Citizens Review Board For Children

CRBC
Citizens Review Board for Children

MARYLAND

SECOND QUARTER

FISCAL YEAR 2020 REPORT

(October 1st 2019 – December 31st 2019)

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Our Mission Statement

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

Our Vision Statement

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

Discrimination Statement

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

Confidentiality

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

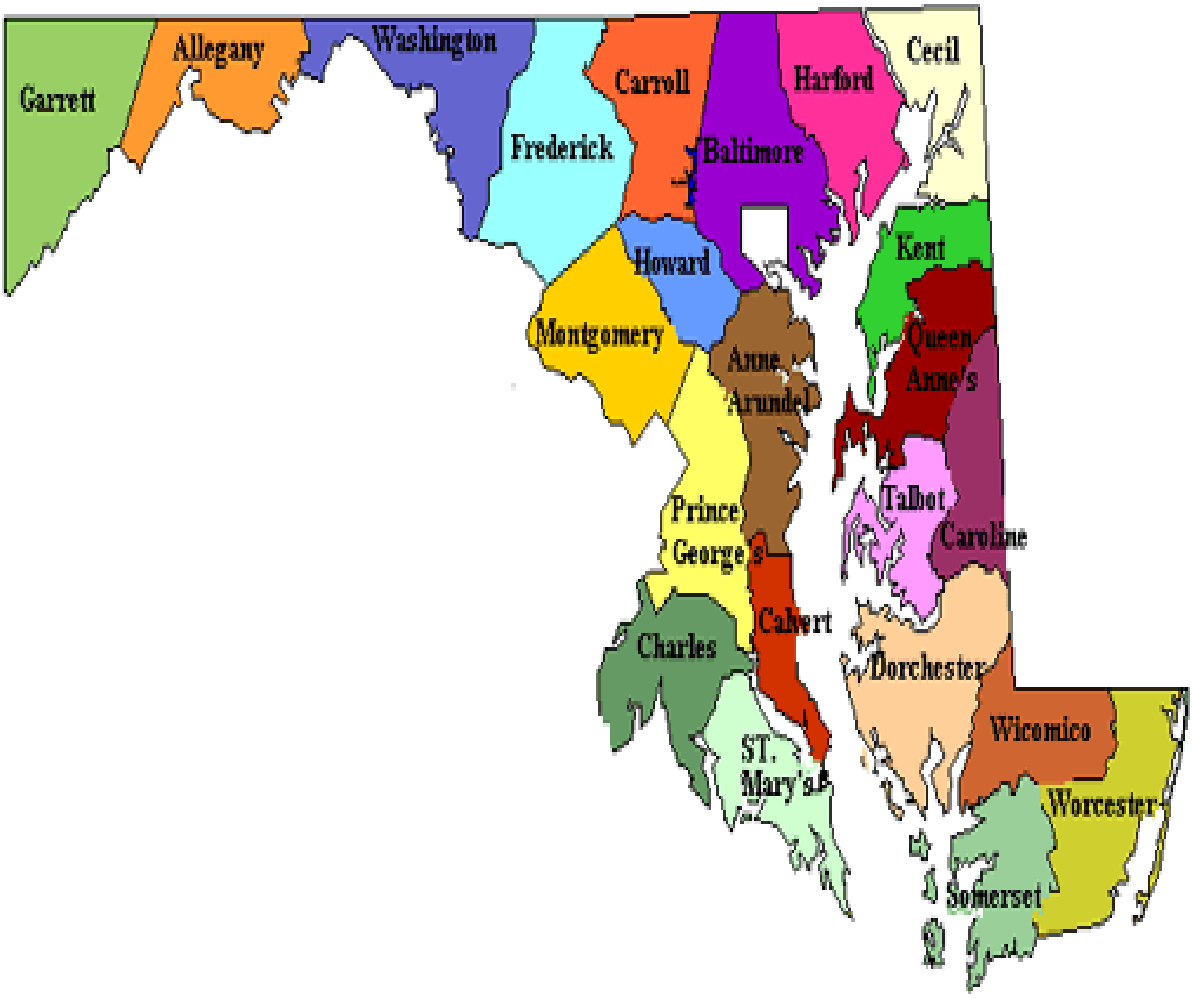
CRBC Acknowledgements

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

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

Introduction

The following pages contain data from CRBC's out-of-home-placement case review findings and recommendations for the 2nd Quarter of Fiscal Year 2020.



CRBC conducts regular out-of-home placement case reviews in all 24 Maryland jurisdictions including Baltimore City throughout the year. For this quarterly report, the following counties did not have regularly scheduled case reviews during the quarter: Allegany, Caroline, Dorchester, Garrett, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset and Talbot 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 **P**lanned **P**ermanent **L**iving **A**rrangement (APPLA):

- ★ Already established plans of APPLA for youth 16 years of age and younger. CRBC will conduct a full review of a child 16 years of age and younger who has an established primary permanency plan of APPLA. The primary purpose of the review is to assess appropriateness of the plan and review documentation of the Federal APPLA requirements.

- ★ Newly established plans of APPLA. CRBC will conduct a review of a child within 5 months after the establishment of APPLA as the primary permanency plan. Local Boards will review cases to ensure that local departments have made adequate and appropriate efforts to assess if a plan of APPLA was the most appropriate recourse for the child.

Older Youth Aging Out

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

Re-Review Cases:

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

Permanency Plan Hierarchy

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

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

Family Centered Practice Model

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

2nd Quarter 2020 Case Review Statistics

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

Jurn #	County	Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA	TOTAL	# Boards Held
02	Anne Arundel	3	0	2	0	7	12	2
03	Baltimore County	17	0	6	0	9	32	5
04	Calvert	2	1	4	3	6	16	2
06	Carroll	4	0	0	0	2	6	1
07	Cecil	4	0	1	0	3	8	1
08	Charles	1	0	1	1	5	8	1
10	Frederick	1	0	2	0	2	5	1
12	Harford	9	0	1	1	5	16	2
13	Howard	6	0	0	0	2	8	1
15	Montgomery	22	6	9	4	6	47	6
16	Prince George's	14	0	6	1	11	32	4
18	St. Mary's	3	0	0	0	0	3	1
21	Washington	2	0	2	1	3	8	1
22	Wicomico	3	0	2	0	1	6	1
23	Worcester	0	1	4	1	2	8	1
49	Baltimore City	30	4	8	5	38	85	12
16	Statewide Totals	121	12*	48	17	102	300	42
	Percentages	40%	4%	16%	6%	34%	100%	

*(Note: Relative Placement is the combined total of Relative Placement for Adoption = 4; Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship =8)

CRBC conducted a total of 300 individual out-of-home case reviews (each case reviewed represents 1 child/youth) in 16 Jurisdictions on 42 boards that held reviews during the 2nd quarter of fiscal year 2020.

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

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

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

Total Reviewed (300)

Gender Totals

Male	Female
137 (46%)	163 (54%)

Gender by Plan

Male(137)

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA
57 (42%)	4 (2%)	27 (20%)	5 (4%)	44 (32%)

Female(163)

Reunification	Relative Placement	Adoption	Custody Guardianship	APPLA
64 (39%)	8 (5%)	21 (13%)	12 (7%)	58 (36%)

Ethnicity Overall

African American	Caucasian	Other
167 (56%)	104 (35%)	29 (9%)

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	14	2	1	18	0	0	35
2_age 6 thru 10	19	2	1	14	1	0	37
3_age 11 thru 13	28	0	3	6	4	0	41
4_age 14 thru 16	46	0	3	9	10	4	72
5_age 17 thru 19	14	0	0	1	2	66	83
6_age 20	0	0	0	0	0	32	32
Totals	121	4	8	48	17	102	300

Jurisdictional Case Reviews

Anne Arundel County

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

- Reunification: 3 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 2 cases
- APPLA: 7 cases

Permanency

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

The local juvenile court did not identify concurrent permanency plans for any of the 12 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (7 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (4)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (3)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 7 cases)

All 7 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for 5 of the 7 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 9 of the 12 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 9 of the 12 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for all 12 cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangment (LA)
2	Pre-Finalized Adoption
1	Regular Foster Care
3	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
3	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Diagnostic Center

In 3 of the 12 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

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

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

- 4 case(s) had behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for all 4 cases

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

- Yes, for all 4 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of the 12 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: All 12 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 8 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 2 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 7 of the 12 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 7 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 7 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 6 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 6 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 7 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 7 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 7 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable, none of the 7 children/youths with mental health issues where transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 2 of the 12 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the 2 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 8 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 8 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 8 of the 12 children/youths had been met, and 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

11 of the 12 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 11 were in Pre-K through 12th grade. 1 youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school.

9 of the 11 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and all 9 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 10 of the 11 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that all 11 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 – 9 cases)

  3 of the 9 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth was unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

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

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

  The local board agreed that 6 of the 9 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. Mental health reasons prevented 1 youth from receiving appropriate services.

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

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

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

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

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

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

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

The local board agreed that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate for the 2 cases.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (2 cases)

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

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

9 of the 12 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 12 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

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

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No	5	6

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 5 of the 12 children/youths had siblings in care. 2 had 1 sibling and 3 had 2 siblings. 4 of the 5 children/youths were having visits with their siblings who did not reside with them.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Lack of concurrent planning.
- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Non-compliant with service agreement.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- No current IEP.
- Other education barrier.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- 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 11 of the 12 children/youths reviewed.

Baltimore County

Baltimore County had a total of 32 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 17 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 6 cases
- APPLA: 9 cases

Permanency

The local boards agreed with the department's permanency plan for 31 of the 32 cases reviewed.

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (9 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (8)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 9 cases)

6 of the 9 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local boards agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 6 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	4			3		6
7 to 11 months	1					1
1 to 2 years	6			3		
2 to 3 years	4					2
3 years or more	2					
Totals ➔	17			6		9

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 7 of 29 cases. 3 cases were Post-TPR children under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 12 of the 29 eligible 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 Arrangment (LA)
6	Pre-Finalized Adoption
1	Restricted Relative Foster Care
6	Treatment Foster Care
3	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home
4	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Residential Treatment Center
1	Own Dwelling
1	College (LA)
3	Trial Home Visit (LA)
2	Runaway (LA)
1	Secure Detention Facility (LA)
1	Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA)

In 15 of the 32 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 29 of the 32 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 12 of the 32 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 6 cases had 1 placement change, 4 had 2 changes, 1 had 3 changes and 1 had 4 or more changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 11 of the 12 cases.

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

- 7 case(s) were less restrictive placements
- 2 case(s) were more restrictive placements

- 1 case(s) had the same level of care
- 2 case(s) youth on runaway

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

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

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

- 4 case(s) behavioral issues
- 1 case(s) delinquent behavior
- 2 case(s) runaway
- 1 case(s) hospitalization

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

- Yes, for all 12 cases

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

- Yes, for 10 of the 12 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 16 of the 32 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 23 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 17 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 15 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 9 of the 10 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 13 of the 32 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 19 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for 18 of the 19 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 18 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.

- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for 17 of the 18 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 28 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 27 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 23 of the 28 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 28 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 5 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 1 of the 5 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 32 children/youths had been met.

Education

27 of the 32 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 25 of the 27 were in Pre-K through 12th grade and 2 youths were in college. 1 of the 5 youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school and 4 were under the age of 5.

17 of the 25 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 12 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 7 of the 25 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local boards agreed that 26 of the 27 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 – 22 cases)

  8 of the 22 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth was unable to participate due to being medically fragile and 3 youths due to mental health reasons.

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

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 22 cases)

The local boards agreed that 14 of the 22 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. Mental health reasons and being medically fragile prevented 4 youths from receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

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

Housing had been specified for 1 of the 2 youths transitioning out of care.

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. All 6 cases with a plan of adoption were children were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (6 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (6 cases)

All 6 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in pre-adoptive homes. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple for 4 cases and a single female for 2 cases. The relationships to the pre-adoptive children/youths were non relative foster parents in all 6 cases.

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

- 6 case(s) from 21 months or more

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

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

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

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (6 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for 5 of the 6 children/youths. The service that was needed was medical for all 5 cases.

The local boards found that the post adoptive service was appropriate for the 5 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

8 of the 32 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local boards agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 31 of the 32 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	16	9
No	16	23

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	4	1
Unsupervised	12	8

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	9	4
No	7	5

Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 17 of the 32 children/youths had siblings in care. 10 had 1 sibling in care and 7 had 2 siblings. 13 of the 17 children/youths were having visits with their siblings who did not reside with them.

Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Child/Youth has runaway history.
- No concurrent plan by court
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Other safety barrier.
- Transitional housing has not been identified.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Youth not enrolled in school.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth engages in risky behavior.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.

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 29 of the 32 children/youths reviewed.

Calvert County

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

- Reunification: 2 cases
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 1 case
- Non Relative Adoption: 4 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 3 cases
- APPLA: 6 cases

Permanency

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

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

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the court for all 6 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (6 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (6)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 6 cases)

All 6 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local boards agreed that the connections were appropriate for 5 of 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	1			2	2
7 to 11 months						1
1 to 2 years				3	1	1
2 to 3 years						1
3 years or more				1		1
Totals ➔	2	1		4	3	6

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 4 of 15 cases. 1 case was a Post-TPR child under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 4 of the 15 eligible cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangment (LA)
2	Formal Kinship Care
3	Pre-Finalized Adoption
7	Treatment Foster Care
1	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Diagnostic Center
1	Runaway (LA)

In 8 of the 16 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for 15 of the 16 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

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

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

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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was placement with relatives

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

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

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

- Yes, for all 4 cases

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

- Yes, for 3 of the 4 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 2 of the 16 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 14 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 11 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 3 of the 4 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 9 of the 16 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 6 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 6 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 6 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 6 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 14 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 13 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 11 of the 14 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 14 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

- Substance Abuse: 4 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 4 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 8 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 7 of the 8 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 9 of the 16 children/youths had been met and 2 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

12 of the 16 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 12 were in Pre-K through 12th grade. 2 of the 4 youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school, 1 refused to attend school and 1 was under the age of 5.

8 of the 12 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 2 of the 8 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

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

The local board agreed that all 12 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 – 11 cases)

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

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

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 11 cases)

  The local board agreed that 10 of the 11 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

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

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

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (4 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (4 cases)

All 4 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in pre-adoptive homes. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple for all 4 cases. The relationships to the pre-adoptive children/youths was a relative foster parent for 1 case and non relative foster parents for 3 cases.

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

- 4 case(s) from 21 months or more

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

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

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

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (4 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for all 4 children/youths. The service that was needed was medical for all 4 cases.

The local board found that the post adoptive service was appropriate for the 4 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 16 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	6	3
No	10	13

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	4	
Unsupervised	2	3

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

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

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

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 5 of the 16 children/youths had siblings in care. 2 had 1 sibling in care and 3 had 2 siblings. All 5 children/youths were having visits with their siblings who did not reside with them.

Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other safety barrier.
- Youth engages in risky behavior.
- Lack of employment.
- Refusal to locate or maintain employment.
- Issues related to substance abuse.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 14 of the 16 children/youths reviewed.

Carroll County

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

- Reunification: 4 cases
- APPLA: 2 cases

Permanency

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

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

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

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

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

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangment (LA)
3	Formal Kinship Care
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home
1	Residential Treatment Center

In 3 of the 6 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for all 6 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

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

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

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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 3 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- 1 case(s) behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for all 4 cases

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

- Yes, for all 4 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 3 of the 6 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 6 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 6 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 6 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 4 of 5 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that all 6 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 5 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 5 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for 2 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 5 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 5 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 5 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 problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the 1 child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: None of 6 children/youths had behavioral issues.

- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Not applicable.

The local board found that the health needs of 5 of the 6 children/youths had been met.

Education

4 of the 6 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 4 were in Pre-K through 12th grade. Both youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school.

1 of the 4 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and he/she 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 through 12th grade.

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

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 3 cases)

  1 of the 3 youths 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 of the 3 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

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

  Housing had not been specified for the 1 youth transitioning out of care. However, alternative housing options were provided to the youth.

  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)

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

4 of the 6 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 6 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

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

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

Other		

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

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

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 3 of the 6 children/youths had siblings in care. All 3 had 2 siblings in care. All 3 had siblings who resided together.

Barriers/Issues

The local board identified the following barriers to permanency or 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 all 6 children/youths reviewed.

Cecil County

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

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

Permanency

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

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

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

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

Case Planning

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

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

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangment (LA)
2	Regular Foster Care
1	Residential Group Home
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Relative
1	Non Relative
1	Trial Home Visit (LA)
1	Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA)

In 5 of the 8 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 2 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- 2 case(s) were behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for all 3 cases

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

- Yes, for 2 of the 3 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 5 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 4 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 all the 3 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 3 of the 8 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 4 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 4 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 4 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 7 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 7 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 4 of the 7 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: 3 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.

- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the 3 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 8 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 5 of the 8 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 3 of the 8 children/youths had been met.

Education

5 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 5 were in Pre-K through 12th grade. 2 of the 3 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school and 1 child was all under the age of 5.

All 5 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and all 5 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 4 of the 5 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that all 5 children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 4 cases)

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

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

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

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

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

  Housing had been specified for 1 of the 2 youths 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. The 1 child with a plan of adoption was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (1 case)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

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

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

- 1 case(s) from 21 months or more

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

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

The local board found that the pre-adoptive placement was not appropriate for the case.

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

Post adoptive services were not needed for the 1 case.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

4 of the 8 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	5	6
No	3	2

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	2	1
Unsupervised	3	5

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

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

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

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 2 of the 8 children/youths had siblings in care. Both had 1 sibling in care. Both children/youth had visits with their siblings who did not reside with them.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Poor coordination within DSS.
- Other coordination barrier.
- Other administrative barrier.
- Other agency related barrier.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- 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 7 of the 8 children/youths reviewed.

Charles County

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

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

Permanency

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (5 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (5)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 5 cases)

All 5 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connection was appropriate for 4 of the 5 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 3 of the 8 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 2 cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangment (LA)
3	Treatment Foster Care
2	Residential Group Home
1	Teen Mother Program
2	Therapeutic Group Home

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

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

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

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

- 1 case(s) behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for the 2 cases

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

- Yes, for the 2 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 7 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 7 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 6 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 2 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 6 of the 8 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 5 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 5 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 5 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 5 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 8 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 8 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 6 of the 8 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable, none of the 8 children/youths with mental health issues where transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 2 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for both children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 6 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 6 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 6 of the 8 children/youths had been met.

Education

5 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 4 were in Pre-K through 12th grade and 1 youth was in college. 2 children not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school and 1 refused attend school.

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

A current progress report/report card was not available for review for the 4 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that all 5 children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 8 cases)

  3 of the 8 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience and 1 youth was unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

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

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

  The local board agreed that 6 of the 8 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. Mental health reasons prevented 1 youth from receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

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

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

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (1 case)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

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

Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (1 case)

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

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

1 of the 8 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 6 of the 8 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	1	
Unsupervised		1

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	1	
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		1
No	1	

Siblings/Visits

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

Barriers/Issues

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

- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Youth needs more restrictive placement.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Youth engages in risky behavior.

Summary

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

Frederick County

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

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

Permanency

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (2)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 3 of the 5 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 2 of the 5 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 2 of the 5 cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangment (LA)
3	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Trial Home Visit (LA)

In 1 of the 5 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

- 1 case(s) was a less restrictive placement

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- Yes, for the 1 case

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

- Yes, for the 1 case

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 5 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 5 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 3 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 5 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 2 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 3 of the 5 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 3 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 3 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for 1 of the 2 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 5 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 5 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 5 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable, none of the 5 children/youths with mental health issues where transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None of the 5 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.
- Behavioral Issues: 3 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 3 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 4 of the 5 children/youths had been met.

Education

All 5 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 4 were in Pre-K through 12th grade and 1 was in college.

2 of the 4 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 all 4 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that all 5 children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

  1 of the 2 youths 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 receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

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

  Not applicable.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. Of the 2 cases with a plan of adoption 1 child/youth consented and 1 was 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 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 for both cases.

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 the 2 cases. The service that was needed was mental health services for both cases.

The local board found that the post adoptive service was appropriate for the 2 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

All 5 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	2
No	4	3

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		1
Yes, but undocumented		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised		
Unsupervised	1	2

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	1
No		1

Siblings/Visits

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

Barriers/Issues

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

- Pre-Adoptive resources not identified.
- No service agreement with parents.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- No concurrent plan by court
- No current IEP.
- Vision not current.
- Lack of concurrent planning.
- 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 5 children/youths reviewed.

Harford County

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

- Reunification: 9 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 1 case
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 5 cases

Permanency

The local board agreed with the department's permanency plan for 12 of the 16 cases reviewed.

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

Category of APPLA plan (5 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (5)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 5 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 11 of the 16 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 13 of the 16 cases. 1 child/youth was a Post-TPR child under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 2 cases.

The local board agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 13 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangment (LA)
2	Intermediate Foster Care
1	Pre-Finalized Adoption
3	Regular Foster Care
1	Residential Group Home
1	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Independent Living Residential Program
1	Own Dwelling
1	Non Relative
1	College (LA)
1	Inpatient Psychiatric Care (LA)
1	Inpatient Medical Care (LA)
2	Trial Home Visit (LA)

In 6 of the 16 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for 15 of the 16 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 9 of the 16 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 8 cases had 1 placement change and 1 case had 3 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:

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 6 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) found incident of provider abuse/neglect

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

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

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

- Yes, for 8 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 4 of the 16 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 14 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 12 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 12 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for all 6 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 10 of the 16 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 8 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 8 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 7 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 7 children/youths.

- Mental Health Issues: 13 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 11 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 10 of the 13 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: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the child/youth.
- Behavioral Issues: 9 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for the 9 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 9 of the 16 children/youths had been met.

Education

13 of the 16 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 11 of the 13 were in Pre-K through 12th grade, 1 was enrolled in a GED program and 1 youth was in college. 2 of the 3 youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school and 1 child was under the age of 5.

7 of the 13 children/youths in Pre-K through 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 8 of the 13 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that the 13 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 – 9 cases)

  4 of the 9 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth was unable to participate due to being medically fragile.

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

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

  The local board agreed that 5 of the 9 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. Being medically fragile, prevented 1 youth from receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

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

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

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

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

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

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

A home study was completed and approved for both cases.

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

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

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (2 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for both children/youths. The services that were needed were medical for 1 case and mental health services for 1 case.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

8 of the 16 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	1	
Unsupervised	3	4

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

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	2	3
LDSS Visitation Center		

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

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

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 7 of the 16 children/youths had siblings in care. 4 had 1 sibling in care and 3 had 2 siblings. 5 of the 7 children/youths were having visits with their siblings who did not reside with them.

Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with youth.
- Non-compliant with service agreement.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- No concurrent plan by court
- Not following up on referrals.
- Appeal by birth parents.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other family related barrier.
- Other education barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- Youth needs more restrictive placement.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Not maintaining contact with the Department.

Summary

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

Howard County

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

- Reunification: 6 cases
- APPLA: 2 cases

Permanency

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (2)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 6 of the 8 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 7 cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangment (LA)
1	Formal Kinship Care
1	Regular Foster Care
3	Restricted (Relative) Foster Care
1	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Runaway (LA)
1	Secure Detention Center (LA)

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

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

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

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

- 1 case(s) incompatible match

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

- 1 case(s) behavioral issues
- 1 case(s) delinquent behavior
- 1 case(s) child/youth on runaway

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

- Yes, for all 4 cases

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

- Yes, for 3 of the 4 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 6 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 6 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 8 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 1 child/youth requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 5 of the 8 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 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: 4 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 3 of the 4 children/youths.

- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 4 youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.

- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.

- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the child/youth.

- Behavioral Issues: 4 children/youths had behavioral issues.

- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 3 of the 4 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 6 of the 8 children/youths had been met.

Education

6 of the 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 6 were in Pre-K through 12th grade. 1 of the 2 children/youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school and 1 child was under the age of 5.

1 of the 6 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 3 of the 6 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that the 6 children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 5 cases)

  1 of the 5 youths 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 – 5 cases)

  The local board agreed that 3 of the 5 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

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

  Not applicable.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

7 of the 8 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	4	
Unsupervised		4

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		2
No	4	2

Siblings/Visits

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

Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with youth.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Youth engages in risky behavior.
- 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 7 of the 8 children/youths reviewed.

Montgomery County

Montgomery County had a total of 47 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 22 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 6 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 9 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 4 cases
- APPLA: 6 cases

Permanency

The local boards agreed with the department's permanency plan for 41 of the 47 cases reviewed.

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (6 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (5)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 6 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	1			2	4	1
7 to 11 months	1			2		1
1 to 2 years	18		5			
2 to 3 years	2		1	5		3

3 years or more						1
Totals ➔	22		6	9	4	6

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 29 of the 47 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 14 of 41 cases. 6 cases were Post-TPR children under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 32 of the 35 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 Arrangment (LA)
3	Formal Kinship Care
8	Pre-Finalized Adoption
10	Regular Foster Care
15	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
3	Therapeutic Group Home
2	Independent Residential Living Program
2	Residential Treatment Center
1	Own Dwelling
1	Diagnostic Center
1	Trial Home Visit (LA)
1	Unapproved Kinship Home (LA)

In 29 of the 47 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 46 of the 47 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 20 of the 47 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 10 cases had 2 placement changes, 4 had 3 changes and 6 had 4 or more changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 4 of the 20 cases.

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

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

- 13 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:

- 6 case(s) provider request
- 2 case(s) incompatible match

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

- 7 case(s) behavioral issues
- 1 case(s) threats of harm to self and others

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

- Yes, for 19 of the 20 cases

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

- Yes, for 19 of the 20 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 6 of the 47 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 36 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 31 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 29 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 1 child/youth requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 20 of the 47 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 22 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 22 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 18 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.

- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 18 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 26 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 26 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 25 of the 26 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: 3 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for the 3 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 20 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 20 children/youths.

The local boards found that the health needs of 23 of the 47 children/youths had been met, and 3 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

36 of the 47 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 34 of the 36 were in Pre-K through 12th grade and 2 youths were in college. 2 of the 11 youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school and 9 children were under the age of 5.

19 of the 34 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 15 of the 19 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 25 of the 34 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local boards agreed that the 36 children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 17 cases)

  3 of the 17 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 2 youths were unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

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

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

The local boards agreed that 8 of the 17 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. Mental health reasons prevented 2 youths from receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

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

Housing had been specified for 1 of the 3 youths transitioning out of care and alternative housing options provided to another youth.

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. 9 children with a plan of adoption and 2 with concurrent plans of adoption were under the age of consent. 2 children/youths with concurrent plans of adoption did not want to be adopted.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (13 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (12 cases)

9 children/youths with a plan of adoption and 3 children/youths with concurrent plans of adoption were placed in pre-adoptive homes. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple for 7 cases, an unmarried couple for 1 case and a single female for 4 cases. The relationships to the pre-adoptive children/youths were non relative foster parents in all 12 cases.

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

- 1 case(s) from 1 to 3 months
- 1 case(s) from 4 to 6 months
- 4 case(s) from 16 to 20 months
- 6 case(s) 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved for 1 of the 12 cases.

The local boards agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive families to meet the identified needs of the children/youths in all 12 cases.

The local boards agreed that the pre-adoptive placements were appropriate for all 12 cases.

Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (13 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for 12 of the 13 children/youths. The services that were needed were medical for all 12 cases and mental health services for 1 case.

The local boards found that the post adoptive services were appropriate for the 12 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

24 of the 47 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 44 of the 47 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	27	19
No	20	28

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		
Once a week	17	9
More than once a week	1	
Once a month	5	5
More than once a month	3	1
Quarterly		
Yes, but undocumented	1	4

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	15	9
Unsupervised	12	10

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	13	8
Other Agency Representative	1	
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other	1	1

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	2	8
LDSS Visitation Center		
Public Area	5	2
Child's/Youth's Placement	6	3
Other	14	6

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	3	2
No	24	17

Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 33 of the 47 children/youths had siblings in care. 8 had 1 sibling in care, 8 had 3 siblings, 5 had 4 siblings and 12 had 5 siblings. 29 of the 33 children/youths were having visits with their siblings who did not reside with them.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Lack of housing.
- Lack of concurrent planning.
- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other education barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Other placement barrier.
- Other mental health barrier.
- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- No current IEP.
- No concurrent permanency plan in place
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.

- Vision not current.
- No follow up on medical referrals.
- Youth non-compliant with medication.
- No current Safe-C/G.
- Undocumented child/youth.
- Delay in scheduling medical appointment.
- 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 46 of the 47 children/youths reviewed.

Prince George's County

Prince George's County had a total of 32 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 14 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 6 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 1 case
- APPLA: 11 cases

Permanency

The local boards agreed with the department's permanency plan for 30 of the 32 cases reviewed.

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (11 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (11)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 11 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 31 of the 32 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 10 of 31 cases. 1 case was a Post-TPR child under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 11 of the 31 eligible cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangment (LA)
3	Formal Kinship Care
3	Pre-Finalized Adoption
13	Treatment Foster Care
1	Teen Mother Program
2	Therapeutic Group Home
4	Independent Residential Living Program
1	Diagnostic Center
4	Runaway (LA)
1	Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA)

In 18 of the 32 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 32 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 20 of the 32 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review. 7 cases had 1 placement change, 2 had 2 changes, 4 had 3 changes and 7 had 4 or more changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 19 of the 20 cases.

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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 7 case(s) was transitioning towards permanency goal

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

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

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

- 6 case(s) behavioral issues
- 4 case(s) child/youth on runaway

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

- Yes, for all 20 cases

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

- Yes, for 16 of the 20 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 5 of the 32 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 18 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 14 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 14 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 2 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 12 of the 32 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 8 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 8 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 7 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.

- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 7 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 28 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 26 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 24 of the 28 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: 13 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 6 of the 13 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 18 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 14 of the 18 children/youths.

The local boards found that the health needs of 12 of the 32 children/youths had been met.

Education

25 of the 32 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 21 of the 25 were in Pre-K through 12th grade, 1 was enrolled in a GED program and 3 were in college. 1 of the 7 youths not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school, 5 refused to attend school and 1 was under the age of 5.

9 of the 21 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 2 of the 21 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local boards agreed that the 25 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 – 25 cases)

  7 of the 25 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 2 youths were unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

The local boards agreed that 7 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

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

  The local boards agreed that 11 of the 25 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. Mental health reasons prevented 2 youths from receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

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

  Housing had been specified for 3 of the 6 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. Of the 6 cases with a plan of adoption, 3 youths consented, 2 did not want to be adopted and 1 child was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (6 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (2 cases)

2 of the 6 children/youths with a plan of adoption were placed in pre-adoptive homes. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised of a married couple for 1 case and a single female for 1 case. The relationships to the pre-adoptive children/youths were non relative foster parents for both cases.

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

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

A home study was completed and approved for both cases.

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

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

Adoptive Recruitment (4 cases)

The local boards found that the local department had documented efforts to find an adoptive resource for 1 of the 4 children/youths not placed in a pre-adoptive home. The adoptive resource

was Adopt-Us-Kids.

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (6 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for 3 of the 6 children/youths. The service that was needed was medical for the 3 cases.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

8 of the 32 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 30 of the 32 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	17	8
No	15	24

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	3	1
Unsupervised	14	7

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	1	

Other Agency Representative		
Biological Family Member		
Foster Parent		
Other	2	1

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	8	6
LDSS Visitation Center	2	1
Public Area	3	
Child's/Youth's Placement	4	1
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	7	6
No	10	2

Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 14 of the 32 children/youths had siblings in care. 8 had 1 sibling in care and 6 had 2 siblings. All 14 children/youths were having visits with their siblings who did not reside with them.

Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Lack of employment.
- Lack of concurrent planning.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- No sibling or family visits.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other agency related barrier.
- Other education barrier.
- Other court related barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Other mental health barrier.
- Transitional housing has not been identified.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Youth refuses mental health treatment including therapy.
- Youth engages in risky behavior.

- Youth not enrolled in school.
- Youth not attending school or in GED program.
- No current IEP.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Child/Youth has runaway history.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Refusal to locate or maintain employment.
- Other legal barrier.

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 28 of the 32 children/youths reviewed.

St. Mary's County

St. Mary's County had a total of 3 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 3 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 2 cases.

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

Category of APPLA plan (None)

Permanent Connections APPLA (None)

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

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.

Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 1 of the 3 cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangment (LA)
2	Therapeutic Group Home
1	Residential Treatment Center

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

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

Placement Stability

None of the 3 cases reviewed had a placement change within the 12 months prior to the review.

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 3 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 3 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 1 child/youth had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 2 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for the 1 child/youth requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 1 of the 3 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 2 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 2 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 2 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 3 children/youths had mental health issues.

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

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

Education

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

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

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

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

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 2 cases)

  None of the 2 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth was unable to participate due to mental health reasons.

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

  The local board agreed that 1 of the 2 youths was receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. Mental health reasons prevented 1 youth from receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

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

  Not applicable.

Child's Consent to Adoption

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

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (None)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (None)

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (None)

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

1 of the 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	3	
No		3

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	2	
Unsupervised	1	

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

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	3	

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 2 of the 3 children/youths had siblings in care. Both had 1 sibling in care. Both children/youths had siblings who resided with them.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other education barrier.

Summary

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

Washington County

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

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

Permanency

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

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

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 2 of the 8 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had signed service agreements for 4 of the 8 cases. 1 case was a Post-TPR child/youth under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 5 of the 7 eligible cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangment (LA)
2	Regular Foster Care
4	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Trial Home Visit (LA)

In 3 of the 8 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 2 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- 1 case(s) behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for all 3 cases

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

- Yes, for all 3 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 1 of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 7 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 6 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 5 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 2 of the 3 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 4 of the 8 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 6 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 6 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 6 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 6 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 8 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 8 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 7 of the 8 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 8 youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None of the 8 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.

- Behavioral Issues: 6 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 6 children/youths.

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

Education

All 8 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 7 were in Pre-K through 12th grade and 1 youth was in college.

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

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 3 of the 7 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that all 8 children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 6 cases)

  2 of the 6 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 – 6 cases)

  The local board agreed that all 6 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

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

  Not applicable.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. Of the 2 cases with a plan of adoption, 1 child/youth consented and 1 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 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 pre-adoptive homes. 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 adoption cases. The services that were needed were mental health for both cases and DDA services for 1 case.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

1 of the 8 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	5	2
No	3	6

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

Yes, but undocumented		

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	1	
Unsupervised	4	2

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No	4	2

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 4 of the 8 children/youths had siblings in care. All 4 had 1 sibling in care. All 4 children/youths were having visits with their siblings who did not reside with them.

Barriers/Issues

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

- No service agreement with parents.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Not following through on service agreement objectives.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- No concurrent plan by court
- Annual physicals not current.
- Dentals not current.
- Vision not current.
- Other education 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 all 8 children/youths reviewed.

Wicomico County

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

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

Permanency

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

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (1 case)

- Emancipation/Independence (1)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 1 case)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 2 of the 6 cases. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 3 of the 6 cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangment
1	Regular Foster Care
3	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Group Home
1	Independent Living Residential Program

In 4 of the 6 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

The local board agreed with the department's placement plan for all 6 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

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

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

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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 2 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- 2 case(s) behavioral issues

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

- Yes, for all 3 cases

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

- Yes, for all 3 cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 6 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 5 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 5 children/youths had a current vision exam.
- Current Dental: 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 of the children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 3 of the 6 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 3 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 3 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 2 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 2 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 4 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 4 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 3 of the 4 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 4 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: 1 child/youth had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: No, for the 1 child/youth.

- Behavioral Issues: 3 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 3 children/youths.

The local board found that the health needs of 3 of the 6 children/youths had been met and 1 child/youth refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

5 of the 6 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. All 5 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade. The 1 child/youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program was under the age of 5.

1 of the 5 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 4 of the 5 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that 4 of the 5 children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 5 cases)

  None of the 5 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience.

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

  The local board agreed that 2 of the 5 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

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

  Not applicable.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. Of the 2 cases with a plan of adoption 1 child/youth consented and 1 was under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (2 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (1 case)

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

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

- 1 case(s) from 21 months or more

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

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

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

Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

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

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (2 cases)

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

The local board found that the post adoptive service was appropriate for the 2 cases.

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

None of the 6 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for all 6 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	2	
No	4	6

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	1	
Unsupervised	1	

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

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	1	
No	1	

Siblings/Visits

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

Barriers/Issues

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

- Board does not agree with current permanency plan.
- No concurrent plan by court
- No service agreement with parents.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Missing or lack of documentation.
- Dentals not current.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Issues related to substance abuse.
- Other child/youth related barrier.
- Other independence barrier.
- Appeal by birth parents.
- Child in pre-adoptive home but adoption not finalized.
- Pre-adoptive family cannot decide to adopt.
- Inadequate preparation for independence (general).
- Youth not attending school or in GED program.
- Not maintaining contact with the Department.

Summary

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

Worcester County

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

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

Permanency

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

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

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

Category of APPLA plan (2 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (2)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 2 cases)

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

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

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

Case Planning

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

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 4 of the 8 cases. 2 cases were Post-TPR children under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 4 of the 6 eligible cases.

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

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangment
3	Pre Finalized Adoptive Home
1	Regular Foster Care
2	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
1	Residential Treatment Center
1	Secure Detention Facility (LA)

In 3 of the 8 cases reviewed the children/youths were placed in their home jurisdiction in settings that were in close proximity to their communities which allowed for the continuity of services.

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

Placement Stability

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

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

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

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 1 case(s) was transitioning towards permanency goal

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

- 1 case(s) delinquent behavior

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

- Yes, for both cases

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

- Yes, for both cases

Health/Mental Health

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that none of the 8 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.
- Current Physical: 5 children/youths had a current physical exam.
- Current Vision: 8 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 of the children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 5 of the 8 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 5 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 5 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 5 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 5 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 5 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 5 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 5 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: Not applicable. None of the 5 children/youths with mental health issues were transitioning out of care.
- Substance Abuse: None of the 8 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Not applicable.

- Behavioral Issues: 6 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for all 6 children/youths.

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

Education

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

3 of the 8 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 3 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 7 of the 8 children/youths in Pre-K through 12th grade.

The local board agreed that 7 of the 8 children/youths enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program were being appropriately prepared to meet educational goals.

Ready By 21

- Employment (age 14 and older – 5 cases)

  None of the 5 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 1 youth was unable to participate due to being in a Juvenile Justice Facility.

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

  None of 5 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. Being in a Juvenile Justice Facility prevented 1 youth from receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

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

  Not applicable.

Child's Consent to Adoption

The age of consent for adoption in the State of Maryland is 10. Children 10 and older must consent to be adopted. Of the 4 cases with a plan of adoption, 1 youth consented and 3 children were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (4 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (3 cases)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adoptive Recruitment (1 case)

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

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

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (4 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for all 4 children/youths. The services that were needed were medical and mental health services for all 4 cases and educational services for 2 cases.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

7 of the 8 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

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

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

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

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

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	1	
Unsupervised		1

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative		
Other Agency Representative	1	
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	1
Other		

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes		
No	1	1

Siblings/Visits

The local board found that 4 of the 8 children/youths had siblings in care. All 4 had 3 siblings in care. All 4 children/youths were having visits with their siblings who did not reside with them.

Barriers/Issues

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

- Missing or lack of documentation.
- No service agreement with youth.
- Youth placed outside of home jurisdiction.
- Child has behavior problems in the home.
- Appeal by birth parents.
- No concurrent plan by court
- Annual physicals not current.
- Youth not receiving adequate services.
- Other independence barrier.
- Other placement barrier.
- No current Safe-C/G.

Summary

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

Baltimore City

Baltimore City had a total of 85 cases that were reviewed with the following permanency plans:

- Reunification: 30 cases
- Relative Placement for Adoption: 2 cases
- Relative Placement for Custody/Guardianship: 2 cases
- Non Relative Adoption: 8 cases
- Non Relative Custody/Guardianship: 5 cases
- APPLA: 38 cases

Permanency

The local boards agreed with the department's permanency plan for 67 of the 85 cases reviewed.

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

The local department was implementing the concurrent permanency plans set by the court for 2 of the 4 cases.

Category of APPLA plan (38 cases)

- Emancipation/Independence (33)
- Transition to an adult supportive living arrangement (5)

Permanent Connections (APPLA – 38 cases)

29 of the 38 APPLA cases had a permanent connection identified and the local board agreed that the connections were appropriate for the 29 cases.

Length of time Child/Youth had a Permanency Plan

LENGTH	Reunif	Relative for Adoption	Relative for C & G	Non-Rel Adoption	Non-Rel Cust/Guad	APPLA
0 to 6 months	4		2	3		15
7 to 11 months	10					4
1 to 2 years	12	1		1	4	10
2 to 3 years	2			1		5

3 years or more	2	1		3	1	4
Totals ➔	30	2	2	8	5	38

Case Planning

Family Involvement Meetings (prior to entry): The local department held family involvement meetings prior to entry for 17 of the 85 cases reviewed.

Service Agreements: The local department had a signed service agreement for 39 of the 85 cases. 7 cases were Post-TPR children under the age of 14. Efforts to involve the family in the service agreement process were made for 60 of the 78 eligible cases.

The local boards agreed that the service agreements were appropriate for the 39 signed cases.

Placement/Living Arrangement (LA)

Number of Cases	Placement/Living Arrangment
12	Formal Kinship Care
10	Pre Finalized Adoptive Home
2	Regular Foster Care
4	Restricted (Relative) Foster Care
17	Treatment Foster Care (Private)
3	Residential Group Home
6	Teen Mother Program
3	Therapeutic Group Home
12	Independent Living Residential Program
3	Residential Treatment Center
2	Relative
1	Non Relative
2	Own Dwelling
2	Diagnostic Center
1	College (LA)
1	Job Corps (LA)
2	Runaway (LA)
1	Secure Detention Facility (LA)
1	Unapproved Living Arrangement (LA)

In 47 of the 85 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 81 of the 85 cases reviewed.

Placement Stability

In 43 of the 85 cases reviewed there was a placement change within the 12 months prior to the

review. 10 cases had 1 placement change, 22 cases had 2 changes, 7 cases had 3 changes and 4 cases had four or more changes.

The local department held a family involvement meeting for the placement changes for 15 of the 43 cases.

The following levels of care were found for the 43 most recent placement changes:

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

The primary positive reason for the most recent placement changes:

- 14 case(s) were transitioning towards permanency goal
- 2 case(s) placement with relatives

Provider specific issues for the most recent placement changes included:

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

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

- 16 case(s) behavioral issues
- 1 case(s) threats of harm to self or others
- 2 case(s) runaway

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

- Yes, for 42 of the 43 cases

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

- Yes, for 39 of the 43 cases

<u>Health/Mental Health</u>

- Developmental/Special Needs: The local department reported that 13 of the 85 children/youths reviewed had developmental or special needs.

- Current Physical: 49 children/youths had a current physical exam.

- Current Vision: 30 children/youths had a current vision exam.

- Current Dental: 29 children/youths had a current dental exam.
- Follow-up Health Concerns: The local department ensured that appropriate follow-ups occurred on all health concerns noted by a physician for 2 of the 10 children/youths requiring follow-ups.
- Completed Medical Records: The local departments reported that 13 of the 85 children/youths had completed medical records in their case files.
- Prescription Medication: 26 children/youths were taking prescription medication.
- Prescription Medication Monitored: Prescription medication was being monitored regularly for the 26 children/youths.
- Psychotropic Medication: 15 children/youths were taking psychotropic medication.
- Psychotropic Medication Monitored: Psychotropic medication was being monitored at least quarterly for the 15 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues: 50 children/youths had mental health issues.
- Mental Health Diagnosis: 50 children/youths had a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental Health Issues Addressed: Yes, for 33 of the 50 children/youths.
- Mental Health Issues/Transitioning/Services: 2 youths with mental health issues who were transitioning out of care had an identified plan to receive services in the adult mental health system and 2 youths did not have a plan.
- Substance Abuse: 18 children/youths had a substance abuse problem.
- Substance Abuse Addressed: Yes, for 2 of the 18 children/youths.
- Behavioral Issues: 42 children/youths had behavioral issues.
- Behavioral Issues Addressed: Yes, for 35 of the 42 children/youths.

The local boards found that the health needs of 16 of the 85 children/youths had been met and 16 children/youths refused to comply with standard health exams.

Education

57 of the 85 children/youths reviewed were enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program. 52 of the 57 were in Pre-K thru 12th grade, 2 youths were enrolled in a GED program and 3 were in college. 17 of the 28 children/youth not enrolled in school or another educational/vocational program had already graduated high school, 6 refused to attend school and 5 were under the age of 5.

16 of the 52 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade had a 504 or IEP plan and 8 had a copy of the 504/IEP plan in the child/youth's record.

A current progress report/report card was available for review for 23 of the 52 children/youths in Pre-K thru 12th grade.

The local boards agreed that 55 of the 57 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 – 56 cases)

  15 of the 56 youths were employed or participating in paid or unpaid work experience. 2 youths were unable to participate due to mental health reasons and 1 youth due to being medically fragile.

  The local boards agreed that 14 youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

- Independent Living Services (age 14 and older – 56 cases)

  The local boards agreed that 34 of the 56 youths were receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living. Mental health reasons and being medically fragile, prevented 3 youths from receiving appropriate services to prepare for independent living.

- Housing (Transitioning Youth – 14 cases)
  (Age 20 and/or planning to discharge within a year from the review)

  Housing had been specified for 5 of the 14 youths transitioning out of care.

  The local boards agreed that 11 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 8 cases with a plan of adoption and the 2 cases with a concurrent plan of adoption, 3 children/youths consented and 7 were under the age of consent.

Adoptive Placement Services and Resources (10 cases)

Pre-Adoptive Placement (10 cases)

All 8 children/youths with a plan of adoption and 2 children/youths with a concurrent plan of adoption were placed in pre-adoptive homes. The pre-adoptive family structure was comprised

of a married couple in 6 cases, a single female in 3 cases and a single male in 1 case. The relationships to the pre-adoptive children/youths were relative foster parents in 3 cases and non relative foster parents in 7 cases.

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

- 2 case(s) from 7 to 9 months
- 1 case(s) from 10 to 12 months
- 3 case(s) from 13 to 15 months
- 1 case(s) from 16 to 20 months
- 3 case(s) from 21 months or more

A home study was completed and approved for 5 of the 10 cases.

The local boards agreed that appropriate services and supports were in place for the pre-adoptive families to meet the identified needs of the children/youths in all 10 cases.

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

Adoptive Recruitment (None)

Not applicable. All 10 children/youths with adoption and concurrent plans of adoption were already placed in pre-adoptive homes.

Post-Adoptive Services and Resources (10 cases)

Post adoptive services were needed for 8 of the 10 children/youths. The services that were needed were medical for 7 cases and mental health services for 2 cases.

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

Miscellaneous Findings

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

6 of the 85 cases had a CASA.

Risk and Safety

The local board agreed that safety and risk protocols were followed for 79 of the 85 cases.

Child Visits with Parents, Relatives and Siblings

Child Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	39	27
No	46	58

Frequency of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Daily		2
Once a week	14	5
More than once a week	3	3
Once a month	4	2
More than once a month	2	7
Quarterly	2	
Yes, but undocumented	14	8

Supervision of Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
Supervised	13	9
Unsupervised	26	18

Who Supervises Visits	With Parents	With Relatives
LDSS Agency Representative	7	3
Other Agency Representative	1	3
Biological Family Member	2	2
Foster Parent	3	1
Other		

Where do Visits Occur ?	With Parents	With Relatives
Parent/Relative Home	6	16
LDSS Visitation Center	4	1
Public Area	16	5
Child's/Youth's Placement	10	4
Other	3	1

Overnight Stays	With Parents	With Relatives
Yes	5	3
No	34	24

Siblings/Visits

The local boards found that 35 of the 85 children/youths had siblings in care. 9 had 1 sibling, 13 had 2 siblings, 4 had 3 siblings, 8 had 4 siblings and 1 had 5 siblings. 23 of the 35 children/youths were having visits with their siblings who did not reside with them.

Barriers/Issues

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

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

Summary

Based on the findings of the review the local board determined that the local Department of Social Services made adequate progress towards a permanent placement (COMAR – 07.01.06.05 (F)) for 76 of the 85 children/youths reviewed.

Required Supporting Documentation for CRBC Reviews

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

- Each (LDSS) is required to continue to bring the child's complete case records and/or records containing requested supportive documentation to all CRBC case reviews.

- Each (LDSS) should continue supplying CRBC with the most recent and current contact information for all interested parties, including professionals and family members.

Recommendations to All Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS)

- Each (LDSS) should encourage the attendance of children and youth who are 10 years of age and older to attend his/her scheduled CRBC case review.

- Each (LDSS) should encourage foster parent attendance at scheduled CRBC case reviews.

- Each (LDSS) should improve their efforts with documenting concurrent permanency plans.

- Each (LDSS) should improve their efforts with getting parents to sign service agreements for those children/youths with a permanency plan of reunification.

- Each (LDSS) is required to include the paternal family members as possible resources for all children/youths who are in out-of-home-placement care.

Independent Living

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

Permanent Connections

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

Adoption

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

2nd Quarter 2020 CRBC Metrics

Total # of Children - Scheduled on the Preliminary:	585
Total # of Children - Closed, Non Submission & Rescheduled:	263
Total # of Children - Eligible for Review:	322
Total # of Children - Reviewed at the Board:	300
Total # of Children - Not Reviewed at the Board:	22
Percentage of Children Reviewed for the Period:	93%
Percentage of Children Not Reviewed for the Period:	7%
Recommendation Reports - Number Sent	300
Recommendation Reports - Number Sent on Time	300
Recommendation Reports - Percent Sent on Time	100%
Recommendation Reports - Number Received – DSS Response	171
Recommendation Reports - Percent Received % - DSS Response	59%
Recommendation Reports - Number Received on Time - DSS Response	71
Recommendation Reports - Percent Received on Time % - DSS Response	42%
Number of Boards Held	42
Recommendation Reports - # of DSS Agreement	169
Recommendation Reports - Percent of DSS Agreement	99%
Recommendation Reports - # of DSS Disagreement	2
Recommendation Reports - Percent of DSS Disagreement	1%
Recommendation Reports - # Blank/Unanswered	0
Recommendation Reports - Percent # Blank/Unanswered	0%
Percentage of REUNIFICATION Children Reviewed for the Period:	40%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT – Adoption Children Reviewed:	1%
Percentage of RELATIVE PLACEMENT – C & G Children Reviewed:	3%
Percentage of ADOPTION Children Reviewed for the Period:	16%
Percentage of CUSTODY/GUARDIANSHIP Children Reviewed for the Period:	6%
Percentage of APPLA Children Reviewed for the Period:	34%

The State Board

Nettie Anderson-Burrs (Chairperson)
Circuit 4: Representing Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties

Delores Alexander (Vice Chairperson)
Circuit 3: Representing Baltimore and Harford Counties

Dr. Theresa Stafford
Circuit 1: Representing Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worchester Counties

Reginald Groce Snr.
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

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Cindy Hunter-Gray
Lead Secretary

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