

## Meeting Summary

**Agency:** DHR

Following is a summary of issues discussed at the DHR Stat on September 10, 2010. Analysis is provided by StateStat and the Governor's Delivery Unit (GDU).

### Follow Up

- **Voter Registration.** As a follow-up to the last State Stat session, the Department conducted a preliminary analysis of voter registrations reported by both DHR and the SBE. Jurisdictions with small numbers were examined to determine the causes for the discrepancies and to determine the best course of action to mitigate the problem. DHR reports that data for all jurisdictions will be reviewed in order to provide feedback on the specific issues identified for each jurisdiction.

DHR's preliminary analysis revealed three issues, which appear to be the primary contributing factors to the discrepancies in the June 2010 data:

- *Time lag between DSS submission to SBE and SBE recording of submission-*
- *DSS transmission frequency and "overlapping" of months-*
- *Mis-coding*

DHR stated that they will be working diligently in the coming months to address these discrepancies.

### Social Services Administration (SSA)

- **PlaceMatters.** The chart below shows metrics based on the PlaceMatters initiative. The panel asked DHR to explain why goals have been adjusted for FY2011. DHR stated that the goals were adjusted because there are fewer children in care and based on metrics used within the department, the goals were adjusted accordingly. DHR noted that they exceeded their FY2010 readjusted adoptions goal and they expected to do the same in FY2011.

Current Measures	Baseline		FY 2011 Goal		Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Source		
	Date	Data	Goal	Target					for Baseline and Results		
Children in Out-of-Home Placement **	6/30/2010	8,013	Reduce by 9%	7,292	8,298	8,209	8,013	7,974	State Stat		
Children in Group Homes (% of all placements)	6/30/2010	11.4%	11% or less	11.0%	11.3%	11.5%	11.4%	11.2%	State Stat		
Children in Family Homes (% of all placements) (includes children in trial home visits)	6/30/2010	76.5%	76% or more	76.0%	76.8%	76.5%	76.5%	76.4%	State Stat		
Adoptions	Not Applicable, depends on Plan of Adoption at end of prior Fiscal Year	Goal	562	PROGRESS TO DATE DURING FY 2010, as of						State Stat	
				Jul-10	% of Target	Expected	Actual	8%	4%		
					REPORTING PERIOD: Point in Time						
					Pending						
Children Placed in their Home Jurisdiction ***	Pending -- Under construction-- percent placed in/out of home or adjacent jurisdiction for all placements									Source: MD CHESSIE	

## **Family Investment Administration**

- **Overall Statewide Compliance.** DHR was asked to discuss Agency Delay data for Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA), Regular Food Stamp Compliance, Medical Assistance-Family and Children (MA-FAC), and the Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP).

DHR explained that there are a few application delays in Baltimore and Prince George's Counties but teams have been sent out to work on late cases. DHR provided data showing that wait times were decreasing rapidly in both jurisdictions on a weekly basis. DHR was asked to provide to StateStat an analysis of cases that were still pending processing and reasons as to why there were delays. DHR was also asked to provide a list of resources that they need (aid, extra staff) to StateStat so that a discussion could take place at the next meeting.

- **FSP Opt-out Legislation** (GDU Item). DHR has been working with the Governor's DC Office to submit an amendment to the Child Nutrition Bill (introduced to Congress on June 10<sup>th</sup>) 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 reports that as of September 7, they were advised that any amendments to the Bill will need to be reviewed by the Ways and Means Committee. According to Dana Thompson, the Bill is one of Speaker Pelosi's top three priorities, and action on the Bill will resume when Congress returns from recess on September 13. DHR provided an update on this matter.

- **FSP Opt-in Legislation** (GDU Item). DHR has been working with MSDE to include an "opt-in" section for FSP and the WIC program in the FARMS application. DHR previously reported that MSDE had modified their FARMS application template to include the "opt-in" provision, and all jurisdictions have confirmed they will utilize the new application. However, at a recent End Hunger Partnership meeting, it was announced that the new provision would not be compatible with the local school systems' computer structure, and they would be unable to effectively record and forward the responses to DHR. The panel may wish to ask:

DHR reported that they will include a flyer promoting FSP along with the application, so families can better understand the benefits of joining the program. This promotional strategy will first be tested with the Montgomery County Public School System on September 17<sup>th</sup> for students in Kindergarten through middle school. Some flyers were already distributed at the Back to School Fair in Montgomery County on August 28<sup>th</sup>, but as of September 7<sup>th</sup>, the call center had not received any calls. DHR now reports that the decision to use this strategy in other jurisdictions is pending given the estimated cost associated with it (\$8-10,000 for material production and distribution, call center incoming calls, and application mailings).

- **Maryland Out of School Time Network** (GDU Item). DHR was just informed that they will receive the Mott Foundation grant award again this year. This funding will enable DHR to make FSP benefits available to those eligible among the 32,000 children in after school programs statewide. The grant period is set to begin October 1<sup>st</sup>. The panel congratulated the Department.

## Miscellaneous

- **Information Sharing.** Maryland has made a significant effort to improve information sharing between DPSCS (especially the Division of Parole and Probation), the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), and DHR regarding individuals and families who are served by these agencies; including the ability to map co-served and co-located individuals. In the past, DHR has raised issues to sharing information with DJS or DPSCS. For the next StateStat meeting, DHR was asked to provide all possible scenarios where information could not be shared and all agencies involved will work together to adjust to the barriers addressed by each respective agency.