality**

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

**CRBC Acknowledgements**

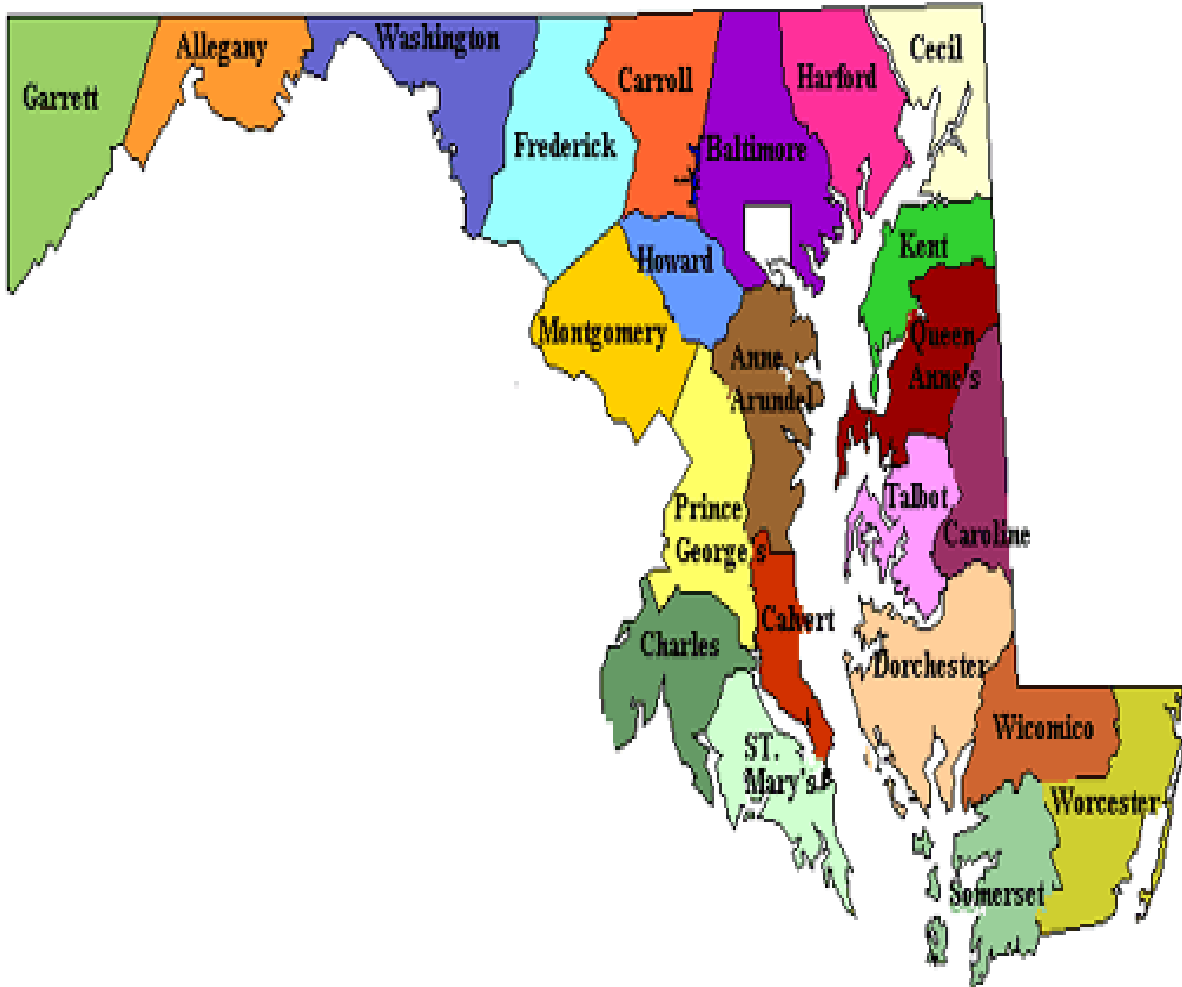
CRBC would like to acknowledge the commitment, dedication, passion and service of all stakeholders on behalf of Maryland's most vulnerable children including:

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

*Thank  
You*

## Introduction

The following pages contain data from CRBC's out-of-home-placement case review findings and recommendations for the 1st Quarter of Fiscal Year 2023.



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: Caroline, Carroll, Dorchester, Garrett, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne, Wicomico and Worcester counties. Therefore, this report only contains review findings and recommendations for the 15 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. The strengths of the entire family are the focus of the engagement (2010).

## 1st Quarter 2023 Case Review Statistics

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

Jurn #	County	Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA	TOTAL	# Boards Held
01	Allegany	5	1	0	0	1	7	2
02	Anne Arundel	1	1	0	0	1	3	1
03	Baltimore County	14	0	2	0	5	21	6
04	Calvert	3	1	0	0	0	4	1
07	Cecil	2	0	0	0	2	4	1
08	Charles	0	0	1	1	2	4	1
10	Frederick	2	0	5	0	2	9	2
12	Harford	1	0	5	0	6	12	3
15	Montgomery	6	3	6	3	1	19	5
16	Prince George's	10	0	1	2	7	20	5
18	Saint Mary's	2	0	1	0	1	4	1
19	Somerset	1	0	0	0	3	4	1
20	Talbot	0	0	2	1	1	4	1
21	Washington	1	0	0	0	3	4	1
49	Baltimore City	10	4	1	7	15	37	10
15	<b>Statewide Totals</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>41</b>
	<b>Percentages</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

\*(Note: Relative Placement is the combined total of Relative Placement for Adoption = 5; Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship = 5)

CRBC conducted a total of 156 individual out-of-home case reviews (each case reviewed represents 1 child/youth) in 15 Jurisdictions on 41 boards that held reviews during the 1st quarter of fiscal year 2023.

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/Issues to Permanency

**Total Reviewed (156)**

**Gender Totals**

Male	Female
74 (47%)	82 (53%)

**Gender by Plan**

Male (74)

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA
31 (42%)	5 (7%)	12 (16%)	5 (7%)	21 (28%)

Female (82)

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA
27 (33%)	5 (6%)	12 (15%)	9 (11%)	29 (35%)

**Ethnicity Overall**

African American	Caucasian	Asian	Other
79 (51%)	58 (37%)	3 (2%)	16 (10%)

## Age Range by Permanency Plan

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

AGE RANGE	RU	RA	RG	AD	CG	AP	Totals
1_age 0 thru 5	8	1	0	6	0	0	15
2_age 6 thru 10	10	0	3	4	5	0	22
3_age 11 thru 13	14	0	1	6	4	0	25
4_age 14 thru 16	18	1	3	7	3	6	38
5_age 17 thru 19	8	1	0	1	2	33	45
6_age 20	0	0	0	0	0	11	11
Totals	58	3	7	24	14	50	156

**Jurisdictional Case Reviews**

**Allegany County**



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

- Reunification: 5 cases
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 1 case
- APPLA: 1 case

**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 3 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the local Juvenile Court for the 3 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		1				1
7 to 11 months	2					
1 to 2 years	1					
2 to 3 years	2					
3 years or more						
<b>Totals →</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>				<b>1</b>

## 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 2 cases. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process was made for both cases.

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

## Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

In 3 of the 7 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in a setting that was in close proximity to their community which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

## Placement Stability

In 5 of the 7 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 2 cases had 1 placement change, 1 case had 2 changes, 1 case had 3 changes and 1 case had 4 or more placement changes.

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

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

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

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

- 3 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- 2 case(s) behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for 1 case

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

- Yes, for 4 cases

### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 child/youth reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 6 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 5 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 6 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 2 of the 3 eligible children/youths reviewed.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 5 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 6 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 6 children/youths.



- Psychotropic Medication: 6 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 6 children/youths.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: None of the children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 6 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: All 6 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 6 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 6 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 4 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes for the 4 children/youths.
- Standard Health Exams: None of the 7 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

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

### Education

6 of the 7 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 6 children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade and the child not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational was under age 5.

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

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

The local board agreed that 5 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 referred to summer or year-round training and/or employment opportunities.

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

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

4 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

4 youths had completed a life skills assessment.

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – None)

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

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)

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	4	4
No	3	3

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

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

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	3
LDSS Visitation Center		

Public Area		
Child's/Youth's Placement	3	1
Other		

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

### Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 2 of the 7 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 with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 2 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

### Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with youth.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Undocumented child/youth.
- Over Age 18 And Still in Care.

### Summary

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



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

- Reunification: 1 case
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- 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 of the 3 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			1			1
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years						
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more	1					
<b>Totals →</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>			<b>1</b>

## 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 2 cases. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for 3 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	Formal Kinship Care
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home

In 1 of the 3 cases reviewed the child/youth was placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

## Placement Stability

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: 1 child/youth 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: 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 Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 2 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for both children/youths.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: None of the children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- 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: Both children/youths with mental health issues, were transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to obtain mental health services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: None.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: Yes, for 1 child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the child/youth.
- Standard Health Exams: None of the 3 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

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

### Education

All 3 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program.

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

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 2 of the 3 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

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

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

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

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

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

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

2 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – None)

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

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 all 3 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	3	
No		3

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	2	
Unsupervised	1	

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	3	

### Siblings/Visits

Not Applicable. None of the 3 children/Youths had siblings in care.

### Barriers/Issues

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

- No concurrent plan by court
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other education barrier.
- Other community resource barrier.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Lack of follow-up (general).

### 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.



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

- Reunification: 14 cases
- Non-Relative Adoption: 2 cases
- APPLA: 5 cases

#### Permanency

The local boards agreed with the department's permanency plan for 18 of the 21 cases reviewed.

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

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the local Juvenile Court for 6 of the 7 cases.

#### Category of APPLA plan (5 cases)

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

#### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 5 cases)

4 of the 5 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local boards agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 4 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	1			1		1
7 to 11 months	2					
1 to 2 years	5					2
2 to 3 years	2					1
3 years or more	4			1		1
<b>Totals →</b>	<b>14</b>			<b>2</b>		<b>5</b>

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 5 of the 20 eligible cases. 1 case was a Post-TPR child under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for 5 of the 20 eligible 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)
4	Formal Kinship Care
1	Regular Foster Care
8	Treatment Foster Care
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Own Dwelling
1	Diagnostic Center
1	Correctional Institution (LA)
1	Own Home/Apartment (LA)
1	Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Other (LA)

In 11 of the 21 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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



## Placement Stability

In 11 of the 21 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, 2 had 3 changes and 2 had 4 or more changes.

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

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

- 2 case(s) were less restrictive placements
- 3 case(s) were more restrictive placements
- 5 case(s) had the same level of care
- 1 case(s) runaway

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 4 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

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

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

- 4 case(s) behavioral issues

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 11 cases

## Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 5 of the 21 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 11 children/youths had a current physical exam.

- Current Vision: 9 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 8 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 1 of 4 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 7 of the 21 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: 8 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 8 children/youths.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: Yes, 2 children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 15 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: All 15 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 15 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 15 children/youths with mental health issues, were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 3 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the 3 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 11 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 9 of the 11 children/youths.
- Standard Health Exams: None of the 21 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local boards found that the health needs of 7 of the 21 children/youths had been met.

## Education

18 of the 21 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 17 of the 18 children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade and 1 youth was in college. 2 of the 3 youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school and 1 refused to attend school.

10 of the 17 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 3 of the 17 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local boards agreed that 15 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

## Ready By 21

### ➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 10 cases)

2 of the 10 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

2 youths were unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

3 youths were referred to summer or year-round training and/or employment opportunities.

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

### ➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 10 cases)

2 youths were unable to receive appropriate services due to mental health reasons.

3 youths had completed a life skills assessment.

3 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 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 1 youth.

The local boards agreed with the transitional housing plan for 1 youth.

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. 1 child/youth consented and 1 child/youth was unable to consent due to mental health reasons.

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 pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a single male and the relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a non-relative foster parent(s).

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

- 1 case(s) from 10 to 12 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.

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

Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

The local boards found that the local department had documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for the child/youth not placed in a pre-adoptive home. The adoptive resources were Wednesday's Wonderful Kids and the child/youth was listed on Adopt-Us-Kids.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (2 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for both children/youths. The service that was needed was medical.

The local boards found that the post adoptive service was appropriate for the children/youths.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

7 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local boards agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 18 of the 21 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	15	15
No	6	6

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week		1
More than once a week		1
Once a month	2	
More than once a month	6	4
Quarterly		1
Yes, but undocumented	7	8

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	7	5
Unsupervised	8	10

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative		
Other Agency Representative		

Biological Family Member	5	4
Foster Parent	1	
Other	1	1

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	12	12
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area	2	
Child's/Youth's Placement	1	3
Other		

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

### Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 8 of the 21 children/youths had siblings in care. All 8 children/youths had 1 sibling in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 8 children/youths. 2 of the 8 children/youths with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 9 of the 21 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

### Barriers/Issues

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

- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- No service agreement with youth.
- No concurrent plan by court
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Child/Youth has runaway history.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth engages in risky behavior.
- Over Age 18 And Still in Care.





## 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 16 of the 21 children/youths reviewed.



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

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

Permanency

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (None)

Not applicable

Permanent Connections (None)

Not applicable

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 1 case. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for the 4 cases.

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)
2	Regular Foster Care
2	Therapeutic Group Home

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

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

- 1 case(s) was a less restrictive placement

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was transitioning towards permanency goal

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) provider home closed

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

- Yes, for the 3 cases

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

- Yes, for the 3 cases

#### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 4 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 3 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 4 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 2 eligible child/youth reviewed.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 3 of the 4 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.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: None of the children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 4 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 4 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 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: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 3 children/youths.
- Standard Health Exams: None of the 4 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of 3 of the 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 through 12th grade.

3 of the 4 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 not available for review for the 4 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

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

### Ready By 21

#### ➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

None of the 4 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

None of the 4 youths were referred to summer or year-round training and/or employment opportunities.

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

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

2 youths had completed a life skills assessment.

1 youth was receiving required independent living skills.

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

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 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)

None of 4 cases had a CASA.

##### Risk and Safety

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

## Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	3	
No	1	4

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	2	
Unsupervised	1	

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	3	

## Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 2 of the 4 children/youths had siblings in care. Both children/youths had 4 siblings in care. Efforts were made to place siblings who did not reside together for 2 children/youths. None of the children/youths with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 2 of the 4 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

## Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with youth.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Over age 18 and still in care.
- Undocumented child/youth.

## Summary

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





Cecil 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)

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	2					1
3 years or more						
<b>Totals →</b>	<b>2</b>					<b>2</b>

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 3 of the 4 cases reviewed.

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

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

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

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

- 2 case(s) were less restrictive placements

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- 1 case(s) behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for both cases

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

- Yes, for both cases

### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of the 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: 1 child/youth had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 1 child/youth reviewed requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that none of the 4 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.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: Yes. 1 child/youth refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 3 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 3 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 3 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 2 children/youths had substance abuse issues.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for both children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 1 child/youth had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the child/youth.
- Standard Health Exams: 2 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of 1 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 were 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 was under age 5.

Both children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade 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 both children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

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

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

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

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

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

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

2 youths had completed a life skills assessment.

2 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – None)

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

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 all 4 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		1
No	1	

### Siblings/Visits

The local boards 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 or issues:

- No service agreement with youth.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Not following up on referrals.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other independence barrier.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Non-compliant with service agreement.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).

### Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 3 of the 4 children/youths reviewed.



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

- Non-Relative Adoption: 1 case
- Non-Relative Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- 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 1 case.

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

#### Category of APPLA plan (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		1
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more						
<b>Totals →</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

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 of the 3 eligible cases. 1 child/youth was a Post-TPR child under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 1 of the 3 cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Pre-Finalized Adoption
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Other

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

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

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

- 1 case(s) was a less restrictive placement

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

- 1 case(s) was transitioning towards permanency goal

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:** 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 of 3 eligible children/youths reviewed.
- **Completed Medical Records:** The local departments reported that 3 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.

- Refused Prescribed Medication: None of the children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 3 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 3 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable, none of the 3 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 3 children/youths.
- Standard Health Exams: None of the 4 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of 3 of 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 were in Pre-K through 12th grade. 1 youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school and 1 child was under age 5.

Both children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade 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 both children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

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

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

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

1 youth was referred to summer or year-round training and/or employment opportunities.

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

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

None of the 3 youths had completed a life skills assessment.

3 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 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.

Alternative housing options were provided for the youth.

The local board agreed with the transitional housing plan for the youth.

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. The 1 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 with a plan of adoption was placed in a pre-adoptive home. The family structure was comprised of a single female and 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) 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved for the child.

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

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

### Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

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

### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

Post-adoptive services were needed for the child. The service that was needed was medical.

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

### 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	4	3

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

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		1
Public Area		
Child's/Youth's Placement		
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No		1

### Siblings/Visits

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

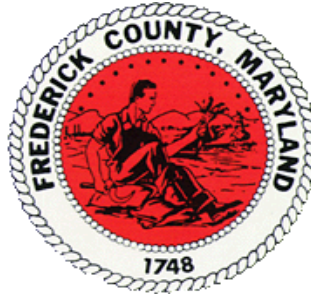
## Barriers/Issues

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

- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- No concurrent permanency plan in place.
- Lack of concurrent planning.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Disrupted finalized adoption.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth engages in risky behavior.
- Over age 18 and still in care.

## Summary

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



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

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

#### Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 7 of the 9 cases reviewed.

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

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

#### Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (2)

#### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 cases)

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



Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

5 of the 9 children/youths reviewed 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 9 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

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

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

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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) placement with relatives

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) provider request

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

- 2 case(s) behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for all 3 cases

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

- Yes, for all 3 cases

### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 4 of the 9 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 8 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 5 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 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 5 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 2 of the 9 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.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: Yes. 1 child/youth refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 6 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 6 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 6 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 4 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: 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 the 7 children/youths.
- Standard Health Exams: None of the 9 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of 1 of the 9 children/youths had been met.

### Education

6 of the 9 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 6 were in Pre-K through 12th grade. 1 youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school, 1 refused to attend school and 1 was under the age of 5.

4 of the 6 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and all 4 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 2 of the 6 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that 7 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 of the 4 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

2 youths were unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

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

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

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

2 youths were unable to receive appropriate services due to mental health reasons.

1 youth had completed a life skills assessment.

1 youth was receiving required independent living skills.

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – None)

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

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. Consent was unknown for the 5 children/youths with a plan of adoption.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (5 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (5 cases)

None of the 5 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in pre-adoptive homes.

Adoptive Recruitment (5 cases)

The local board found that the local department did not have documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for the 5 children/youths.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (5 cases)

None.

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 9 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

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

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No	6	2

### Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 7 of the 9 children/youths had siblings in care. 2 children/youths had 1 sibling in care and 5 had 4 siblings in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 7 children/youths. 7 children/youths with siblings in care 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 or issues:

- Youth needs more restrictive placement.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth not enrolled in school.
- Youth's psychotropic medications should be adjusted.
- Lack of special needs Foster Homes.
- Other placement barrier.



## Summary

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

## **Harford County**

Citizens Review Board for Children  
1100 Eastern Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21221 • Phone: (410) 238-1320 • Fax: (410) 238-1395  
email: [crbc.mail.maryland.gov](mailto:crbc.mail.maryland.gov) website: <http://dhr.maryland.gov/crbc>



Harford County had a total of 12 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 1 case
- Non-Relative Adoption: 5 cases
- APPLA: 6 cases

#### Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for all 12 cases reviewed.

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

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

#### Category of APPLA plan (6 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (6)

#### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 6 cases)

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



Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 10 of the 12 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	Pre-Finalized Adoption
1	Regular Foster Home
3	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
2	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Own Dwelling
1	Trial Home Visit (LA)

In 7 of the 12 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 12 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

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

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

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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 3 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

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 all 4 cases

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

- Yes, for all 4 cases

### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of the 12 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 11 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 9 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 3 child/youth requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 3 of the 12 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 3 children/youths were taking prescription medication.

- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 3 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 2 children/youths.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: Yes. 2 children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 10 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 8 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 8 of the 10 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: 3 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 3 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 6 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 6 children/youths.
- Standard Health Exams: None of the 12 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of 4 of the 12 children/youths had been met.

### Education

9 of the 12 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 7 of the 9 children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade and 2 were in college. The 3 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school.

2 of the 7 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade 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 5 of the 7 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

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

#### Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 9 cases)

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

5 youths were referred to summer or year-round training and/or employment opportunities.

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

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 9 cases)

5 youths had completed a life skills assessment.

4 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 3 cases)

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

Housing had been specified for 1 of the 3 youths transitioning out of care.

Alternative housing options were provided for 2 youths.

The local board agreed with the transitional housing plan for 1 youth.

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

#### Child's Consent to Adoption

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

## Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (5 cases)

### Pre-Adoptive Placement (5 cases)

4 of the 5 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The family structure was comprised of a married couple for each of the 4 cases. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children/youths was a non-relative foster parent(s) for the 4 cases.

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

- 4 case(s) 21 months or more

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

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

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

### Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

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

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

### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (4 cases)

Post-adoptive services were needed for the 4 cases. The services that were needed were medical and mental health services for the 4 cases and educational services for 1 case.

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

### Miscellaneous Findings

#### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

7 cases had a CASA.

#### Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 9 of the 12 cases.

## Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	6	3
No	6	9

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

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

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

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

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

### Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 6 of the 12 children/youths had siblings in care. 2 of the 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 2 children/youths. 3 children/youths with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them.

### Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with youth.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Other independence barrier.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- No current IEP.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Youth not enrolled in school.

### 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 11 of the 12 children/youths reviewed.



Montgomery County had a total of 19 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 6 cases
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 1 case
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 2 cases
- Non-Relative Adoption: 6 cases
- Non-Relative Custody/Guardianship: 3 cases
- APPLA: 1 case

### Permanency

The local boards agreed with the department's permanency plan for 17 of the 19 cases reviewed.

The local Juvenile Court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 5 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the local Juvenile Court for the 5 cases.

### Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

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



Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 5 cases. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for all 19 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)
4	Formal Kinship Care
5	Regular Foster Care
4	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
2	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Own Dwelling
2	Diagnostic Center
1	Unapproved Kinship Home (LA)

In 5 of the 19 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 all 19 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 5 of the 19 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. All 5 cases had 2 placement changes.

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

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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 2 case(s) were placement with siblings

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 3 case(s) provider request

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

- 2 case(s) behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for 4 of the 5 cases

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

- Yes, for all 5 cases

### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 6 of the 19 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 16 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 8 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 12 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 13 children/youths requiring follow-ups.

- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 8 of the 19 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 6 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 6 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 6 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 6 children/youths.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: None of the children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 11 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 11 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 11 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 10 youth with mental health issues who were transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system and 1 youth did not have a plan.
- Substance Abuse: None.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 10 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 10 children/youths.
- Standard Health Exams: 3 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local boards found that the health needs of 7 of the 19 children/youths had been met.

### Education

17 of the 19 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 17 were 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 child was under the age of 5.

9 of the 17 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 7 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 8 of the 17 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

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

## Ready By 21

### ➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 5 cases)

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

2 youths were unable to participate due to being medically fragile.

3 youths were referred to summer or year-round training and/or employment opportunities.

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

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

2 youths were unable to receive appropriate services due to being medically fragile.

2 youths had completed a life skills assessment.

2 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

The local board agreed 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.

Alternative housing options were provided for the youth.

The local board agreed with the transitional housing plan for the youth.

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

### Child's Consent to Adoption

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

### Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (6 cases)

#### Pre-Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

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

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

- 2 case(s) 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved for both cases.

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

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

### Adoptive Recruitment (4 cases)

The local boards found that the local department did not have documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for the 4 children/youths not placed in a pre-adoptive home.

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

Post adoptive services were needed for both children/youths placed in pre-adoptive homes. The services that were needed was medical, mental health and educational services for both cases.

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

### Miscellaneous Findings

#### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

2 cases had a CASA.

## Risk and Safety

The local boards agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 19 cases.

## Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	10	8
No	9	11

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

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

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		4
No	10	4

## Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 15 of the 19 children/youths had siblings in care. 4 of the 15 children/youths had 1 sibling in care, 6 had 2 siblings and 5 had 4 siblings in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for the 15 children/youths. 13 of the 15 children/youths with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 5 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

## Barriers/Issues

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

- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- No concurrent permanency plan by court
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Disrupted finalized adoption.
- No current IEP.
- School not implementing IEP.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- No follow up on medical referrals.
- Other mental health barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Over age 18 and still in care.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Lack of concurrent planning.
- Undocumented child/youth.

## Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 18 of the 19 children/youths reviewed.



Prince George's County had a total of 20 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 10 cases
- Non-Relative Adoption: 1 case
- Non-Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 2 cases
- APPLA: 7 cases

#### Permanency

The local boards agreed with the department's permanency plan for 19 of the 20 cases reviewed.

The local Juvenile Court identified concurrent permanency plans for 4 cases.

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

#### Category of APPLA plan (7 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (6)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (1)

#### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 7 cases)

6 of the 7 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	2				2	2
7 to 11 months	2			1		
1 to 2 years	6					5
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more						
<b>Totals →</b>	<b>10</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 20 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 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
3	Regular Foster Care
2	Restricted (Relative) Foster Care
8	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home
1	Other
1	Runaway (LA)
1	Trial Home Visit (LA)
1	Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA)

In 10 of the 20 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 17 of the 20 cases reviewed.

### Placement Stability

In 9 of the 20 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, 1 had 3 changes and 1 had 4 or more changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 8 of the 9 cases.

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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 4 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

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

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

- 1 case(s) runaway
- 1 case(s) hospitalization

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 8 cases

### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 20 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 15 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 12 children/youths had a current vision exam.

- Current Dental: 12 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 2 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 10 of the 20 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 10 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 10 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 7 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 7 children/youths.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: None of children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 11 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 11 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 11 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 11 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 6 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 6 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 3 children/youths.
- Standard Health Exams: None of the 20 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local boards found that the health needs of 10 of the 20 children/youths had been met.

## Education

11 of the 20 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 11 were in Pre-K through 12th grade. 3 of the 9 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school, 3 refused to attend school and 3 were under the age of 5.

3 of the 11 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 7 of the 11 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local boards agreed that 11 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

## Ready By 21

### ➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 14 cases)

4 of the 14 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

1 youth was unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

4 youths were referred to summer or year-round training and/or employment opportunities.

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

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

1 youth was unable to receive appropriate services due to mental health reasons.

9 youths had completed a life skills assessment.

9 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

The local boards agreed that 9 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.

Alternative housing options were provided for the youth.

The local boards agreed with the transitional housing plan for the youth.

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. Consent was unknown for the child/youth with a plan of adoption.

### Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (1 case)

#### Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

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

#### 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)

Not applicable. Child/youth not placed in pre-adoptive home.

### Miscellaneous Findings

#### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

1 case had a CASA.

### Risk and Safety

The local boards agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 18 of the 20 cases.

## Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	10	13
No	10	7

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily	1	1
Once a week		
More than once a week	2	2
Once a month		
More than once a month		
Quarterly		1
Yes, but undocumented	7	9

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	2	
Unsupervised	8	13

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

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	8	10
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area		
Child's/Youth's Placement	2	3
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	8	10
No	2	3

## Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 6 of the 20 children/youths had siblings in care. 4 children/youths had 1 sibling in care and 2 had 2 siblings in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 5 children/youths. 1 child/youth with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 7 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

## Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- No concurrent permanency plan by court
- No concurrent permanency plan in place
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Child/Youth has runaway history.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other independence barrier.
- Over age 18 and still in care.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Youth has not been assessed for mental health concerns.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth not enrolled in school.

## 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 17 of the 20 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: 2 cases
- Non-Relative Adoption: 1 case
- APPLA: 1 case

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 (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				1		1
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years	2					
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more						
<b>Totals →</b>	<b>2</b>			<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>

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 3 cases. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for 3 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
1	Regular Foster Care
2	Trial Home Visit
1	Unapproved Living Arrangement

In 1 of the 4 cases reviewed the child/youth was 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 1 of the 4 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

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

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

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

- 3 case(s) were less restrictive placements

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 2 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- 1 case(s) behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for all 3 cases

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

- Yes, for all 3 cases

#### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 3 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 3 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 2 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: None.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 2 of the 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for 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.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: None of the children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 2 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 2 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 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: No, for the child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 3 children/youths.
- Standard Health Exams: None of the 4 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local board found that the health needs of 2 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. 1 of the 2 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational refused to attend school and 1 was under the age of 5.

Both children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade did not have a 504 or IEP plan.

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

The local board agreed that none of children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 1 case)

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

The youth was not referred to summer or year-round training and/or employment opportunities.

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

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

The youth was not receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

The youth had not completed a life skills assessment.

The youth was not receiving required independent living skills.

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – None)

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

Not applicable.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 1 child/youth 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 single female for the case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child/youth was a non-relative foster parent.

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

- 1 case(s) 21 months or more

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

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

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

### Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable. Child/youth already place in pre-adoptive home.

### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

Post-adoptive services were needed for the case. The service that was needed was medical.

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

### 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 1 of the 4 cases.

### Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week		

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	2	3

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	2	3
No		

### Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that all 4 children/youths had siblings in care. 3 children/youths had 4 siblings in care and 1 had 5 siblings in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for all 4 children/youths. All 4 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 or issues:

- No service agreement with youth.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth not attending school or in GED program.
- Youth engages in risky behavior.
- Home study not completed.
- Home study not approved.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- No current safety or risk assessment.

## Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 3 of the 4 children/youths reviewed.



Somerset 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 identified a concurrent permanency plan for 1 case.

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

#### Category of APPLA plan (3 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (3)

#### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 3 cases)

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



Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

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 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 the 4 signed case.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

The 4 children/youths reviewed were not 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 2 of the 4 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 1 case had 1 placement change and 1 case had 2 changes.

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

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

- 2 case(s) were less restrictive placements

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 2 case(s) was transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- 1 case(s) sexualized

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

- Yes, for both cases

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

- Yes, for both cases

#### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of the 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 4 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 1 child/youth had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 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 the 4 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 1 of the 4 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 2 of the 3 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children/youths was taking psychotropic medication.

- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 3 children/youths.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: None of children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 4 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 4 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 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.
- Standard Health Exams: None of the 4 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

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

### Education

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

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

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

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

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

All 3 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

All 3 youths were referred to summer or year-round training and/or employment opportunities.

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

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

All 3 youths had completed a life skills assessment.

All 3 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – None)

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

Not applicable.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

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	3	1
No	1	3

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	3	1

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	1
No	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 or issues:

None.

### 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.



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

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

#### 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 1 case.

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

#### 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				1	1	
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more				1		
<b>Totals =&gt;</b>				<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

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 to involve the families in the service agreement process were not made for the 4 cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement
1	Formal Kinship Care
1	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Non-Relative

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

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

The local department did not hold a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for the 3 cases.



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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- 1 case(s) behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for all 3 cases

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

- Yes, for all 3 cases

### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 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: 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 requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 2 of the 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 2 children/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.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: Yes. 1 child/youth refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 2 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 1 child/youth had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 2 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 2 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 2 children/youths.
- Standard Health Exams: None of the 4 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

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

### Education

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

2 of the 4 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade 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 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 – 3 cases)

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

1 youth was unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

1 of the 3 youths were referred to summer or year-round training and/or employment opportunities.

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

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

1 youth was not receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living due to mental health reasons.

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

The local board agreed 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. 2 children/youths consented to adoption.

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/youth was a non-relative foster parent for the case.

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

- 1 case(s) 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved for the case.

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

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

### Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

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

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

### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

Post-adoptive services were not needed for the case.

### Miscellaneous Findings

#### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

All 4 cases had a CASA.

#### Risk and Safety

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

#### Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	1
No	3	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	1	
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	1	1
Unsupervised		

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	1	1

### Siblings/Visits

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



## Barriers/Issues

The local board identified the following barriers to permanency or issues: None.

## 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.



Washington 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 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 (3 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (3)

#### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 3 cases)

All 3 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for 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
1 to 2 years	1					2
2 to 3 years						
3 years or more						
<b>Totals =&gt;</b>	<b>1</b>					<b>3</b>

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

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

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

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for 3 of the 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 4 or more placement changes.

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) same level of care



The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- 1 case(s) behavioral

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

- Yes, for 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 1 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: 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 requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 2 of the 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 2 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children/youths was taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 2 children/youths.

- Refused Prescribed Medication: None of the children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 4 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 4 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 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: 2 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for both children/youths.
- Standard Health Exams: None of the 4 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

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

### Education

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

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

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 2 of the 3 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 – 4 cases)

None of the 4 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

3 of the 4 youths were referred to summer or year-round training and/or employment opportunities.

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

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

3 of the 4 youths had completed a life skills assessment.

3 of the 4 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – None)

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

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)

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

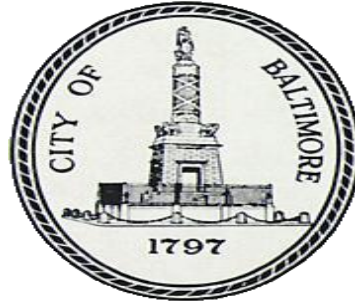
### Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with youth.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Vision not current.

### Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 3 of the 4 children/youths reviewed.



Baltimore City had a total of 37 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 10 cases
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 1 case
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 3 cases
- Non-Relative Adoption: 1 case
- Non-Relative Custody/Guardianship: 7 cases
- APPLA: 15 cases

### Permanency

The local boards agreed with the department's permanency plan for 24 of the 37 cases reviewed.

The local Juvenile Court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 6 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the local Juvenile Court for the 6 cases.

### Category of APPLA plan (15 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (13)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (2)

### 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					2	5
7 to 11 months						1
1 to 2 years	3	1	1		4	5
2 to 3 years	4		2		1	4
3 years or more	3			1		
<b>Totals →</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 22 of the 37 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 10 cases. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for 24 cases.

The local boards agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 10 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
3	Formal Kinship Care
19	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home
1	Teen Mother Program
3	Independent Living Residential Program
2	Residential Treatment Center
1	College (LA)
1	Own Home/Apartment (LA)
1	Inpatient Psychiatric Care (LA)
1	Runaway (LA)
1	Secure Detention Facility (LA)
1	Unapproved Kinship Home (LA)
2	Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA)

In 22 of the 37 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 33 of the 37 cases reviewed.

### Placement Stability

In 9 of the 37 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 6 cases had 1 placement change, 2 cases had 2 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 9 cases.

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

- 3 case(s) were less restrictive placements
- 2 case(s) were more restrictive placements
- 4 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
- 1 case(s) placement with relatives

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 2 case(s) were allegations of provider abuse/neglect

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

- 1 case(s) behavioral issues
- 1 case(s) 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 7 of the 9 cases



Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 8 of the 37 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 21 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 16 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 12 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 9 of the 37 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 10 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 10 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 10 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 10 children/youths.
- Refused Prescribed Medication: Yes. 7 children/youths refused to take prescribed medication.
- Mental Health Issues: 30 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 27 of the 30 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 27 of the 30 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 19 youths with mental health issues who were transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 7 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 7 children/youths.

- Behavioral Issues: 15 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 10 of the 15 children/youths.
- Standard Health Exams: 2 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

The local boards found that the health needs of 8 of the 37 children/youths had been met.

### Education

27 of the 37 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 24 of the 27 children/youths were in Pre-K thru 12th grade, 1 youth was enrolled in a GED program and 2 youths were in college. 3 of the 10 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school and 7 refused to attend school.

12 of the 24 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 10 of the 24 children/youths in Pre-K thru 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 – 25 cases)

11 of the 24 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

3 youths were unable to participate due to mental health reasons and 1 youth was in a correctional facility.

19 youths were referred to summer or year-round training and/or employment opportunities.

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

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

3 youths were not receiving appropriate services due to mental health reasons and 1 youth was in a correctional facility.

11 youths had completed a life skills assessment.

11 youths were receiving required independent living skills.

The local boards agreed that 13 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

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

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

Alternative housing options were provided for 2 youths.

The local boards agreed with the transitional housing plan for 2 youths.

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. 1 child/youth 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 and 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) 21 months or more

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 agreed that the pre-adoptive placement was appropriate for the case.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable. Child/youth already placed in pre-adoptive home.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

Post-adoptive services were needed for the child/youth. The services that were needed were medical and educational for the case.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 37 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local boards agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 32 of the 37 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	24	19
No	13	18

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily	1	1
Once a week	14	12
More than once a week	4	3
Once a month		1
More than once a month	5	2
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	8	3
Unsupervised	16	16

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

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	5	6
LDSS Visitation Center	12	7
Public Area	3	2
Child's/Youth's Placement	3	4
Other	1	

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	2	1
No	22	18

### Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 26 of the 37 children/youths had siblings in care. 13 children/youths had 1 sibling in care, 2 had 2 siblings and 11 had 3 siblings in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 24 children/youths. 22 children/youths with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 15 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

### Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- No concurrent plan by court
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Child/Youth has runaway history.
- 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 education barrier.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Inadequate casework services.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth not enrolled in school.
- Youth not attending school or in GED program.
- Lack of employment.
- No current Safe-C/G.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- No concurrent plan by court
- No current IEP.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- No follow up on medical referrals.
- Other mental health barrier.
- Other placement barrier.
- Youth engages in risky behavior.
- Lack of concurrent planning.
- Lack of employment.

## Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 20 of the 37 children/youths reviewed.

## Required Supporting Documentation for CRBC Reviews

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

- Each (LDSS) is required to 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.



1st Quarter 2023 CRBC Metrics

Total # of Children - Scheduled on the Preliminary:	346
Total # of Children - Closed (adopted, reunified, exited care), Non-Submission:	101
Total # of Children - Rescheduled (DSS caseworker requests, board overload):	82
Total # of Children - Not taken to the Board:	183
Total # of Children - Taken to the Board:	163
Total # of Children - Reviewed at the Board:	156
Total # of Children - Not Reviewed at the Board (worker no shows/closed):	7
Percentage of Children Reviewed for the Period:	96%
Percentage of Children Not Reviewed for the Period:	4%
Recommendation Reports to DSS - Number Sent:	148
Recommendation Reports to DSS - Number Sent on Time:	140
Recommendation Reports to DSS - Percentage Sent on Time:	95%
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Number of Responses Received: <sup>1</sup>	92
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Percentage of DSS Responses:	62%
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Number Received on Time:	90
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Percentage Received on Time	98%
Number of Boards Held	41
Recommendation Reports - Number of DSS Agreement:	90
Recommendation Reports - Percentage of DSS Agreement:	98%
Recommendation Reports - Number of DSS Disagreement:	2
Recommendation Reports - Percentage of DSS Disagreement:	2%
Recommendation Reports - Number of Blank/Unanswered: <sup>2</sup>	0
Recommendation Reports - Percentage of Blank/Unanswered:	0%
Percentage of REUNIFICATION Children Reviewed for the Period:	37%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT - Adoption Children Reviewed:	3%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT - C & G Children Reviewed:	3%
Percentage of ADOPTION Children Reviewed for the Period:	15%
Percentage of CUSTODY/GUARDIANSHIP Children Reviewed for the Period:	9%
Percentage of APPLA Children Reviewed for the Period:	32%

<sup>1</sup> The local Department of Social Services is required by COMAR 07.01.06.06 (H) to respond to the local out-of-home placement (CRBC) review board's recommendation(s) within 10 days of receipt of the report.

<sup>2</sup> The number of recommendation report responses received from the local Department of Social Services that did not indicate acceptance or non-acceptance of the local (CRBC) board's recommendation.

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**CRBC**  
Citizens Review Board for Children  
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

Vacant

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

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Administrator

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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

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Volunteer Activities Coordinator Supervisor

Lakira Whitaker  
Volunteer Activities Coordinator II

Cindy Hunter-Gray  
Lead Secretary

Agnes Smith  
Executive Assistant

Vacant  
Office Clerk

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