

## Meeting Summary

**Agency:** DHR

Following is a summary of issues discussed at the DHR Stat on July 2, 2010. Analysis is provided by StateStat and the Governor's Delivery Unit (GDU).

### GDU Items:

- Proof of Concept Project.** The Proof of Concept project was designed to provide information about applying for FSP benefits to families who are potentially eligible based on their children's FARM status. Through the program's launch in Montgomery County, 13,000 FARMS children were identified as eligible for benefits. DHR reports that they are now preparing a joint letter with MSDE to Montgomery County's Superintendent requesting the school system's assistance with contacting the identified families to advise them of their eligibility for FSP. To engage these families, the letter will include a coded mail-in application. This outreach is anticipated to occur by July 30<sup>th</sup>. Also, DHR reported that the Governor's Office for Children (GOC) is helping in this initiative as well.

### Social Services Administration

- PlaceMatters.** DHR stated that the adoptions goal on the Place Matters tab of the consolidated data file that they were submitting reflected a change from 780 to 732. On October 14<sup>th</sup>, SSA accepted an adjusted adoptions goal for Baltimore City, reducing the number from 403 to 355. The rationale for the adjustment was due to the reduced number of children in care with a plan of adoption, as the adjusted goal still represents a percentage *increase* for Baltimore City. Last year, the goal was based on 52% of the children with a plan of adoption, while this year the goal represents 60% of children with a plan of adoption. DHR apologized for their oversight in not reflecting this adjustment on the FY10 Place Matters Targets previously. The chart below shows the current measures, goals, and metrics being used to track the PlaceMatters program. The panel asked whether or not DHR would meet the new adoptions goal for FY10 and they believe that they will reach the target.

	Baseline		FY 2010 Goal		REPORTING PERIOD: Monthly				Source
	Date	Data	Goal	Target	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10	
<b>Current Measures</b>									<b>for Baseline and Results</b>
Children in Out-of-Home Placement **	6/30/2009	8,756	Reduce by 10%	7,880	8,337	8,335	8,298	8,209	State Stat
Children in Group Homes (% of all placement)	6/30/2009	12.7%	12% or less	12.0%	11.7%	11.4%	11.3%	11.5%	State Stat
Children in Family Homes (% of all placement (includes children in trial home visits))	6/30/2009	76.6%	75% or more	75.0%	76.8%	76.8%	76.8%	76.5%	State Stat
					<b>PROGRESS TO DATE DURING FY 2010, as of</b>				
					<b>May-10</b>	<b>% of Target</b>	<b>Expected</b>	<b>Actual</b>	
Adoptions	FY09	770	Revised Goal ***	732	648			89%	State Stat
					<b>REPORTING PERIOD: Point in Time</b>				
					<b>6/30/09</b>	<b>9/30/09</b>	<b>12/31/09</b>	<b>3/31/10</b>	
<b>Children Placed in their Home Jurisdiction ****</b>									
Family Homes --	3/31/2009	53%	increase percentage	63%	49%	56%	55%	57%	Baseline: MD CHESSIE
Group Homes --	3/31/2009	38%	by 10 points	48%	41%	42%	44%	44%	Source: MD CHESSIE

## **Family Investment Administration**

- **Weekly Jurisdiction Reports.** DHR was asked to give updates on charts that are being submitted to the Governor that show the processing of applications for Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA), The Food Supplement Programs (FSP, also known as Food Stamps) for Regular and Expedited compliance, Medical Assistance-Family and Children (MA-FAC), and the Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP).
- **Baltimore County.** DHR submitted data showing compliance rates in Baltimore County. When DHR was asked to state what steps are being taken in Baltimore County to increase compliance rates, DHR submitted the following information:
  - Baltimore County has undertaken several action steps to assist in improving performance:
    1. The Towson office recently implemented the new 10-day incentivized application process that Prince George's County began using in May 2010 and has seen positive improvement. This strategy encourages customers to bring in all documentation within five days. If all documents are received as requested, an eligibility determination will be made by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the process. By mid-July, the Reisterstown district office will also implement the 10-day incentivized application process.
    2. Changes have also been made in the management and supervision of the Reisterstown district office. A new district manager and two new supervisors have been assigned to the office.
    3. As a result of the last StateStat session, Baltimore County and Harford County Family Investment management and staff have entered into a working collaborative effort. The Baltimore County team will conduct an initial shadowing day in Harford County during the week of July 5th.
- **Prince George's County.** Prince George's County has also been a watchlist county for compliance rates for several months. DHR submitted data to show compliance rates at all of the Prince George's County FIA offices. DHR reported that they expect the rates to increase in the coming weeks due to excellent staff working extra time to process applications.
- **USDA SNAP Error-Rate for FY09.** The Governor and DHR recently received a letter from the USDA indicating that for the second year in a row, Maryland was not eligible to receive a bonus from the USDA. Maryland's overall Validated Negative Error Rate is 14.27% and the national average for FY09 is 9.41%. DHR reported that they are in the process of appealing this decision and they stated that the significant increases in SNAP applications contributed to the negative error rate.
- **Implementation Strategies.** DHR was asked to comment on Best Practices being used in all jurisdictions. DHR stated that they believe that they are on schedule when it comes to implementation and that the dates for implementation that had been submitted to StateStat at previous stats seem feasible.