

# Citizens Review Board For Children



THIRD QUARTER  
FISCAL YEAR 2020 REPORT  
(January 1st 2020 – March 31st 2020)

## Table of Contents

<u>Our Mission Statement</u> .....	3
<u>Our Vision Statement</u> .....	3
<u>Discrimination Statement</u> .....	3
<u>Confidentiality</u> .....	3
<u>CRBC Acknowledgements</u> .....	4
<u>Introduction</u> .....	5
<u>Targeted Review Criterion</u> .....	6
<u>Permanency Plan Hierarchy</u> .....	7
<u>Family Centered Practice Model</u> .....	7
<u>3rd Quarter 2020 Case Review Statistics</u> .....	8
<u>Gender Totals</u> .....	10
<u>Gender By Plan</u> .....	10
<u>Ethnicity Overall</u> .....	10
<u>Age Range by Permanency Plan</u> .....	10
<u>Jurisdictional Case Reviews</u> .....	11
<u>Anne Arundel County</u> .....	11
<u>Baltimore County</u> .....	18
<u>Caroline County</u> .....	26
<u>Cecil County</u> .....	33
<u>Charles County</u> .....	40
<u>Dorchester County</u> .....	47
<u>Harford County</u> .....	53
<u>Howard County</u> .....	60
<u>Kent County</u> .....	67
<u>Montgomery County</u> .....	74
<u>Prince George's County</u> .....	82
<u>Queen Anne's County</u> .....	89
<u>Baltimore City</u> .....	95
<u>Required Supporting Documentation</u> .....	103
<u>Recommendations to All LDSS</u> .....	103
<u>Independent Living</u> .....	103
<u>Permanent Connections</u> .....	103
<u>Adoption</u> .....	103
<u>CRBC Metrics</u> .....	104
<u>The State Board</u> .....	105
<u>CRBC Staff</u> .....	106
<u>References</u> .....	107

## **Our Mission Statement**

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

## **Our Vision Statement**

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

## **Discrimination Statement**

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

## **Confidentiality**

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

## **CRBC Acknowledgements**

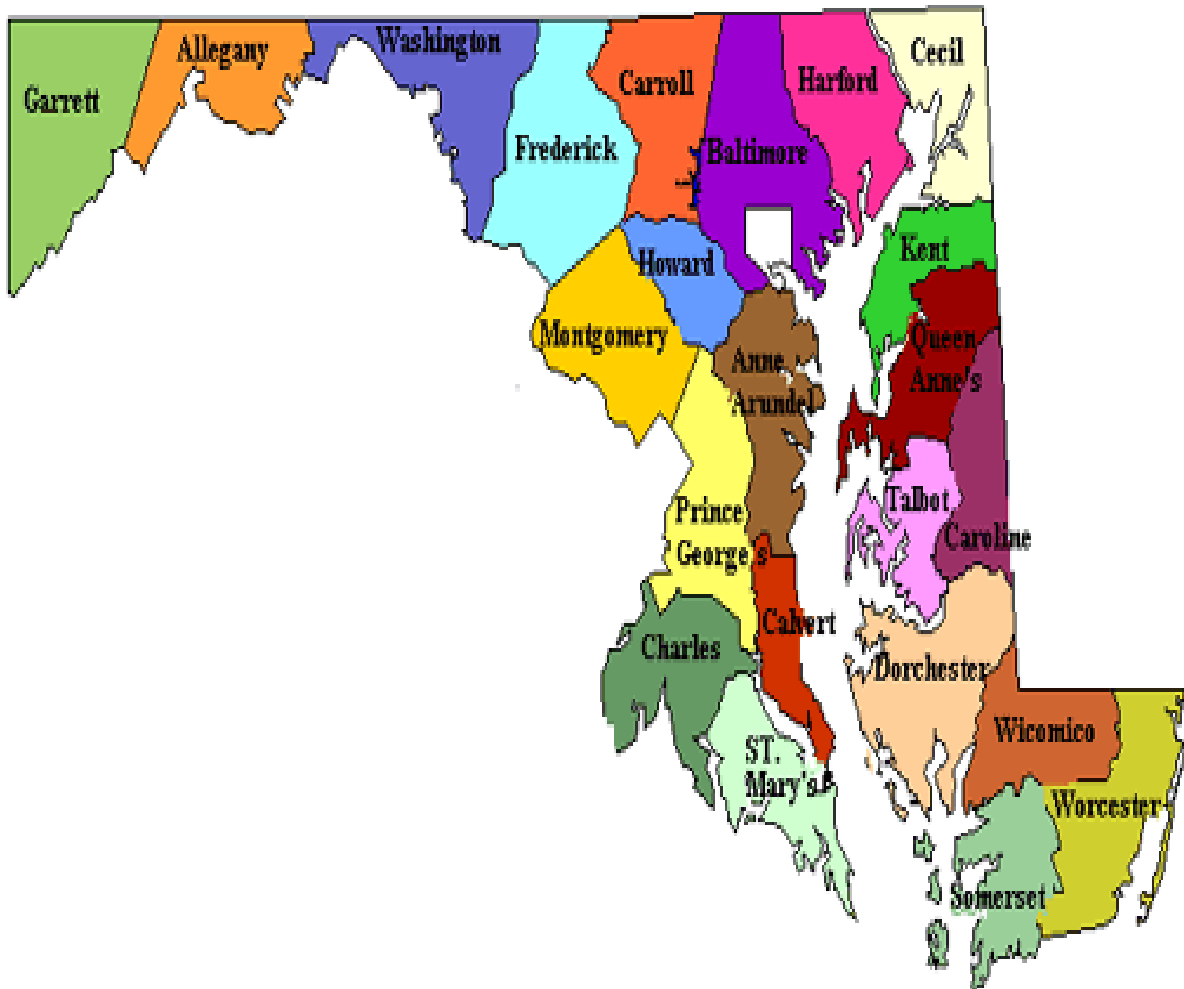
CRBC would like to acknowledge the commitment, dedication, passion and service of all stakeholders on behalf of Maryland's most vulnerable children including:

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

*Thank  
You*

## Introduction

The following pages contain data from CRBC's out-of-home-placement case review findings and recommendations for the 3rd Quarter of Fiscal Year 2020.



CRBC conducts regular out-of-home placement case reviews in all 24 Maryland jurisdictions including Baltimore City throughout the year. For this quarterly report, the following counties did not have regularly scheduled case reviews during the quarter: Allegany (\*), Calvert, Carroll, Frederick (\*), Garrett, Saint Mary's (\*), Somerset, Talbot, Washington (\*), Wicomico and Worcester (\*) counties. Therefore, this report only contains review findings and recommendations for the 13 jurisdictions including Baltimore City that had regularly scheduled reviews.

Note: (\*) These board reviews were cancelled in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Governor of Maryland issuing a mandatory teleworking order effective March 13<sup>th</sup> 2020.

## **Targeted Review Criterion**

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

### **Reunification:**

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

### **Adoption:**

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

### **Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA):**

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

### **Older Youth Aging Out**

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

### Re-Review Cases:

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

### **Permanency Plan Hierarchy**

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

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

### **Family Centered Practice Model**

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

### 3rd Quarter 2020 Case Review Statistics

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

Jurn #	County	Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA	TOTAL	# Boards Held
02	Anne Arundel	5	0	4	1	12	22	3
03	Baltimore County	19	0	3	4	23	49	7
05	Caroline	5	0	3	0	0	8	1
07	Cecil	0	0	3	0	2	5	1
08	Charles	3	0	1	2	2	8	1
09	Dorchester	0	0	0	0	4	4	1
12	Harford	3	0	9	0	4	16	2
13	Howard	3	0	1	0	4	8	1
14	Kent	1	0	1	0	2	4	1
15	Montgomery	14	3	5	0	14	36	5
16	Prince George's	10	3	3	3	4	23	3
17	Queen Anne's	2	0	0	0	2	4	1
49	Baltimore City	39	5	9	6	29	88	13
13	<b>Statewide Totals</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>11*</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>40</b>
	<b>Percentages</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

\*(Note: Relative Placement is the combined total of Relative Placement for Adoption = 1; Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship =10)

CRBC conducted a total of 275 individual out-of-home case reviews (each case reviewed represents 1 child/youth) in 13 Jurisdictions on 40 boards that held reviews during the 3rd quarter of fiscal year 2020.

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

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



- Child's Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings
- Miscellaneous Findings
- Barriers/Issues to Permanency

**Total Reviewed (275)**

**Gender Totals**

Male	Female
137 (49.8%)	138 (50.2%)

**Gender by Plan**

Male(137)

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA
54 (52%)	5 (45%)	24 (57%)	10 (63%)	44 (43%)

Female(138)

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA
50 (48%)	6 (55%)	18 (43%)	6 (37%)	58 (57%)

**Ethnicity Overall**

African American	Caucasian	Asian	Other
173 (63%)	71 (26%)	8 (3%)	23 (8%)

**Age Range by Permanency Plan**

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

AGE RANGE	RU	RA	RG	AD	CG	AP	Totals
1_age 0 thru 5	16	0	2	23	4	0	45
2_age 6 thru 10	16	0	1	8	2	0	27
3_age 11 thru 13	15	0	2	7	1	0	25
4_age 14 thru 16	28	1	3	3	7	3	45
5_age 17 thru 19	27	0	2	1	2	55	87
6_age 20	2	0	0	0	0	44	46
<b>Totals</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>275</b>

## Jurisdictional Case Reviews

### Anne Arundel County



Anne Arundel County had a total of 22 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 5 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 4 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 12 cases

#### Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for all 22 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify concurrent permanency plans for any of the 22 cases.

#### Category of APPLA plan (12 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (10)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (2)

#### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 12 cases)

10 of the 12 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 10 cases.

#### Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Totals →	5		4	1	12
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### Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 17 of the 22 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 14 of the 20 eligible cases. 2 cases were Post TPR children under age 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 18 of the 20 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 14 signed cases.

### Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
2	Pre-Finalized Adoption
5	Regular Foster Care
3	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
7	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Runaway (LA)
1	Secure Detention Facility (LA)
2	Trial Home Visit (LA)

In 9 of the 22 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 22 cases reviewed.

### Placement Stability

In 10 of the 22 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 5 cases had 2 placement changes, 1 case had 3 changes and 4 cases had 4 or more changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 7 of the 10 cases.

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

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

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

- 4 case(s) transitioning towards permanency goal

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

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

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

- Yes, for all 10 cases

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

- Yes, for 9 of the 10 cases

#### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 7 of the 22 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: 15 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 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 10 of the 22 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 12 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 12 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 8 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 8 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 14 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 14 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.

- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 11 of the 14 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 adult youth with mental health issues, was transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 3 of the 22 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 3 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 11 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 8 of the 11 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 9 of the 22 children/youths had been met, and 4 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

### Education

16 of the 22 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 14 of the 16 were in Pre-K through 12th grade, 1 was enrolled in a GED program and 1 youth was in college. 1 of the 6 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school and 5 were under the age of 5.

10 of the 14 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 9 of the 14 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that all 16 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 – 17 cases)

5 of the 17 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth was unable to participate due to mental health reasons and 1 youth due to being medically fragile.

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

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

The local board agreed that 14 of the 17 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 1 youth had mental health reasons and 1 youth was medically fragile preventing them from receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

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

Housing had been specified for the 1 youth transitioning out of care and the local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

### Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. All 4 children with a plan of adoption were under the age of consent.

### Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (4 cases)

#### Pre-Adoptive Placement (4 cases)

All 4 children with a plan of adoption were placed in pre-adoptive homes. The pre-adoptive family structure comprised of a married couple for each of the 4 children. The relationships to the pre-adoptive children were non relative foster parents in each of the 4 cases.

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

- 3 case(s) from 12 to 15 months
- 1 case(s) from 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 for all 4 cases.

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

### Adoptive Recruitment (None)

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

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

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

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

## Miscellaneous Findings

### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

15 of the 22 cases had a CASA.

### Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 21 of the 22 cases.

### Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	14	2
No	8	20

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

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

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	6	1
LDSS Visitation Center	1	
Public Area	4	
Child's/Youth's Placement	3	1



Other		
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Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	5	1
No	9	1

### Siblings/Visits

The local board found that none of the 22 children/youths had siblings in care and 12 had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

### Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Non-compliant with service agreement.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other independence barrier.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Youth engages in risky behavior.
- Youth not enrolled in school.
- Non-compliant with service agreement.
- 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 19 of the 22 children/youths reviewed.

## Baltimore County



Baltimore County had a total of 49 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 19 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 3 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 4 cases
- APPLA: 23 cases

### Permanency

The local boards agreed with the department's permanency plan for 43 of the 49 cases reviewed.

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

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

### Category of APPLA plan (23 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (22)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (1)

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 23 cases)

All 23 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local boards agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 23 cases.

### Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	2			1	2	5
7 to 11 months	1					2
1 to 2 years	12				1	5
2 to 3 years	2			1		7
3 years or more	2			1	1	4
<b>Totals →</b>	<b>19</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>23</b>

## Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for all 49 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 11 of the 47 eligible cases. 2 cases were Post-TPR children under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 11 of the 47 eligible cases.

The local boards agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 11 signed cases.

## Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Formal Kinship Care
3	Regular Foster Care
2	Restricted (Regular) Foster Care
18	Treatment Foster Care
2	Residential Group Home
4	Teen Mother Program
4	Therapeutic Group Home
4	Independent Living Residential Program
3	Residential Treatment Center
1	Own Dwelling
1	Non Relative
1	Psychiatric Respite
1	College (LA)
1	Own Home/Apartment (LA)
1	Runaway (LA)
2	Trial Home Visit (LA)

In 32 of the 49 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 43 of the 49 cases reviewed.

## Placement Stability

In 20 of the 49 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 15 cases had 1 placement change, 3 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 the 20 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 20 most recent placement changes:

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 10 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) provider home closed

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

- 5 case(s) behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for all 20 cases

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

- Yes, for all 20 cases

### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 10 of the 49 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 24 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 19 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 20 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 5 of the 7 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 10 of the 49 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 20 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 20 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 20 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.

- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 20 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 43 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: All 43 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 39 of the 43 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 2 of the 10 adult youths with mental health issues, were transitioning out of care and had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 9 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 9 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 19 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 17 of the 19 children/youths.

The local boards found that the health needs of 10 of the 49 children/youths had been met and 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

### Education

33 of the 49 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 31 of the 33 were in Pre-K through 12th grade, 1 youth was in college and 1 youth was in a trade school. 12 of the 16 youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school and 4 refused to attend school.

19 of the 33 children/youths in Pre-K through 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 4 of the 33 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local boards agreed that 30 of the 33 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 – 39 cases)

16 of the 39 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth was unable to participate due to being medically fragile and 3 youths due to mental health reasons.

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

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

The local boards agreed that 22 of the 39 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 1 youth was medically fragile and 3 youths had mental health reasons preventing them from receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 10 cases)

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

Housing had been specified for 9 of the 10 youths transitioning out of care.

The local boards agreed that 9 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 was unable to consent due to mental health reasons and 2 children were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (3 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (3 cases)

1 of the 3 children with a plan of adoption was placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a single female for the 1 child. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a non relative foster parent in the 1 case.

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

- 1 case(s) from 21 months or more

A home study was not completed and approved for the 1 child.

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 in the 1 case.

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

Adoptive Recruitment (2 cases)

The local boards found that the local department had documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for 1 of the 2 children/youths not placed in a pre-adoptive home. The adoptive resource

was a paternal grandmother for 1 case.

The local boards agreed that the adoptive recruitment efforts were not appropriate in both cases.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (3 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for all 3 children/youths. The service that was needed was medical for all 3 cases.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

11 of the 49 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local boards agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 44 of the 49 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	26	20
No	23	29

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	5	2
Unsupervised	21	18

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency	3	1

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

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	15	18
LDSS Visitation Center	1	
Public Area	3	
Child's/Youth's Placement	3	2
Other	4	

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	13	15
No	13	5

### Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 21 of the 49 children/youths had siblings in care. 13 had 1 sibling in care, 4 had 2 siblings, 1 had 3 siblings and 4 had 4 siblings. 17 of the 21 children/youths were having visits with their siblings who did not reside with them.

### Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Non-compliant with service agreement.
- No concurrent plan by court
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Lack of employment.
- Other education barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Youth has not been assessed for mental health concerns.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Youth engages in risky behavior.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth not enrolled in school.
- Youth not attending school or in GED program.



- Lack of housing.
- Lack of concurrent planning
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Vision not current.

### 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 45 of the 49 children/youths reviewed.

## Caroline County



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

- Reunification: 5 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 3 cases

### Permanency

The local boards agreed with the department's permanency plan for 5 of the 8 cases reviewed.

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

### Category of APPLA plan (None)

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – None)

### 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			3		
2 to 3 years	2					
3 years or more	2					
<b>Totals →</b>	<b>5</b>			<b>3</b>		

### Case Planning

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

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

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

#### Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
2	Pre-Finalized Adoption
2	Regular Foster Care
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Own Dwelling

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

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

#### Placement Stability

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

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

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

- 1 case(s) transition towards permanency goal

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

- Yes, for both cases

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

- Yes, for both cases

#### Health/Mental Health

➤ Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.

- Current Physical: 7 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 4 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 4 of the 4 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 5 of the 8 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 4 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 4 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 5 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 5 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 8 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 8 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 5 of the 8 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 adult youth with mental health issues, was transitioning out of care and did not have an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 2 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 2 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 5 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 5 children/youths.

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

### Education

6 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 5 of the 6 were in Pre-K through 12th grade and 1 youth was enrolled in a GED program. 1 of the 2 youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school and 1 refused to attend school.

3 of the 5 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 2 of the 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 the 5 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that all 6 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 – 5 cases)

None of the 5 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth was unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

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

The local board agreed that 4 of the 5 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 1 youth had mental health reasons preventing them from receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

##### ➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – None)

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

Not applicable.

#### Child's Consent to Adoption

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

#### Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (3 cases)

##### Pre-Adoptive Placement (3 cases)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (3 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for all 3 children/youths. The service that was needed was medical for all 3 cases.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

6 of the 8 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
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Supervised		
Unsupervised	2	1

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	2	1

### Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 4 of the 8 children/youths had siblings in care. All 4 had 1 sibling in care and 2 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:

- Non-compliant with service agreement.
- No concurrent plan by court
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- TPR not granted.
- Child in pre-adoptive home but adoption not finalized.
- Child/Youth has runaway history.
- Appeal by birth parents.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.

- Vision not current.
- Other education barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Youth not attending school or in GED program.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Postponement or continuation of hearings.
- Current provider unable or unwilling to meet youth's needs.

### Summary

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



**Cecil County**



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

- Non Relative Adoption: 3 cases
- Appla: 2 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department’s permanency plan for all 5 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 5 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

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

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

## Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 4 of the 5 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 4 of the 5 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for all 5 cases.

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

## Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
2	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home
1	Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA)

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

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

## Placement Stability

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

The local department did not hold 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:

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- Yes, for both cases

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

- Yes, for 1 case

### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 5 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 3 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 3 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 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 requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 1 of the 5 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for both children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for both children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 3 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 2 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues who was transitioning out of care did not have an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children/youths had behavioral issues.

- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 2 children/youths.

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

### Education

2 of the 5 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. Both were in Pre-K through 12th grade. 1 of the 3 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program refused to attend school and 2 were under the age of 5.

1 of the 2 children/youths in Pre-K through 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 1 of the 2 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that both 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)

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

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

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

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

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)

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

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

The local board agreed that the youth was not being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

### Child's Consent to Adoption

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

consent to be adopted. All 3 children with a plan of adoption were under the age of consent.  
Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (3 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (3 cases)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (3 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for all 3 cases. The services that were needed was medical services for 1 case, mental health services for 2 cases and educational services for all 3 cases.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

4 of the 5 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	3	

No	2	5
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Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week		
More than once a week		
Once a month		
More than once a month	3	
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		
LDSS Visitation Center	2	
Public Area		
Child's/Youth's Placement		
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	3	

### Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 2 of the 5 children/youths had siblings in care. Both had 1 sibling in care. Both children/youth did not have visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 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:

- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Not following up on referrals.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other education barrier.
- Other family related barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Non-compliant with service agreement.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.

## Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 3 of the 5 children/youths reviewed.

**Charles County**



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

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

Permanency

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

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

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	2				1	
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years					1	1
2 to 3 years	1			1		
3 years or more						1
<b>Totals →</b>	<b>3</b>			<b>1</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 all 8 cases reviewed.

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

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

## Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Formal Kinship Care
1	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Regular Foster Care
1	Treatment Foster Care
1	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Own Dwelling
1	Psychiatric Respite
1	Secure Detention Facility (LA)

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

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

## Placement Stability

In 3 of the 8 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 2 cases had 1 placement change and 1 had 4 or more 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) were in less restrictive placements
- 1 case(s) were in more restrictive placements
- 1 case(s) had the same level of care

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 2 case(s) transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- 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 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 5 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 4 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 5 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: Not applicable.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 4 of the 8 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 1 child/youth was taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the child/youth.
- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues: 4 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 4 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable, none of the 4 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

- Substance Abuse: 3 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for all 3 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 3 children/youths.

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

### Education

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

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

The local board agreed that all 5 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 – 6 cases)

1 of the 6 youths was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth was unable to participate due to mental health reasons and 1 was in a correctional facility.

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

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

The local board agreed that 3 of the 6 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 1 youth had mental health reasons preventing them from receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living and 1 youth was in a correctional facility.

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

Not applicable.

### Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 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 an adoption plan was placed in a pre-adoptive home. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a single female. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a non relative foster parent.

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

- 1 case(s) from 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved for the child.

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

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

### Adoptive Recruitment (None)

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

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

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

The local board agreed that the post-adoptive service was appropriate for the child.

### Miscellaneous Findings

#### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

1 of the 8 cases had a CASA.

### Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	3
No		

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that none of the 8 children/youths had siblings in care.

## Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with parents.
- Lack of concurrent planning.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- School not meeting youth's behavioral needs.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Other mental health barrier.
- Youth not receiving adequate services.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- No service agreement with youth.

## Summary

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

## Dorchester County



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

- APPLA: 4 cases

### Permanency

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

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

### Category of APPLA plan (4 cases)

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

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 4 cases)

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

### Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months						
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years						1
2 to 3 years						3
3 years or more						
<b>Totals →</b>						<b>4</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 of the 4 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 3 of the 4 cases.

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

#### Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
2	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Hotel with 1 & 1

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

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

#### Placement Stability

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

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

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

- 1 case(s) was a more restrictive placement

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

- 1 case(s) had behavioral issues

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

- No, for the 1 case

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

- No, for the 1 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: 3 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 4 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 1 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 were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 2 children/youths.
- 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 2 of the 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 adult youth with mental health issues, was transitioning out of care and did not have an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: None of the 4 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 1 child/youth had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child/youth.

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

### Education

1 of the 4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational

program. The 1 youth was in college. 2 of the 3 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school and 1 refused to attend school. The local board agreed that the 1 child/youth enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program was being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

#### Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

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

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

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

The local board agreed that 2 of the 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 all 3 youths transitioning out of care.

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

#### Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. None of the 4 cases reviewed had a plan of adoption.

#### Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

Not applicable.

#### 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)

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	2	
No	2	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		
Quarterly	2	
Yes, but undocumented		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	2	

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

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home		
LDSS Visitation Center		

Public Area		
Child's/Youth's Placement	2	
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	2	

### Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 3 of the 4 children/youths had siblings in care. 2 had 1 sibling in care and 1 had 2 siblings. 2 of the 3 children/youths were having 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.
- Dentals not current.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Youth not employed and transitioning out of care.
- Youth needs more restrictive placement.
- Youth not enrolled in school.
- Youth not attending school or in GED program.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- 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 3 of the 4 children/youths reviewed.

## Harford County



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

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

### Permanency

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

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

### Category of APPLA plan (4 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (4)

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 4 cases)

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

### Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months				4		3
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years	2			3		
2 to 3 years						1
3 years or more	1			2		
<b>Totals →</b>	<b>3</b>			<b>9</b>		<b>4</b>

### Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 14 of the 16 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for all 11 of the eligible cases. 5 cases were Post-TPR children/youths under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for the 11 eligible cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for all 11 signed cases.

#### Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

In 13 of the 16 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

#### Placement Stability

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

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

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

- 1 case(s) were less restrictive placements
- 1 case(s) were more restrictive placements
- 1 case(s) had the same level of care
- 1 case(s) unknown, information not available

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

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

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

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

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

- Yes, for 3 of the 4 cases

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

- Yes, for all 4 cases

### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 5 of the 16 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 16 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 12 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 13 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 2 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 11 of the 16 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: 5 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 5 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 10 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 10 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 9 of the 10 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues who was transitioning out of care did not have an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.

- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 10 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 9 of the 10 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 11 of the 16 children/youths had been met. 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

### Education

9 of the 16 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 9 were in Pre-K through 12th grade. 2 of the 7 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program refused to attend school and 5 were under the age of 5.

5 of the 9 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and all 5 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 9 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that the 9 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 – 7 cases)

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

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

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

The local board agreed that 5 of the 7 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 1 youth was medically fragile and 1 youth had mental health reasons preventing them from receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

#### ➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)

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

Housing had been specified for the youth transitioning out of care and the local board agreed that the youth was being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.



### Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 1 youth with a plan of adoption consented with conditions and 8 children were under the age of consent.

### Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (9 cases)

#### Pre-Adoptive Placement (9 cases)

All 9 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in pre-adoptive homes. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple for 8 children/youths and a single female for 2 cases. The relationships to the pre-adoptive children/youths were non relative foster parents in all 9 cases.

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

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

A home study was completed and approved for all 9 cases.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive families to meet the identified needs of the children/youths in all 9 cases.

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate for all 9 cases.

### Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable. All 9 children/youths were already placed in pre-adoptive homes.

### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (9 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for all 9 children/youths. The services that were needed were medical services for 3 cases, mental health services for 2 cases and DDA services for 1 case.

The local board found that the post adoptive services were appropriate for all 9 cases.

### Miscellaneous Findings

#### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

10 of the 16 cases had a CASA.

## Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 15 of the 16 cases.

## Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	12	6
No	4	10

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	7	4
Unsupervised	5	2

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	7	4
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other		

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No	11	6

### Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 7 of the 16 children/youths had siblings in care. 3 had 2 siblings in care and 4 had 3 siblings. 4 of the 7 children/youths were having visits with their siblings who did not reside with them.

### Barriers/Issues

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

- Appeal by birth parents.
- No concurrent plan by court
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other independence barrier.
- Other education barrier.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Youth not employed and transitioning out of care.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.

### Summary

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

## Howard County



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

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

### Permanency

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

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

### Category of APPLA plan (4 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (4)

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 4 cases)

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

### Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Totals →	3					4
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Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 5 of the 7 eligible cases. 1 case was a Post-TPR child under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for the 7 eligible cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Formal Kinship Care
1	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
2	Residential Group Home
1	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Diagnostic Center

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

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

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

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

- 1 case(s) behavioral issues

- 1 case(s) delinquent behavior

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

- Yes, for both cases

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

- Yes, for both cases

### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 7 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 6 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 7 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 4 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 5 of the 8 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 4 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for 3 of the 4 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 7 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 7 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 5 of the 7 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 2 adult youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care and did not have an identified plan to obtain services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 2 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.

- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for both children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 6 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 5 of the 6 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 5 of the 8 children/youths had been met.

### Education

5 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 4 of the 5 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 child was under the age of 5.

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

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

The local board agreed that the 5 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 – 5 cases)

1 of the 5 youths was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth was unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

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

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

The local board agreed that 3 of the 5 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 1 youth had mental health reasons preventing them from receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

#### ➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)

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

The 1 youth transitioning out of care did not have a specified housing plan.

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

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

- 1 case(s) from 13 to 15 months

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

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

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

##### Adoptive Recruitment (None)

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

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

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

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

##### Miscellaneous Findings

##### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

6 of the 8 cases had a CASA.

##### Risk and Safety

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

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



Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	6	
No	2	8

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	2	
Unsupervised	4	

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	2	
No	4	

### Siblings/Visits

The local board found that none of the 8 children/youths had siblings in care. 1 child/youth had visits with siblings who were not in care.

## Barriers/Issues

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

- Non-compliant with service agreement.
- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Child/Youth has runaway history.
- Not following up on referrals.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other education barrier.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Youth engages in risky behavior.
- Other child/youth related barrier.

## Summary

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

## Kent County



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

- Reunification: 1 case
- Non Relative Adoption: 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 2 of the 4 cases.

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

### Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (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						
7 to 11 months						

1 to 2 years	1			1		2
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 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 3 of the 4 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for all 4 cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

None of the 4 cases 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 all 4 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

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

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

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

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

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 1 of the 2 cases

#### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 4 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 4 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 2 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: Not applicable. None of the 4 children/youths required 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: 4 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for all 4 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues: 3 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 3 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 3 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None of the 4 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 3 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 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 program refused to attend school and 1 was under the age of 5.

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

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 1 of the 2 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that the 2 children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

## Ready By 21

### ➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

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

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

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

The local board agreed that 2 of the 3 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 1 youth had mental health reasons preventing them from 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. 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 married couple for the 1 case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive child was a non relative foster parent.

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

- 1 case(s) from 21 months or more.

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

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

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

### Adoptive Recruitment (None)

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

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

Post-adoptive services were needed for the child. 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)

All 4 cases had a CASA.

#### Risk and Safety

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

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

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	4	2
No		2

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

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

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

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

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

### Siblings/Visits

The local board found that none of the 4 children/youths had siblings in care. 3 children/youths had visits with siblings who were not in care.

### Barriers/Issues

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

- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Dentals not current.



- Other education barrier.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Missing or lack of documentation.

### Summary

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

## Montgomery County



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

- Reunification: 14 cases
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 1 case
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 2 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 5 cases
- APPLA: 14 cases

### Permanency

The local boards agreed with the department's permanency plan for 30 of the 36 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 court for the 1 case.

### Category of APPLA plan (14 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (13)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (1)

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 14 cases)

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

### Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	1	1		1		1

7 to 11 months	1					
1 to 2 years	10			1		3
2 to 3 years	1					3
3 years or more	1		2	3		7
<b>Totals →</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>14</b>

### Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 12 of the 36 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 19 of the 33 eligible cases. 3 cases were Post-TPR children under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 26 of the 33 eligible cases.

The local boards agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 19 signed cases.

### Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
2	Formal Kinship Care
4	Pre-Finalized Adoption
5	Regular Foster Care
3	Restricted (Regular) Foster Care
8	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
3	Therapeutic Group Home
3	Independent Residential Living Program
4	Residential Treatment Center
1	Non Relative
1	College (LA)
1	Inpatient Psychiatric Care (LA)
1	Trial Home Visit (LA)

In 22 of the 36 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 36 cases reviewed.

### Placement Stability

In 16 of the 36 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 3 cases had 1 placement change, 5 had 2 changes, 5 had 3 changes and 3 had 4 or more changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 9 of the 16 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 16 most recent placement changes:

- 5 case(s) were less restrictive placements
- 7 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:

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

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

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

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

- 6 case(s) behavioral issues
- 1 case(s) child/youth requests removal

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

- Yes, for all 16 cases

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

- Yes, for all 16 cases

### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 7 of the 36 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 28 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 22 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 26 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 4 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 15 of the 36 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.

- Prescription Medication: 17 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 17 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 15 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 15 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 28 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 27 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 26 of the 28 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 2 adult youths with mental health issues who were transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system and 4 youths did not have a plan.
- Substance Abuse: 4 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 3 of the 4 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 16 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 16 children/youths.

The local boards found that the health needs of 16 of the 36 children/youths had been met, and 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

### Education

28 of the 36 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 24 of the 28 were in Pre-K through 12th grade, 3 were in college and 1 was in a trade school. 4 of the 8 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school and 4 children were under the age of 5.

14 of the 24 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 12 of the 14 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 19 of the 24 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local boards agreed that the 28 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 – 24 cases)

6 of the 24 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 4 youths were unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

The local boards agreed that 11 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

### ➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 24 cases)

The local boards agreed that 13 of the 24 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 4 youths had mental health reasons preventing them from receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

### ➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 5 cases)

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

Housing had been specified for 2 of the 5 youths transitioning out of care and alternative housing options provided to 4 youths.

The local boards agreed that 5 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. 3 children with a plan of adoption consented, 1 child/youth was medically fragile and unable to consent and 2 were under the age of consent.

## Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (6 cases)

### Pre-Adoptive Placement (6 cases)

5 children/youths with a plan of adoption and 1 child/youth with a plan of relative placement for adoption were placed in pre-adoptive homes. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple for 3 cases and a single female for 3 cases. The relationships to the pre-adoptive children/youths were relative foster parents for 2 cases and non relative foster parents for 4 cases.

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

- 1 case(s) from 1 to 3 months
- 1 case(s) from 7 to 9 months
- 2 case(s) from 13 to 15 months
- 1 case(s) from 16 to 20 months
- 1 case(s) 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved for 2 of the 6 cases.

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

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

#### Adoptive Recruitment (None)

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

#### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (6 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for all 6 children/youths. The services that were needed were medical for all 6 cases, mental health services for 2 cases and educational services for 2 cases.

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

#### Miscellaneous Findings

#### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

13 of the 36 cases had a CASA.

#### Risk and Safety

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

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

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	20	8
No	16	28

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	10	2
More than once a week		
Once a month		
More than once a month	5	1
Quarterly	1	2

Yes, but undocumented	4	3
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Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	8	
Unsupervised	12	8

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	7	
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other	1	

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	4	3
No	16	5

### Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 15 of the 36 children/youths had siblings in care. 7 had 1 sibling in care, 3 had 2 siblings, 4 had 3 siblings and 1 had 5 siblings. 10 of the 15 children/youths were having visits with their siblings who did not reside with them.

### Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Inappropriate service agreement.
- Child does not consent to adoption.
- Not following up on referrals.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- No concurrent plan by court
- School not meeting youth's behavioral needs.



- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other education barrier.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Other independence barrier.
- Other mental health barrier.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Youth not employed and transitioning out of care.
- Transitional housing has not been identified.
- 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 35 of the 36 children/youths reviewed.

## Prince George's County



Prince George's County had a total of 23 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 10 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 3 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 3 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 3 cases
- APPLA: 4 cases

### Permanency

The local boards agreed with the department's permanency plan for 22 of the 23 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 court for the 1 case.

### Category of APPLA plan (4 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (4)

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 4 cases)

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

### Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

2 to 3 years	1					1
3 years or more						2
<b>Totals →</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

### Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 19 of the 23 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 2 of 23 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 8 of the 23 eligible cases.

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

### Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

In 15 of the 23 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 23 cases reviewed.

### Placement Stability

In 4 of the 23 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. All 4 cases had 1 placement change.

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

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

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

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

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

- 1 case(s) behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for all 4 cases

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

- Yes, for all 4 cases

### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 7 of the 23 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 12 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 11 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 4 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 5 of the 23 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 5 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 5 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 5 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 5 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 14 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 14 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.

- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 13 of the 14 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 adult 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: 2 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the 2 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 11 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 10 of the 11 children/youths.

The local boards found that the health needs of 5 of the 23 children/youths had been met and 2 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

### Education

18 of the 23 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 15 of the 18 were in Pre-K through 12th grade and 3 were in college. 1 of the 5 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school and 4 were under the age of 5.

6 of the 15 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 5 of the 6 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 15 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local boards agreed that the 18 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 – 10 cases)

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

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

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

The local boards agreed that 7 of the 10 youths were receiving appropriate services to

prepare for independent living.

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

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

The local 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. Of the 3 cases with a plan of adoption, 1 child/youth consented and 2 children were under the age of consent.

#### Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (3 cases)

##### Pre-Adoptive Placement (3 cases)

All 3 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in pre-adoptive homes. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple for 1 case and a single female for 2 cases. The relationships to the pre-adoptive children/youths were non relative foster parents for all 3 cases.

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

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

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

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

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

#### Adoptive Recruitment (None)

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

#### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (3 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for all 3 children/youths. The services that were needed was medical for all 3 cases, mental health services for 1 case and educational services for 1 case.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

6 of the 23 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local boards agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 23 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	13	6
No	10	17

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	7	5
More than once a week		
Once a month	1	
More than once a month	1	
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented	4	1

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	3	
Unsupervised	10	6

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

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	7	3

LDSS Visitation Center	2	
Public Area	1	
Child's/Youth's Placement	1	
Other	2	3

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	7	2
No	6	4

### Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 14 of the 23 children/youths had siblings in care. 2 had 1 sibling in care, 3 had 2 siblings, 4 had 3 siblings and 5 had 5 siblings. All 14 children/youths were having visits with their siblings who did not reside with them.

### Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Appeal by birth parents.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other physical health barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Other safety barrier.
- Youth engages in risky behavior.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Transitional housing has not been identified.
- 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 22 of the 23 children/youths reviewed.



**Queen Anne's County**



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

- Reunification: 2 cases
- APPLA: 2 cases

**Permanency**

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

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 2 of the 4 cases.

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

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

- Emancipation/Independence (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						
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years						1
2 to 3 years	1					1
3 years or more	1					
<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 1 of the 4 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 2 of the 4 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)
2	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Own Dwelling

2 of the 4 cases 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 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 another had 2 changes.

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

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

- 2 case(s) were less restrictive placements

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 2 case(s) transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- Yes, for both cases

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

- Yes, for both cases

## Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 2 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 1 child/youth had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 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 of the eligible children/youths reviewed.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 1 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 were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 2 children/youths.
- 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 3 of the 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 adult youth with mental health issues was transitioning out of care and did not have an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 of the 4 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the 1 child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 2 children/youths.

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

## 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. Both youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school.

1 of the 2 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and there was a copy of the 504/IEP plan in 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 the 2 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)

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

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

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

The local board agreed that 2 of the 4 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 1 youth had mental health reasons preventing them from receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

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

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

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

## Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. None of the 4 children/youths reviewed had a plan of adoption.

## Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

## Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Not applicable.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Not applicable.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

3 of the 4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	2	1
No	2	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	2	1
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	2	1

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative		

Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other		

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No	1	1

### Siblings/Visits

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

### Barriers/Issues

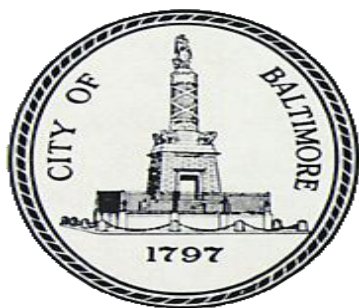
The local board identified the following barriers to permanency or issues:

- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Child does not consent to adoption.
- Not following up on referrals.
- Non-compliant with service agreement.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- No concurrent plan by court
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.

### Summary

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

## Baltimore City



Baltimore City had a total of 88 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 39 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 5 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 9 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 6 cases
- APPLA: 29 cases

### Permanency

The local boards agreed with the department's permanency plan for 59 of the 88 cases reviewed.

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

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the court for 9 of the 10 cases.

### Category of APPLA plan (29 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (28)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (1)

### Permanent Connections (APPLA – 29 cases)

27 of the 29 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local boards agreed that the connections were appropriate for 26 of the 29 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	10		2	3		4
7 to 11 months	4			3	3	7
1 to 2 years	21		1	1	2	9
2 to 3 years	2		2	1	1	4
3 years or more	2			1		5

Totals →	39		5	9	6	29
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### Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 3 of the 88 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 49 of the 84 eligible cases. 4 cases were Post-TPR children under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 63 of the 84 eligible cases.

The local boards agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for 44 of the 49 signed cases.

### Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement
5	Formal Kinship Care
7	Pre Finalized Adoptive Home
4	Regular Foster Care
6	Restricted (Relative) Foster Care
1	Treatment Foster Care
37	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
3	Residential Group Home
3	Teen Mother Program
4	Therapeutic Group Home
6	Independent Living Residential Program
2	Residential Treatment Center
1	Relative
1	Non Relative
2	Own Dwelling
6	Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA)

In 52 of the 88 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 85 of the 88 cases reviewed.

### Placement Stability

In 35 of the 88 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 9 cases had 1 placement change, 16 cases had 2 changes, 5 cases had 3 changes and 5 cases had four or more changes.

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



35 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 35 most recent placement changes:

- 6 case(s) were less restrictive placements
- 9 case(s) were more restrictive placements
- 19 case(s) had the same level of care
- 1 case(s) unknown, information not available

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 7 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) provider request
- 3 case(s) allegation of provider abuse/neglect
- 2 case(s) incompatible match between child/youth and the providers

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

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

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

- Yes, for 34 of the 35 cases

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

- Yes, for 34 of the 35 cases

### Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 13 of the 88 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 64 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 45 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 45 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 6 of the 17 children/youths requiring follow-ups.

- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 25 of the 88 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 37 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 37 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 24 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 24 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 64 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 64 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 45 of the 64 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 adult youth with mental health issues who was transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system and 11 youths did not have a plan.
- Substance Abuse: 18 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 3 of the 18 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 48 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 39 of the 48 children/youths.

The local boards found that the health needs of 25 of the 88 children/youths had been met and 8 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

### Education

56 of the 88 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 52 of the 56 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade, 2 youths were enrolled in a GED program 1 was in college and 1 was in trade school. 10 of the 32 children/youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school, 10 refused to attend school and 12 were under the age of 5.

27 of the 52 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 16 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 32 of the 52 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade.

The local boards agreed that 51 of the 56 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 – 53 cases)

16 of the 53 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 2 youths were unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

The local boards agreed that 30 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

➤ Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 53 cases)

The local boards agreed that 29 of the 53 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 2 youths had mental health reasons preventing them from receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 19 cases)

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

Housing had been specified for 6 of the 19 youths transitioning out of care.

The local boards agreed that 12 youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

### Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. Of the 9 cases with a plan of adoption, 2 children/youths consented, 1 child/youth did not wish to be adopted and 6 were under the age of consent.

### Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (8 cases)

#### Pre-Adoptive Placement (7 cases)

7 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in pre-adoptive homes. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple in 4 cases, an unmarried couple for 2 cases and a single female in 1 case. The relationships to the pre-adoptive children/youths were non relative foster parents in all 7 cases.

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

- 1 case(s) from 1 to 3 months
- 1 case(s) from 4 to 6 months

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

A home study was completed and approved for 6 of the 7 cases.

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

The local boards agreed that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate for all 7 cases.

#### Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

The local boards found that the local department had documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for 1 child/youth not placed in a pre-adoptive home. The adoptive recruitment resources were Digital Me and Ready and Waiting.

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

#### Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (8 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for all children/youths. The services that were needed were medical for 6 cases and mental health services for 2 cases.

The local boards found that the post adoptive services were appropriate for the 8 cases.

#### Miscellaneous Findings

##### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

5 of the 88 cases had a CASA.

##### Risk and Safety

The local boards agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 77 of the 88 cases.

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

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	50	31
No	38	57

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily	1	
Once a week	26	19

More than once a week	4	4
Once a month	4	5
More than once a month	2	2
Quarterly	5	
Yes, but undocumented	8	1

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	21	5
Unsupervised	29	26

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	16	5
Other Agency Representative	1	
Biological Family Member	4	
Foster Parent	1	
Other	1	

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	12	19
LDSS Visitation Center	9	1
Public Area	15	4
Child's/Youth's Placement	5	5
Other	9	2

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	7	5
No	43	26

### Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 38 of the 88 children/youths had siblings in care. 17 had 1 sibling, 2 had 2 siblings, 7 had 3 siblings, 5 had 4 siblings and 7 had 6 siblings. 28 of the 38 children/youths were having visits with their siblings who did not reside with them.

### Barriers/Issues

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

- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Inadequate casework services.
- Poor coordination within DSS.
- Inadequate communication between DSS and POC agency.

- Lack of concurrent planning.
- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Inappropriate service agreement
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Lack of follow-up (general).
- Non-compliant with service agreement.
- No concurrent plan by court
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Not following up on referrals.
- Refusal to locate or maintain employment.
- Non-compliant with service agreement.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other agency related barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Other education barrier.
- Appeal by birth parents.
- Unwilling to adopt because of lack of services or financial support.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Youth not enrolled in school.
- Youth not attending school or in GED program.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- No current IEP.
- No follow up on medical referrals.
- Issues with medical assistance card.
- Transitional housing has not been identified.
- Youth not employed and transitioning out of care.
- Other placement barrier.
- Youth has not been assessed for mental health concerns.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Other mental health barrier.
- No current Safe-C/G.

### Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 64 of the 88 children/youths reviewed.

### Required Supporting Documentation for CRBC Reviews

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

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

### Recommendations to All Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS)

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

### Independent Living

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

### Permanent Connections

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

### Adoption

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

### 3rd Quarter 2020 CRBC Metrics

Total # of Children - Scheduled on the Preliminary:	565
Total # of Children - Closed (adopted, reunified, exited care), Non Submission:	144
Total # of Children - Rescheduled (DSS caseworker requests, board overload):	123
Total # of Children - Eligible for Review:	298
Total # of Children - Reviewed at the Board:	275
Total # of Children - Not Reviewed at the Board (worker no shows):	23
Percentage of Children Reviewed for the Period:	92%
Percentage of Children Not Reviewed for the Period:	8%
Recommendation Reports to DSS - Number Sent:	275
Recommendation Reports to DSS - Number Sent on Time: <sup>1</sup>	251
Recommendation Reports to DSS - Percentage Sent on Time:	91%
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Number of Responses Received: <sup>2</sup>	101
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Percentage of DSS Responses:	37%
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Number Received on Time:	21
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Percentage Received on Time	21%
Number of Boards Held	40
Recommendation Reports - Number of DSS Agreement:	98
Recommendation Reports - Percentage of DSS Agreement:	97%
Recommendation Reports - Number of DSS Disagreement:	3
Recommendation Reports - Percentage of DSS Disagreement:	3%
Recommendation Reports - Number of Blank/Unanswered: <sup>3</sup>	0
Recommendation Reports - Percentage of Blank/Unanswered:	0%
Percentage of REUNIFICATION Children Reviewed for the Period:	38%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT - Adoption Children Reviewed:	0.4%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT - C & G Children Reviewed:	4%
Percentage of ADOPTION Children Reviewed for the Period:	15%
Percentage of CUSTODY/GUARDIANSHIP Children Reviewed for the Period:	6%
Percentage of APPLA Children Reviewed for the Period:	37%

<sup>1</sup> Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the work-at-home directive from the Governor of Maryland effective 3/13/20, 24 recommendation reports from 3 boards were not sent on time.

<sup>2</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 review board's recommendation(s) within 10 days of receipt of the report.

<sup>3</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 board's recommendation.



The State Board

Nettie Anderson-Burrs (Chair)

Circuit 4: Representing Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties

Delores Alexander (Vice Chair)

Circuit 3: Representing Baltimore and Harford Counties

Dr. Theresa Stafford

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

Reginald Groce Sr.

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

Dr. Kathy Boyer-Shick

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

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