

Citizens Review Board For Children



THIRD QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 2022 REPORT

(January 1st 2022 – March 31st 2022)

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Our Mission Statement

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

Our Vision Statement

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

Discrimination Statement

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

Confidentiality

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

CRBC Acknowledgements

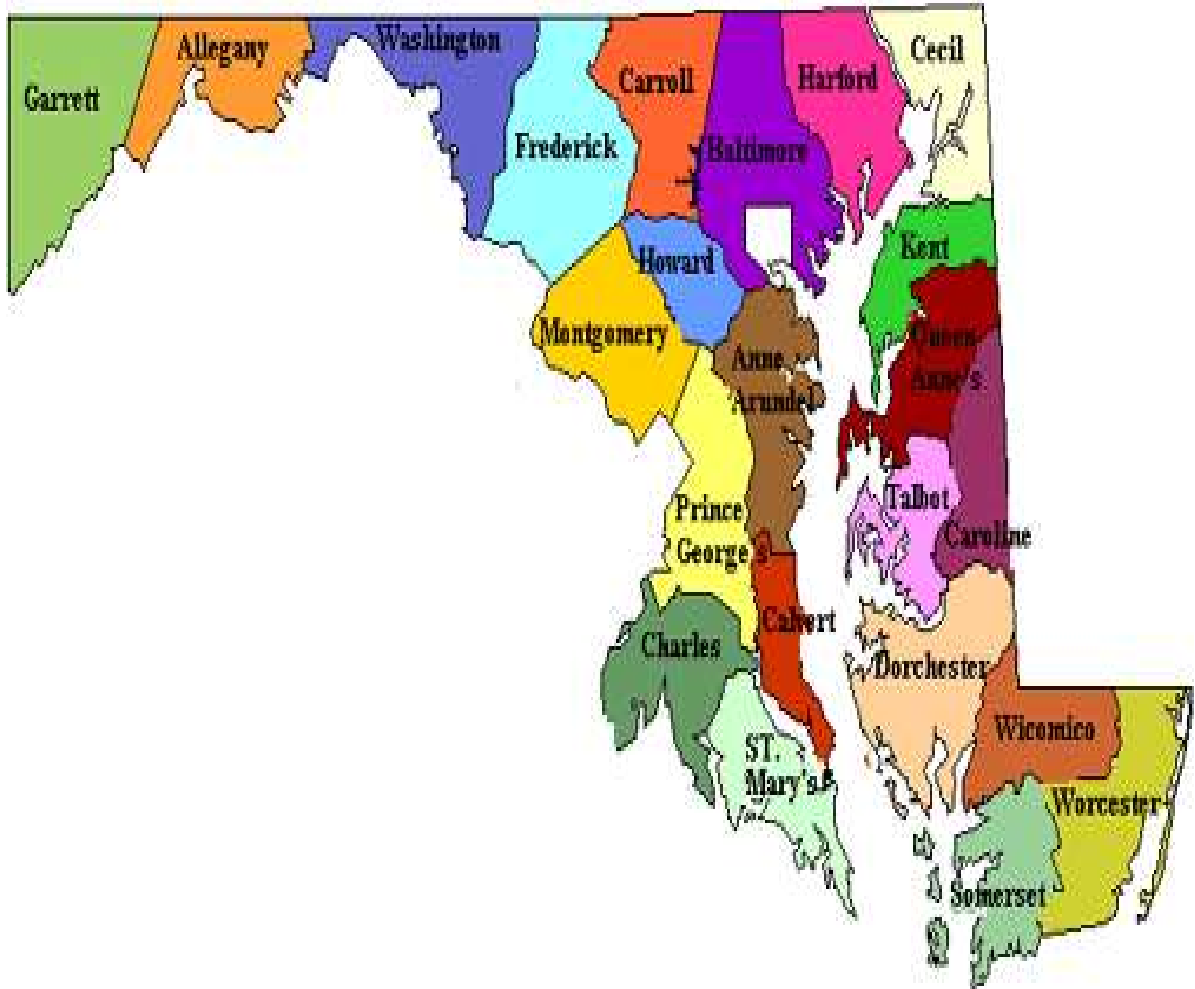
CRBC would like to acknowledge the commitment, dedication, passion and service of all stakeholders on behalf of Maryland's most vulnerable children including:

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

*Thank
You*

Introduction

The following pages contain data from CRBC's out-of-home-placement case review findings and recommendations for the 3rd Quarter of Fiscal Year 2022.



CRBC conducts regular out-of-home placement case reviews in all 24 Maryland jurisdictions including Baltimore City throughout the year. For this quarterly report, the following counties did not have regularly scheduled case reviews during the quarter: Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Charles, Garrett, Somerset, Talbot and Wicomico counties. Therefore, this report only contains review findings and recommendations for the 16 jurisdictions including Baltimore City that had regularly scheduled reviews.

Targeted Review Criterion

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

Reunification:

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

Adoption:

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

Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA):

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

Older Youth Aging Out

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

Re-Review Cases:

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

Permanency Plan Hierarchy

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

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

Family Centered Practice Model

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

3rd Quarter 2022 Case Review Statistics

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

Jurn #	County	Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA	TOTAL	# Boards Held
01	Allegany	0	0	2	0	0	2	1
02	Anne Arundel	1	1	0	1	0	3	1
03	Baltimore County	16	0	4	0	7	27	7
07	Cecil	0	0	0	0	4	4	1
09	Dorchester	0	0	0	1	2	3	1
10	Frederick	0	0	0	0	3	3	1
12	Harford	3	1	5	0	0	9	2
13	Howard	1	0	0	0	3	4	1
14	Kent	0	0	1	1	0	2	1
15	Montgomery	1	0	0	6	8	15	5
16	Prince George's	4	1	1	1	13	20	5
17	Queen Anne's	1	0	0	0	1	2	1
18	St. Mary's	0	0	0	0	4	4	1
21	Washington	1	0	0	2	1	4	1
23	Worcester	0	0	2	0	1	3	1
49	Baltimore City	28	0	4	13	22	67	18
16	Statewide Totals	56	3	19	25	69	172	48
	Percentages	33%	2%	11%	15%	40%	100%	

*(Note: Relative Placement is the combined total of Relative Placement for Adoption = 0; Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship =3)

CRBC conducted a total of 172 individual out-of-home case reviews (each case reviewed represents 1 child/youth) in 16 Jurisdictions on 48 boards that held reviews during the 3rd quarter of fiscal year 2022.

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

- Permanency Plan - (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (E))
- Placement Plan - (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (I))
- Progress towards Permanent Placement - (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F))
- Case Planning
- Health/Mental Health (family article 5-545)
- Education (family article 5-545)
- Ready by 21
 - 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)
- Adoptive Services
 - Pre-Adoptive Placement
 - Adoptive Recruitment
 - Post-Adoption Services
- Child's Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings
- Miscellaneous Findings
- Barriers to Permanency/Issues

Total Reviewed (172)

Gender Totals

Male	Female
92 (54%)	80 (46%)

Gender by Plan

Male (92)

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA
27 (29%)	2 (2%)	14 (15%)	14 (15%)	35 (38%)

Female (80)

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA
29 (36%)	1 (1%)	5 (6%)	11 (14%)	34 (43%)

Ethnicity Overall

African American	Caucasian	Asian	Other
126 (73.3%)	40 (23.3%)	2 (1.2%)	4 (2.3%)

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	5	0	0	7	2	0	14
2_age 6 thru 10	16	0	0	5	3	0	24
3_age 11 thru 13	12	0	0	3	4	0	19
4_age 14 thru 16	12	0	2	4	12	1	31
5_age 17 thru 19	10	0	1	0	3	29	43
6_age 20	1	0	0	0	1	39	41
Totals	56	0	3	19	25	69	172

Jurisdictional Case Reviews

Allegany County



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

- Non-Relative Adoption: 2 cases

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court did not identify concurrent permanency plans for any of the 2 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (None)

- Not applicable

Permanent Connections (None)

- Not applicable

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

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

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

In 1 of the 2 cases reviewed the child/youth was not placed in their home jurisdiction in a setting that was in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

- 1 case(s) runaway

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement change included:

- 1 case(s) provider home closed

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

- Yes, for 1 case

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 both children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: Both children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: Both children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: Both children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: None.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that both children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: Both children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Yes, for both children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Yes, for the child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues: None.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: None.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Not applicable.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable.
- Substance Abuse: None.
- Substance Abuse Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: None.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Not applicable.

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

Education

Both children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program and both were in Pre-K through 12th grade.

1 child/youth enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had a 504 or IEP plan

and a copy of the 504/IEP plan was in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 1 child/youth enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program.

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 – None)

Not applicable.

➤ Independent Living Services (None)

Not applicable.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – None)

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

Not applicable.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 1 child/youth was medically fragile and unable to consent and 1 child was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Not applicable. Neither of the 2 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in pre-adoptive homes.

Adoptive Recruitment (2 cases)

The local board found that the local department had documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for both children/youths not placed in a pre-adoptive home. The adoptive recruitment resource was Adopt-Us-Kids.

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (2 cases)

Post-adoptive services were needed for both cases. The service that was needed was medical for both cases.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

1 case had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	2	2

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised		

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

Foster Parent		
Other		

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No		

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that neither of the 2 children/youths had siblings in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- 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 both children/youths reviewed.

Anne Arundel County



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

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

Permanency

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

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (None)

- Not applicable.

Permanent Connections (None)

- Not applicable.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

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

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

In 2 of the 3 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 3 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

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

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

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

- 1 case(s) more restrictive placement

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

- Yes, for the case

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

- Yes, for the case

Health/Mental Health

➤ Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 3 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: None.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that none of the 3 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 1 child/youth was taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Yes, for the child/youth.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Yes, for both children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 3 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for all 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 3 youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: Yes, for all 3 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 3 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of all 3 children/youths were not being met and 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

All 3 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 3 were in Pre-K through 12th grade.

2 of the 3 children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had a 504 or IEP plan and 1 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 2 of the 3 children/youths

enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program.

The local board agreed that 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 youth was employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and 1 youth was unable to participate due to being in a correctional facility.

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

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

The local board agreed that 1 youth was receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living and 1 youth was unable to receive appropriate services due to being 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.

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)

All 3 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	2	
No	1	3

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	2	

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

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

Other	1	
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Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	2	

Siblings/Visits

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

Barriers/Issues

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

- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Child/Youth has runaway history.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other independence barrier.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 1 of the 3 children/youths reviewed.

Baltimore County



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

- Reunification: 16 cases
- Non-Relative Adoption: 4 cases
- APPLA: 7 cases

Permanency

The local boards agreed with the department's permanency plan for 16 of the 27 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified concurrent permanency plans for 4 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the court for 3 of the 4 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (7 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (6)
- Transition to an Adult Supportive Living Arrangement (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 7 cases)

6 of the 7 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local boards agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 6 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months						2
7 to 11 months						
1 to 2 years	4			1		1
2 to 3 years	7			3		2
3 years or more	5					2
Totals →	16			4		7

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 24 of the 27 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had signed service agreements for 5 of the 24 eligible cases. 3 children/youths were Post-TPR children under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for 8 of the 24 eligible cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
3	Pre-Finalized Adoption
1	Treatment Foster Care
14	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
2	Residential Group Home
1	Teen Mother Program
4	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Non-Relative
1	Unapproved Kinship Home (LA)

In 13 of the 27 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local boards agreed with the department's placement plan for 26 of the 27 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 9 of the 27 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 7 cases had 1 placement change, 1 case had 2 changes and 1 case had 4 or more changes.

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

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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 2 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

- 2 case(s) placement with relatives
- 2 case(s) placement with siblings

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

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

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

- 1 case(s) sexualized
- 1 case(s) runaway

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

- Yes, for 6 of the 9 cases

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

- Yes, for all 9 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 13 of the 27 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 20 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 13 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 17 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 9 of the 15 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 10 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 15 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 15 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 14 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 14 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 20 children/youths had mental health issues.

- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for all 20 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 20 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: 2 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for both children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 14 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 13 of the 14 children/youths.

The local boards found that the health needs of 14 of the 27 children/youths had been met.

Education

25 of the 27 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 24 were in Pre-K through 12th grade and 1 youth was in college. The 2 youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational had already graduated high school.

18 of the 25 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 17 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 11 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local boards agreed that all 27 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 17 cases)

2 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 5 youths were unable to participate due to mental health reasons and 2 youths due to being medically fragile.

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

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

The local boards agreed that 5 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 5 youths were not receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living due to mental health reasons and 2 youths due to being medically fragile.

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

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

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. 2 children/youths consented, 1 consented with conditions and 1 child was under the age of consent

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (4 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (3 cases)

3 of the 4 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in a pre-adoptive home. The family structure was comprised of an unmarried couple for 2 cases and a single female for 1 case. The relationship to the pre-adoptive children was a non-relative foster parent for all 3 cases.

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

- 3 case(s) 21 months or more

A home study was 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 for all 3 cases.

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

Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (4 cases)

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

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

7 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	12	6
No	15	21

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	5	1
Unsupervised	7	5

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

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

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

Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 16 of the 27 children/youths had siblings in care. 3 children/youths had 1 sibling in care, 5 had 2 siblings and 8 had 3 siblings in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 10 children/youths. 8 children/youths with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 9 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

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

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local boards determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 17 of the 27 children/youths reviewed.

Cecil County



Cecil 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 a concurrent permanency plan for any cases.

Category of APPLA plan (4 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (4)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 4 cases)

3 of the 4 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 3 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 1 of the 4 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department did not have a signed service agreement for any of the 4 cases.

Efforts were not made to involve the family in the service agreement process for any of the 4 cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Secure Detention Facility (LA)
1	Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA)

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

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

- 1 case(s) was 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

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 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 1 child/youth had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: None of the 4 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 2 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: None.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that none of the 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: None.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Not applicable.
- Psychotropic Medication: 1 of the 4 children/youths were 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: Yes, for 3 of the 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: No, for all 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 3 of the 4 youths with mental health issues who were transitioning out of care did not have an identified plan to obtain mental health services in the adult health care system.
- Substance Abuse: 3 children/youths had a substance abuse issue.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for all 3 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 4 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: No, for all 4 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of all 4 children/youths had not been met and 2 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

None of the 4 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational

program. 2 of the 4 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school and 2 refused to attend school.

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

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

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

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

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

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 2 cases)

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

Housing had not been specified for the 2 youths transitioning out of care, however alternative housing options were provided to the youths.

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Not applicable.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Not applicable.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

3 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	4	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		
Yes, but undocumented		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised		

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

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

Child's/Youth's Placement		
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No		

Siblings/Visits

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

Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with youth.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 2 of the 4 children/youths reviewed.

Dorchester County



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

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

Permanency

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

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

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

The local department was implementing an alternative concurrent permanency plan for the 1 case.

Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (2)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

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

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

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

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

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

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

- 1 case(s) behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for the case

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

- Yes, for the case

Health/Mental Health

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

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

Education

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

program. All 3 children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade.

All 3 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 the children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

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

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

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

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

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

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 2 cases)

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

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

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Not Applicable.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Not applicable.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

All 3 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	2	
No	1	3

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week		
More than once a week		
Once a month	1	
More than once a month		
Quarterly	1	
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	1	
Child's/Youth's Placement	1	
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	2	

Siblings/Visits

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

Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with youth.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Child/Youth has runaway history.
- Vision not current.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth not attending school or in GED program.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 2 of 3 children/youths reviewed.

Frederick County



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

- APPLA: 3 cases

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 3 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (3 cases)

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

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 3 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

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

The local board agreed that the service agreement was appropriate for all 3 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Formal Kinship Care
1	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Inpatient Medical Care (LA)

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

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

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

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

- 1 case(s) behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for the case

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

- Yes, for the case

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 3 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 3 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 3 children/youths had a current vision exam.

- Current Dental: 2 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: All 3 children/youths had follow-up health concerns noted by a physician.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 2 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for 1 child/youth.
- 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: 2 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for both children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for both children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues who was transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse issue.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 1 child/youth.

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

Education

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

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

A current progress report/report card was not 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 not being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

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

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

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

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)

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

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

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Not applicable.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Not applicable.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

2 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	2	2

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

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
------------------------	--------------	----------------

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		1
No	2	1

Siblings/Visits

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

Barriers/Issues

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

- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Dentals not current.
- Other education barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Other service resource barrier.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Youth engages in risky behavior.
- 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 3 children/youths reviewed.



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

- Reunification: 3 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- Non-Relative Adoption: 5 cases

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court identified a concurrent permanency plan for 5 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plan set by the local juvenile court for the 5 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (None)

- Not applicable

Permanent Connections (None)

- Not applicable

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 1 of the 8 cases. 1 child/youth was a Post-TPR child under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for 5 cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

In 8 of the 9 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 2 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes 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

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

- Yes, for 2 cases

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

- Yes, for 5 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 4 of the 9 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 5 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 3 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 3 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 2 eligible children/youths reviewed.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 2 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 6 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Yes, for 6 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Yes, for the child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues: 2 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for both children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: No, for both children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: None of the 2 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 4 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 4 children/youths.

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

Education

6 of the 9 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 6 children/youths were in Pre-K through 12th grade. The 3 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were under the age of 5.

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

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 5 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

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

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

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

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

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

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – None)

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

Not applicable.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. All 5 children were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (5 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (5 cases)

All 5 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in pre-adoptive homes. The family

structure was comprised of a married couple for all 5 cases. The relationships to the pre-adoptive children were non-relative foster parents for 4 cases and a fictive-kin foster parent for 1 case.

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

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

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

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

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

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (5 cases)

Not applicable. None of the 5 children/youths needed post-adoptive services.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

5 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	7	1
No	2	8

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

More than once a month	2	
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented		

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

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		1
No	7	

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 8 children/youths had siblings in care. 3 children/youths had 2 siblings in care and 5 had 4 siblings in care. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 8 children/youths. 8 children/youths with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 3 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Appeal by birth parents.
- No current IEP.

- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Lack of concurrent planning.
- Postponement or continuation of hearings.

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 8 of the 9 children/youths reviewed.

Howard County



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

- Reunification: 1 case
- APPLA: 3 cases

Permanency

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

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (3 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (3)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 3 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 3 cases. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for 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	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Own Dwelling
1	Diagnostic Center
1	Runaway (LA)

Of the 4 cases reviewed the children/youths were not placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

- 1 case(s) runaway

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

- Yes, for the case

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

- Not applicable, child/youth on runaway

Health/Mental Health

➤ Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that all 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.

- Current Physical: 3 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 2 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 4 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for the 4 eligible children/youths reviewed.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 2 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Yes, 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: 4 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for all 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 3 of the 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues who was transitioning out of care had an identified plan to obtain mental health services in the adult mental health system and 1 youth did not have a plan.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 1 child/youth had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: No, for the child/youth.

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

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

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

The local board agreed that 1 child/youth was being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

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

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

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

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 2 cases)

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

Housing had been specified for the 2 youths transitioning out of care and the local board agreed that the youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Not applicable.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Not applicable.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	3	
No	1	4

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	1	
Unsupervised	2	

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	3	

Siblings/Visits

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

Barriers/Issues

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

- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Not following up on referrals.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other mental health barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth not receiving adequate services.
- Youth engages in risky behavior.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Delay in scheduling appointment.

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.

Kent County



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

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

Permanency

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

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (None)

- Not applicable.

Permanent Connections (None)

- Not applicable.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

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

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Residential Treatment Center

In 1 of the 2 cases reviewed the child/youth was placed in their home jurisdiction in a setting that was in close proximity to their community which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

In 1 of the 2 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 change for the 1 case.

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

- 1 case(s) was a more restrictive placement

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

- 1 case(s) behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for 1 case

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

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

Education

Both children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program and both were in Pre-K through 12th grade.

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

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

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 – None)

Not applicable.

➤ Independent Living Services (None)

Not applicable.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – None)

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

Not applicable.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (1 case)

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

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

- 1 case(s) from 16 to 20 months

A home study was completed and approved for the case.

The local board agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive

family to meet the identified needs of the child/youth.

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

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

Not applicable. The child/youth did not require any post-adoptive services and/or resources.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

2 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No	1	2

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	1	

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	1	

Siblings/Visits

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

Barriers/Issues

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

- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- No service agreement with parents.
- 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 both children/youths reviewed.

Montgomery County



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

- Reunification: 1 case
- Non-Relative Custody/Guardianship: 6 cases
- APPLA: 8 cases

Permanency

The local boards agreed with the department’s permanency plan for 14 cases reviewed.

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (8 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (8)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 8 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months						
7 to 11 months						2
1 to 2 years					2	
2 to 3 years	1				4	3
3 years or more						3
Totals →	1				6	8

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 8 of the 15 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 5 of the 15 cases. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for the 15 cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

In 9 of the 15 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

In 9 of the 15 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 7 cases had 1 placement change, 1 had 2 changes and 1 had 3 placement changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 2 of the 9 cases.

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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 4 case(s) was transitioning towards permanency goal

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

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

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

- 2 case(s) behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for all 9 cases

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

- Yes, for all 9 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 6 of the 15 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 11 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 7 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 11 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 11 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 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 the 4 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 12 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for all 12 children/youths.

- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 9 of the 12 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 2 youths with mental health issues who were transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 3 children/youths had substance abuse problems.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 1 child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 3 children/youths.

The local boards found that the health needs of 9 of the 15 children/youths had been met and 2 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

13 of the 15 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 11 were in Pre-K through 12th grade, 1 youth was in college and 1 youth was in trade school. Both youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school.

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

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

The local boards agreed that 10 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 13 cases)

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

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

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

The local boards agreed that 9 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 4 cases)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

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

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

Child’s Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Not applicable.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Not applicable.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

6 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 12 of the 15 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	2	2
Unsupervised	3	6

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

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

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

Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 6 of the 15 children/youths had siblings in care. 4 children/youths had 1 sibling in care and 2 had 2 siblings. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 6 children/youths. 3 children/youths with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 8 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- No concurrent permanency plan in place
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- No current IEP.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- No follow up on medical referrals.
- Other mental health barrier.
- Other education barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Other placement barrier.
- Youth has not been assessed for mental health concerns.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Youth not employed and transitioning out of care.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Housing has not been identified for youth aging out of care.
- No current Safe-C/G.
- Undocumented child/youth.

Summary

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

Prince George's County



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

- Reunification: 4 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- Non-Relative Adoption: 1 case
- Non-Relative Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 13 cases

Permanency

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

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (13 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (11)
- Transition to an Adult Supportive Living Arrangement (2)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 13 cases)

12 of the 13 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local boards agreed that the connections were appropriate for 11 of the 12 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Totals →	4		1	1	1	13
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Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 19 of the 20 cases reviewed.

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

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
5	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Teen Mother Program
1	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Independent Living Residential Program
2	Residential Treatment Center
1	Relative
2	Own Dwelling
2	Trial Home Visit (LA)
2	Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA)
2	Other

In 8 of the 20 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local boards agreed with the department’s placement plan for 16 of the 20 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 13 of the 20 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 6 cases had 1 placement change, 4 cases had 2 changes, 2 cases had 3 changes and 1 case had 4 or more changes.

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

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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 3 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- 6 case(s) behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for 9 cases

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

- Yes, for 9 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 5 of the 20 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 14 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 13 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 8 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- 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 department reported that 9 of the 20 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 11 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 11 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 11 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 11 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 19 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for 18 of the 19 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 13 of the 19 children/youths.

- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 2 youths with mental health issues who were transitioning out of care did not have an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: 5 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 3 of the 5 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 10 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 7 of the 10 children/youths.

The local boards found that the health needs of 9 of the 20 children/youths had been met and 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

13 of the 20 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 12 of the 13 were in Pre-K through 12th grade and 1 youth was enrolled in a GED program. 4 of the 7 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school and 3 refused to attend school.

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

The local boards agreed that 13 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 19 cases)

4 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 2 youths were not employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience due to mental health reasons and 3 youths 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 – 19 cases)

The local boards agreed that 10 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 2 youths were not receiving appropriate services due to mental health

reasons and 3 youths due to being medically fragile.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 6 cases)
(Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

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

The local boards agreed that 4 youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (1 case)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

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

Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

The local boards found that the local department had documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for the 1 child/youth not placed in a pre-adoptive home. The adoptive recruitment resources were Adoptions Together and Adopt-Us-Kids.

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

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

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

8 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local boards agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 15 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	12	11
No	8	9

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	2	2
More than once a week	2	
Once a month		
More than once a month		
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented	8	9

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		1
Unsupervised	12	10

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	7	8
No	5	3

Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 8 of the 20 children/youths had siblings in care. 5 children/youths had 1 sibling in care and 3 had 2 siblings. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 5 children/youths. 3 children/youths had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 6 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

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

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 14 of the 20 children/youths reviewed.

Queen Anne’s County



Queen Anne’s County had a total of 2 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 1 case
- APPLA: 1 case

Permanency

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

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department did not have signed service agreements for both cases. Efforts were not made to involve the families in the service agreement process for both cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
1	College (LA)
1	Inpatient Psychiatric Care (LA)

In both cases reviewed the children/youths were not placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

- 1 case(s) was a more restrictive placement

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

- 1 case(s) hospitalization

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

- Unknown

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

- Unknown

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 2 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.

- Current Physical: No, for both children/youths.
- Current Vision: No, for both children/youths.
- Current Dental: 1 child/youth had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: None.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that neither of the 2 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: Both children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Yes, for both children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 1 child/youth was taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: No, for the child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues: 2 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for both children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: No, for both children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues who was transitioning out of care did not have identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: None.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 2 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: No, for both children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of both children/youths had not been met.

Education

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

1 child/youth in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and did not have 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 child/youth in

Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that 1 child/youth was being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

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

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

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

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – None)

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

Not applicable.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Not applicable.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Not applicable.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

2 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were not followed for both cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	

No		1
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Siblings/Visits

The local board found that both children/youths did not have 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/issues:

- No service agreement with parents.
- No current IEP.
- School not implementing IEP.
- School not meeting youth's behavioral needs.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Youth not receiving adequate services.
- No current Safe-C/G.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services did not make adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for both children/youths reviewed.

St. Mary's County



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

- 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 a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 4 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 the 4 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 1 of the 4 cases. Efforts were made to involve the family in the service agreement process 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)
3	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Therapeutic Group Home

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

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

- 3 case(s) same level of care

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

- 2 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- 1 case(s) runaway

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

- Yes, for all 3 cases

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

- Yes, for all 3 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 1 child/youth had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 1 child/youth had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 1 child/youth had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 1 eligible child/youth reviewed.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 1 child/youth 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: Yes, for 3 of the 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 1 child/youth.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 4 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 2 children/youths had a substance abuse issue.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for both children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 4 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 children/youths.

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

Education

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

None of the 2 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan.

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 2 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

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

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

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

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)

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

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

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Not applicable.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Not applicable.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 4 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	4	4
No		

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	4	4

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	3	4
No	1	

Siblings/Visits

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

- No service agreement with youth.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Child/Youth has runaway history.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Other mental health barrier.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Delay in scheduling appointments.

Summary

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

Washington County



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

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

Permanency

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

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

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

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

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

In 3 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 1 placement change.

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

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

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

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

- No, for the case

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

- Yes, for the case

Health/Mental Health

➤ Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 4 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.

- Current Physical: 4 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 4 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 3 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred for all health concerns noted by a physician for 3 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that all 4 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 3 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 3 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 3 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 3 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 4 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for all 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 3 of the 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues who was transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system.
- Substance Abuse: None.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 3 children/youths.

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

Education

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

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

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

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

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

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

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

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

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 1 case)

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

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

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Not applicable.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Not applicable.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

2 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 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	1	
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented	1	

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	1	
Unsupervised	1	

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	2	

Siblings/Visits

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

Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with youth.
- No concurrent plan by court
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- No follow up on medical referrals.
- 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.

Worcester County



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

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

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court did not identify a concurrent permanency plan for any of the 3 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 1 eligible case. 2 cases were Post-TPR children/youths under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process was made for the 1 eligible 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)
3	Treatment Foster Care (Private)

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

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

- 2 case(s) same level of care

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

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

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

- No, for both cases

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

- No, for both cases

Health/Mental Health

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

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

Education

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

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

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

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

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 1 case)

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

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

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

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

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – None)

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

Not applicable.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

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

Adoptive Recruitment (2 cases)

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (2 cases)

Post adoptive services and/or resources were not required for both cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

3 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	3	3

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised		

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

Foster Parent		
Other		

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No		

Siblings/Visits

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

Barriers/Issues

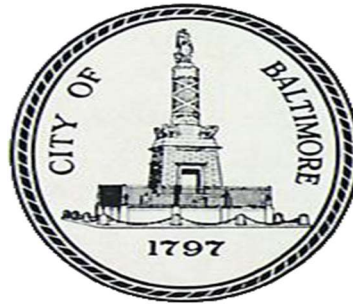
The local board identified the following barriers to permanency/issues:

- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other independence barrier.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.

Summary

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

Baltimore City



Baltimore City had a total of 67 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 28 cases
- Non-Relative Adoption: 4 cases
- Non-Relative Custody/Guardianship: 13 cases
- APPLA: 22 cases

Permanency

The local boards agreed with the department's permanency plan for 46 of the 67 cases reviewed.

The local juvenile court identified concurrent permanency plans for 12 cases.

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the local juvenile court for 10 of the 12 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (22 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (20)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (1)
- Other (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 22 cases)

16 of the 22 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local boards agreed that the connections were appropriate for 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	8			1	1	3
7 to 11 months	3			2	4	1
1 to 2 years	5			1	4	6
2 to 3 years	5				2	10
3 years or more	7				2	2
Totals →	28			4	13	22

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 15 of the 67 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 14 of the 62 eligible cases. 5 cases were Post-TPR children under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the families in the service agreement process were made for 26 of the 62 eligible cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)
15	Formal Kinship Care
2	Pre-Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Regular Foster Care
3	Restricted (Relative) Foster Care
23	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Alternative Living Unit
2	Residential Group Home
3	Teen Mother Program
1	Therapeutic Group Home
6	Independent Living Residential Program
2	Own Dwelling
2	Other
1	Correctional Institution (LA)
1	Own Home/Apartment
3	Runaway (LA)
1	Secure Detention Facility (LA)

In 35 of the 67 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 61 of the 67 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 25 of the 67 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 17 cases had 1 placement change, 5 cases had 2 changes and 3 cases had 4 or more changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 8 of the 25 cases.

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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

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

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

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

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

- 8 case(s) behavioral issues
- 2 case(s) sexualized
- 1 case(s) delinquent behavior
- 1 case(s) runaway

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

- Yes, for 23 cases

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

- Yes, for 9 cases

Health/Mental Health

➤ Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 23 of the 67 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.

➤ Current Physical: 27 children/youths had a current physical exam.

- Current Vision: 15 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 17 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 10 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local department reported that 8 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 15 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for 14 of the 15 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 12 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 12 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 41 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: Yes, for all 41 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 20 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 1 youth with mental health issues who was transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system and 10 youths did not have a plan.
- Substance Abuse: 13 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 13 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 28 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 12 of the 28 children/youths.

The local boards found that the health needs of 15 of the 67 children/youths had been met and 10 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

43 of the 67 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 43 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade. 10 of the 24 children/youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school, 9 refused to attend school and 5 were under the age of 5.

17 of the 43 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 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 20 of the 43 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade.

The local boards agreed that 29 children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

➤ Employment (age 14 and older – 35 cases)

11 of the 35 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 2 youths were unable to participate due to mental health reasons, 1 youth due to being in a Juvenile Justice Facility and 1 youth due to being in a Correctional Facility.

The local boards agreed that 18 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

The local boards agreed that 15 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. 2 youths were unable to receive appropriate services due to mental health reasons, 1 youth due to being in a Juvenile Justice Facility and 1 youth due to being in a Correctional Facility.

➤ Housing (Transitioning Youth – 17 cases)

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

Housing and alternate housing had been specified for 12 youths transitioning out of care.

The local boards agreed that 6 youths were being appropriately prepared to transition out of care.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. Of the 4 cases with a plan of adoption all of the children 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 was comprised of a married couple for each of the 4 cases. The relationship to the pre-

adoptive children was non-relative foster parent(s) for all 4 cases.

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

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

A home study was completed and approved for 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 all children.

The local boards agreed that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate for all 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 children. The services that were needed were medical, mental health and educational services for all 4 cases.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

2 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local boards agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 60 of the 67 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	24	15
No	43	52

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		6
Once a week	5	1
More than once a week	1	2
Once a month		2
More than once a month	10	3
Quarterly	1	
Yes, but undocumented	7	1

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	8	3
Unsupervised	16	12

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	1	
Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member	7	1
Foster Parent		2
Other		

Where do Visits Occur?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	13	13
LDSS Visitation Center	1	
Public Area	3	1
Child's/Youth's Placement	7	1
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	8	11
No	16	4

Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 42 of the 67 children/youths had siblings in care. 22 children/youths had 1 sibling in care, 9 had 2 siblings, 5 had 3 and 6 had 5 siblings. Efforts were made to place siblings together who did not reside together for 32 children/youths. 33 children/youths with siblings in care had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them. 30 children/youths had visits with their siblings who were not in care.

Barriers/Issues

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

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

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 39 of the 67 children/youths reviewed.

Required Supporting Documentation for CRBC Reviews

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

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

Recommendations to All Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS)

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

Independent Living

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

Permanent Connections

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

Adoption

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

3rd Quarter 2022 CRBC Metrics

Total # of Children - Scheduled on the Preliminary:	382
Total # of Children - Closed (adopted, reunified, exited care), Non-Submission:	118
Total # of Children - Rescheduled (DSS caseworker requests, board overload):	80
Total # of Children - Not taken to the Board:	198
Total # of Children - Taken to the Board:	184
Total # of Children - Reviewed at the Board:	172
Total # of Children - Not Reviewed at the Board (worker no shows/closed):	12
Percentage of Children Reviewed for the Period:	94%
Percentage of Children Not Reviewed for the Period:	6%
Recommendation Reports to DSS - Number Sent:	172
Recommendation Reports to DSS - Number Sent on Time:	172
Recommendation Reports to DSS - Percentage Sent on Time:	100%
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Number of Responses Received:	59
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Percentage of DSS Responses:	34%
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Number Received on Time:	55
Recommendation Reports from DSS - Percentage Received on Time	93%
Number of Boards Held	48
Recommendation Reports - Number of DSS Agreement:	58
Recommendation Reports - Percentage of DSS Agreement:	98%
Recommendation Reports - Number of DSS Disagreement:	1
Recommendation Reports - Percentage of DSS Disagreement:	2%
Recommendation Reports - Number of Blank/Unanswered: ¹	0
Recommendation Reports - Percentage of Blank/Unanswered:	0%
Percentage of REUNIFICATION Children Reviewed for the Period:	33%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT - Adoption Children Reviewed:	0%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT - C & G Children Reviewed:	2%
Percentage of ADOPTION Children Reviewed for the Period:	11%
Percentage of CUSTODY/GUARDIANSHIP Children Reviewed for the Period:	15%
Percentage of APPLA Children Reviewed for the Period:	40%

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

The State Board

Nettie Anderson-Burrs (Chair)

Circuit 4: Representing Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties

Delores Alexander (Vice Chair)

Circuit 3: Representing Baltimore and Harford Counties

Dr. Theresa Stafford

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

Reginald Groce Sr.

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

Vacant

Circuit 5: Representing Anne Arundel, Carroll, and Howard Counties

Sandra "Kay" Farley

Circuit 6: Representing Frederick and Montgomery Counties

Davina Richardson

Circuit 7: Representing Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's Counties

Beatrice Lee

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

Rita Jones

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

Benia Richardson

Circuit 8: Representing Baltimore City

CRBC Staff

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Administrator

Crystal Young, MSW
Assistant Administrator

Jerome Findlay
Information Technology Officer

Hope Smith
IT Functional Analyst

Michele Foster, MSW
Child Welfare Specialist

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

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Volunteer Activities Coordinator Supervisor

Lakira Whitaker
Volunteer Activities Coordinator II

Cindy Hunter-Gray
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Agnes Smith
Executive Assistant

Vacant
Office Clerk

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