

Meeting Summary

Agency: DHR

Following is a summary of issues discussed at the DHR Stat on July 30, 2010. Analysis is provided by StateStat and the Governor's Delivery Unit (GDU).

Social Services Administration

- Adoptions.** DHR was asked at the previous Stat to provide a follow-up on FY10 adoptions. DHR gave a presentation on adoptions, reporting that their finalized adoption numbers are higher than was reported preliminarily at our last Stat meeting. Baltimore City's adoptions totaled 422; which is an increase from the preliminary report of 408. The statewide total is 738. DHR described the barriers to increasing these numbers even more and the steps they were taking to overcome them.

	Baseline		FY 2010 Goal		REPORTING PERIOD: Monthly				Source
	Date	Data	Goal	Target	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	
Current Measures									for Baseline and Results
Children in Out-of-Home Placement **	6/30/2009	8,756	Reduce by 10%	7,880	8,335	8,298	8,209	8,013	State Stat
Children in Group Homes (% of all placements)	6/30/2009	12.7%	12% or less	12.0%	11.4%	11.3%	11.5%	11.4%	State Stat
Children in Family Homes (% of all placements) (includes children in trial home visits)	6/30/2009	76.6%	75% or more	75.0%	76.8%	76.8%	76.5%	76.5%	State Stat
					PROGRESS TO DATE DURING FY 2010, as of				
Adoptions	FY09	770	Revised Goal ***	732	Jun-10 738	% of Target	Expected Actual	100% 101%	State Stat
					REPORTING PERIOD: Point in Time				
					6/30/09	9/30/09	12/31/09	3/31/10	
Children Placed in their Home Jurisdiction ****									
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

- PlaceMatters.** DHR reported that in fiscal year 2010, 3,270 children exited their care to permanent placements via adoptions, reunifications, and guardianships. This represents a large increase from 2,872 children in FY 2009.

Family Investment Administration

- Energy Assistance.** At the recent Stat, there was discussion over the fact that there was a possibility that there were BGE clients having their utilities cut off even though that was not supposed to be taking place. According to the regulation below, extreme temperatures allow for utilities to stay on. If cut-offs are taking place, DHR was asked to contact the Energy Advisor as soon as possible to discuss the matter. DHR reported that although some utility shut-offs have occurred, there is no evidence that they were in violation of this regulation.

20.31.03.04

.04 Temporary Residential Summer Restriction. A utility may not terminate, either gas service that is used for cooling if the customer has notified the gas utility of that usage, or electric service, because of nonpayment, for any customer occupying a residential building, for which the temperature forecast made for the utility's weather station area for that customer at 6 a.m. is 95 degrees Fahrenheit or above in that weather station area during an extreme weather period.

- **Energy Fraud.** Several articles, like the one shown below, reported that DHR awarded energy assistance to fabricated applicants. DHR reported that they are discussing strategies to eliminate fraud and will have a plan submitted to the federal government by the end of September.

GAO: State awarded energy assistance to fictitious applicants

Federal probe shows Maryland needs better oversight, candidate says

by Sean R. Sedam | Staff Writer

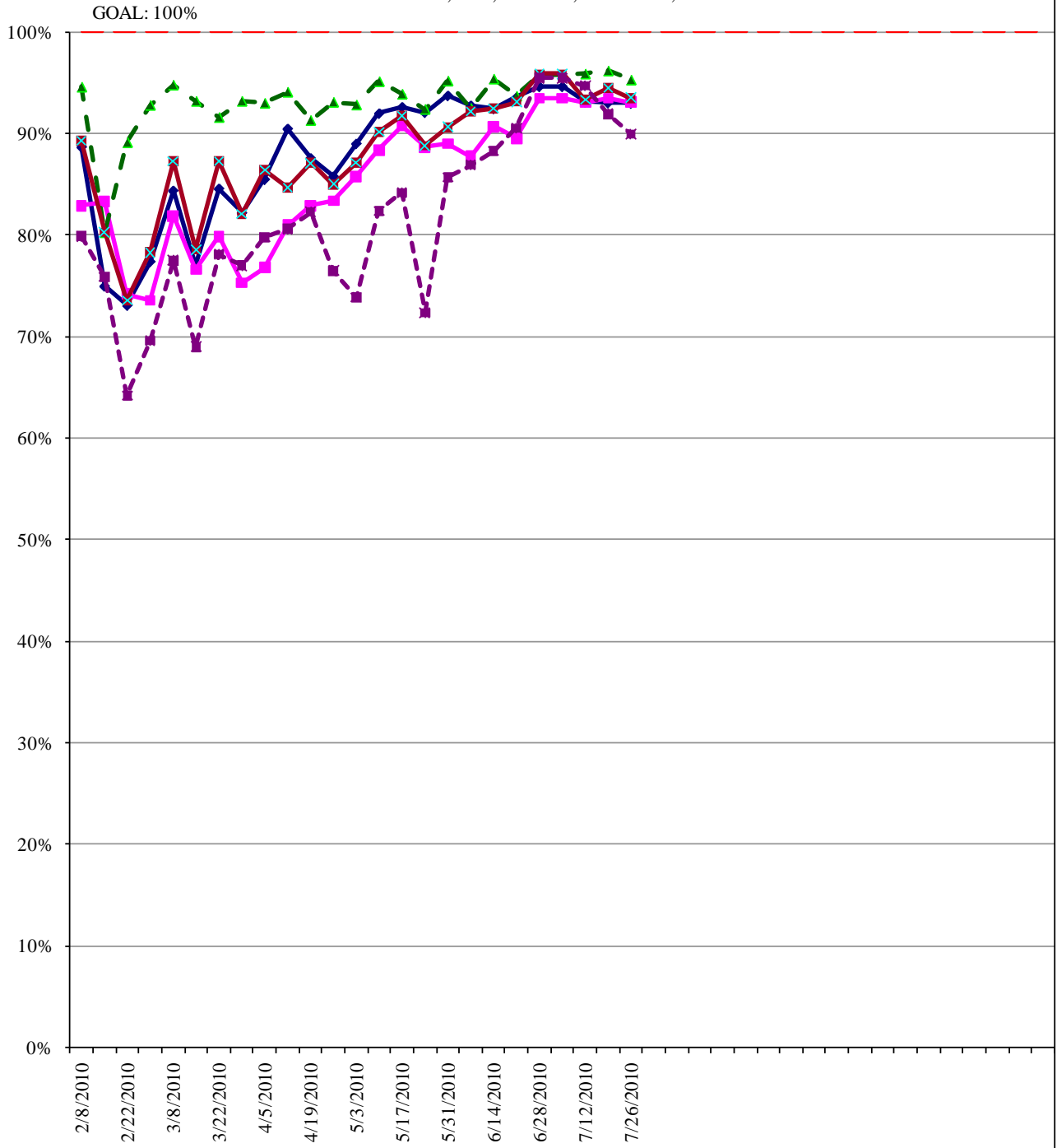
Residents of a million-dollar home in Potomac and investigators using fake names, false addresses and fabricated documents received energy assistance through a federal grant program aimed at low-income people, according to a report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

The 62-page audit report, released in June, details how people across eight states bilked the \$5 billion federal energy assistance program out of tens of thousands of dollars. Without proper eligibility and identity fraud protections, the program could be awarding millions in improper benefits, the report found.

While seven of the eight states provided written responses to the report, Maryland did not. Jim Pettit, a Republican candidate for delegate in Montgomery County's District 39, said the report is evidence of the state's lack of oversight and transparency in overseeing the Maryland Energy Assistance Program.

- **Consultants.** DHR provided a list of the consultants that are being considered for error rate aid. DHR reported that they have not made a final decision as to whether they will engage the services of consultants.
- **Weekly Jurisdiction Reports.** DHR presented their weekly compliance rates for 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). They discussed ways to ensure that the numbers continue to trend upwards. They report that improvements are expected as more SAIL labs come online.

Compliance Rate for Approved or Denied
TCA, FSP, Ex-FSP, MA-FAC, MCHP



- **FSP Opt-out Legislation.** DHR provided an update on their efforts to work with the Governor's DC Office to submit an amendment to the Child Nutrition Bill (introduced to Congress on June 10th) that would include an opt-out provision for SNAP. This would help remove the confidentiality obstacle to sharing data with DHR on the reverse match of FARMS caseloads with FSP, specifically focusing on increasing enrollment in FSP for households in which a child is receiving free or reduced meals. DHR reported that it is preparing a joint letter with MSDE to all local superintendents requesting that they modify their FARM application to include an "opt-in" section for both FSP and the WIC program. The letters are expected to be sent by the end of July.