

## Meeting Summary

**Agency:** DHR

Following is a summary of issues discussed at the DHR Stat on December 3, 2010. Analysis is provided by StateStat and the Governor's Delivery Unit (GDU).

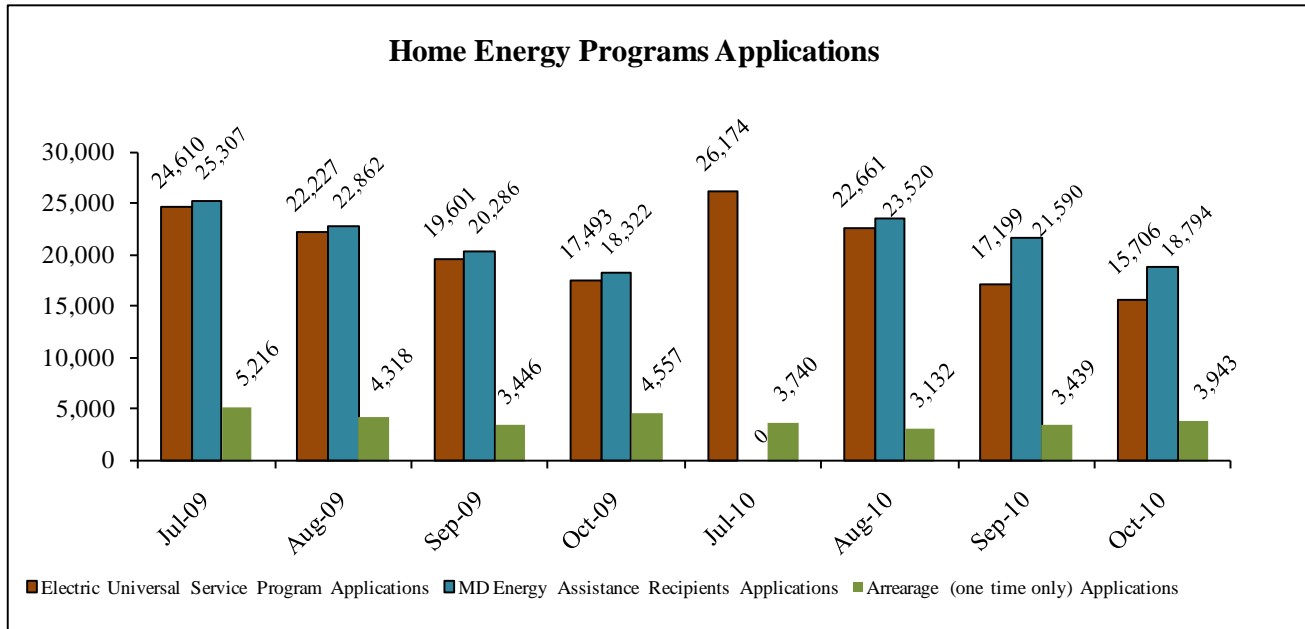
### **Social Services Administration (SSA)**

- **Constituent Concerns.** Constituent Services recently received a letter that discusses the concerns of a citizen who discusses a situation where her brother is having trouble having visitation with his son. Also, the letter discusses allegations that the child involved in the matter is being abused by his mother. DHR stated that they will do an internal case review of the matter and will provide an update at the next Stat.

### **Family Investment Administration**

- **Energy Assistance.** DHR was asked to expand its monthly OHEP submission to include the number of applications received (which is already on the monthly report) and the number of Applications by processing status. Due to the time to generate the data and the impact on the overall system efficiency when running the report, DHR recommended that the data be provided on a monthly basis. However, DHR has been diligent in doing their best to provide an update that coincides with the Stat meetings every month. The chart below is DHR's most recent submission. DHR provided an update on the data.

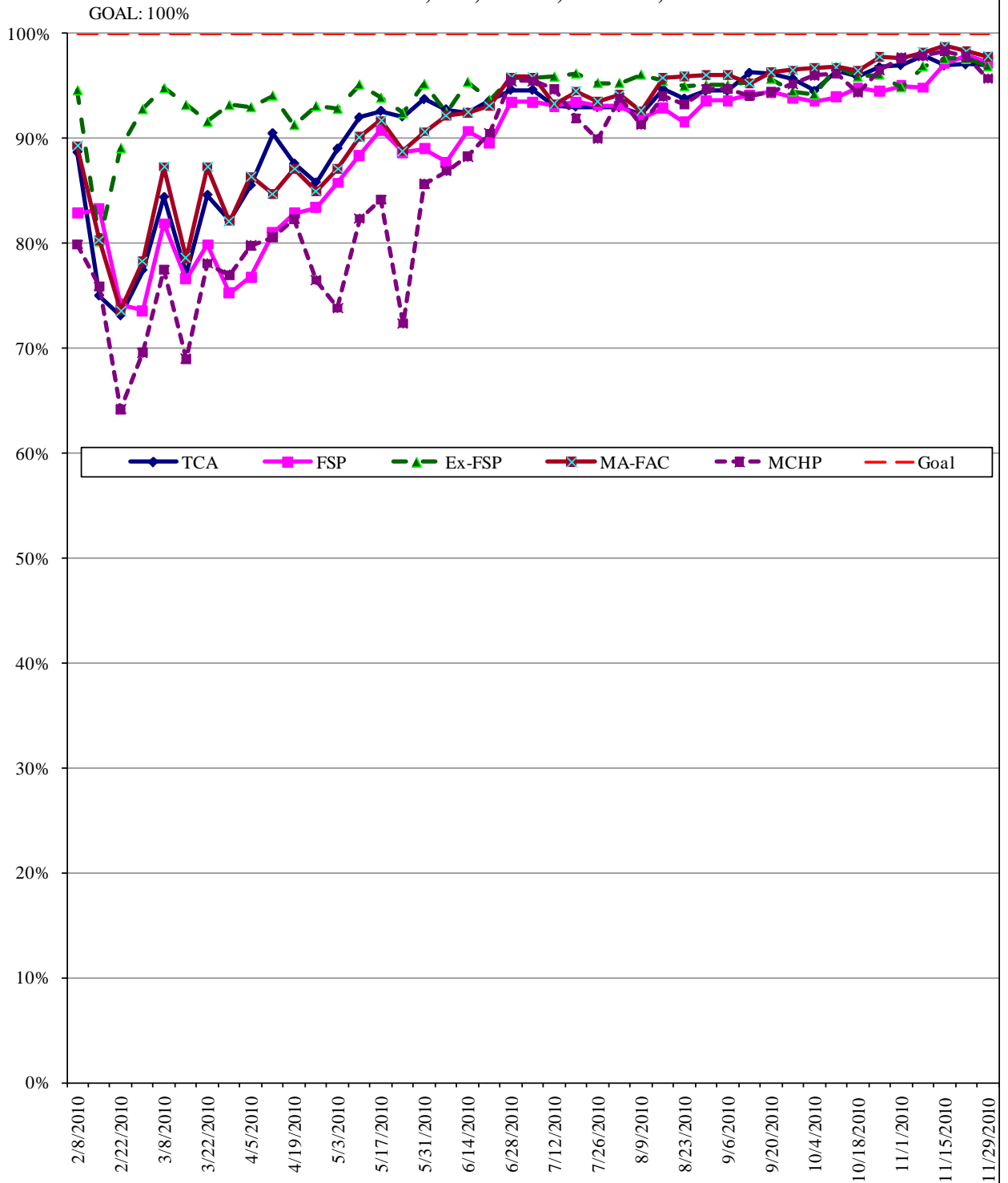
Energy Assistance Applications (To Be Entered), by StateStat Meeting, for FY 2011									
Jurisdiction	7/31/10	8/24/10	9/9/10	9/24/10	10/8/10	10/22/10	11/5/10	11/19/10	12/3/10
Baltimore City	1,656	3,304	3,078	3,902	3,677	3,304	3,600	3,435	3,334
Somerset (Includes Worcester, Wicomico)	60	151	163	249	215	336	366	391	326
Frederick	132	163	159	251	226	315	326	285	282
Harford	989	568	415	501	223	149	162	199	256
Baltimore	200	305	100	203	106	103	153	213	203
Caroline	46	84	87	93	0	72	37	52	67
Dorchester	500	50	75	75	103	110	105	50	40
Kent	122	77	88	76	52	34	25	35	40
Carroll	50	30	25	31	70	25	30	25	34
Calvert (includes Charles, St Mary's)	605	451	210	89	20	17	11	5	34
Anne Arundel	10	69	129	149	111	104	107	37	33
Talbot	25	26	23	8	12	24	15	19	28
Prince George's	901	721	166	115	101	180	19	91	25
Queen Anne's	20	41	50	52	35	45	53	50	20
Washington	0	57	171	195	93	35	35	0	20
Cecil Co.	0	16	145	85	21	65	0	0	4
Montgomery	900	2,306	2,447	0	264	273	145	0	0
Allegany	0	6	80	0	0	51	38	0	0
Garrett	67	28	20	41	0	40	0	0	0
Howard	59	197	16	23	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,342</b>	<b>8,650</b>	<b>7,647</b>	<b>6,074</b>	<b>5,065</b>	<b>4,918</b>	<b>5,044</b>	<b>4,887</b>	<b>4,746</b>
<b>Sorted by most recent period</b>									
Generally, numbers less than 50 represent what has been received within the last day.									
Notes 12/3/10									
Harford Co. experienced a flood due to a water pipe bursting and had to close for 2 days.									
The holiday and service reduction day resulted in additional applications to be entered.									
Some agencies worked Wed.(Service Reduction Day) And Fri. (Holiday) to keep the backlog at a minimum.									
Notes 11/12/10									
Somerset is high due to college students applying. Only 1 staff person is located in Somerset, but applications are being sent to main office in Salisbury for data entry.									



- Overall Statewide Compliance.** The data below shows the overall statewide compliance rates 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). DHR reports that, statewide, the upward trend in monthly compliance rates for all of the programs continued through November 2010. The data below is through the week the end of November.

<b>Approved or Denied Trends</b>							
<b>Compliance Rate (Approved or Denied)</b>	<b>TCA</b>	<b>FSP</b>	<b>Ex-FSP</b>	<b>MA-FAC</b>	<b>MCHP</b>	<b>All Benefits</b>	<b>Goal</b>
December-09	83.3%	82.1%	91.6%	82.6%	76.1%	83.4%	100%
January-10	80.9%	77.3%	91.6%	80.4%	72.2%	80.5%	100%
February-10	80.5%	77.9%	91.8%	81.8%	72.8%	80.9%	100%
March-10	82.5%	77.9%	93.1%	84.4%	75.8%	82.5%	100%
April-10	88.7%	83.2%	93.1%	86.5%	79.7%	86.0%	100%
May-10	92.8%	89.2%	94.1%	90.5%	85.9%	90.6%	100%
June-10	92.7%	89.8%	94.5%	92.5%	89.7%	91.7%	100%
July-10	93.8%	93.6%	95.9%	94.3%	93.2%	94.2%	100%
August-10	94.0%	92.5%	95.4%	95.1%	92.7%	94.0%	100%
September-10	96.3%	94.0%	95.4%	96.6%	95.1%	95.3%	100%
October-10	96.3%	94.5%	95.9%	97.1%	96.1%	95.9%	100%
November-10	97.1%	96.7%	97.0%	98.4%	97.5%	97.3%	100%

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



- **FSP Opt-out Legislation** (GDU Goal 12- End Childhood Hunger in Maryland by 2015). DHR has been working with the Governor’s DC Office to submit an amendment to the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Bill 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.

As the panel may already be aware, the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act (now dubbed the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010) was postponed by the Senate until Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> (yesterday) due to parliamentary maneuvering, specifically a motion to recommit by the minority, led by Ranking Member John Kline of Minnesota. This threatens to kill the bill by mandating that the legislation return to committee with additional instructions, in effect, starting the legislative process all over again and leaving little time left in the lame-duck session. DHR reported that they were on track because the bill passed the previous day.

- **FARMS/ FSP Application Differences** (GDU Goal 12- End Childhood Hunger in Maryland by 2015). In follow-up to the last DHR stat, GDU asked DHR to provide any additional information needed for the FSP application that isn’t asked for in the FARMS benefit application. This would help GDU/ StateStat in future discussions on automating benefits, if the opt-out amendment to the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Bill is passed. DHR responded that this was not an issue about data differences between the two programs on the local level; rather the differences in federal regulations governing eligibility determination for the two programs. Currently, these regulations prohibit DHR from certifying all FARMS children for FSP.

Broken down below is a list of the main conflicts between the two programs:

- *FARMS certifies “children”, whereas FSP certifies “families.”*
- *FARMS serves immigrant populations regardless of status, FSP can only serve qualified and verified immigrants.*
- *The definition of ‘household’ differs between the two programs:*
  - *FSP counts all who live in a home and purchase and prepare meals together as a household.*
  - *FARMS considers a group of related or unrelated individuals who share housing and/or significant income and expenses as an economic unit. Separate economic units in the same house are characterized by prorating expenses and economic independence from one another.*  
*For example: A household for FSP includes mom and dad, her 20 year old son, and their 7 year old son. The 20 year old and his income must be included in the FSP benefit calculations for the household. FARMS may consider the 20 year old as a separate economic unit. In that case, the 20 year old son’s income would not impact the FARMS eligibility consideration.*

- *There are differences in income verification between the two programs.*
  - *FSP must verify income for all applicant households.*
  - *FARMS verifies income for only a sample of between 0.5% and 3% of applicants. LEAs are prohibited by law from verifying income from additional applications.*
- *There is a major difference in income deductions:*
  - *FARMS has no deductions from income.*
  - *FSP has six income deductions that must be considered in order to determine eligibility.*