

Meeting Summary

Following is a summary of issues discussed at the DHR Stat on March 25, 2011. Analysis is provided by StateStat and the Governor's Delivery Unit (GDU).

Follow-Up

- **New Allegations.** DHR was asked to find out why there was a drop in New Allegations in Baltimore city in January of 2011.

DHR reports that it is difficult to draw conclusions based on one month's data as this does not demonstrate a trend. Reports of allegations are received from the public and any number of factors can cause a fluctuation in the number of allegations reported each month. They will monitor the data to determine if this drop continues in February. SSA data was not submitted this month.

Social Services Administration (SSA)

- **Foster Care Requirements.** The requirements to becoming a foster parent are in question after allegations of sexual abuse were made against two men who were certified by the MENTOR Maryland program. DHR was asked to explain this matter and how it has been handled since the allegations were made. DHR noted that the MENTOR Maryland program followed all of the necessary protocols but DHR is still investigating. DHR is still working with the DSS office in Wicomico County on this case and an update will be provided at the next Stat.

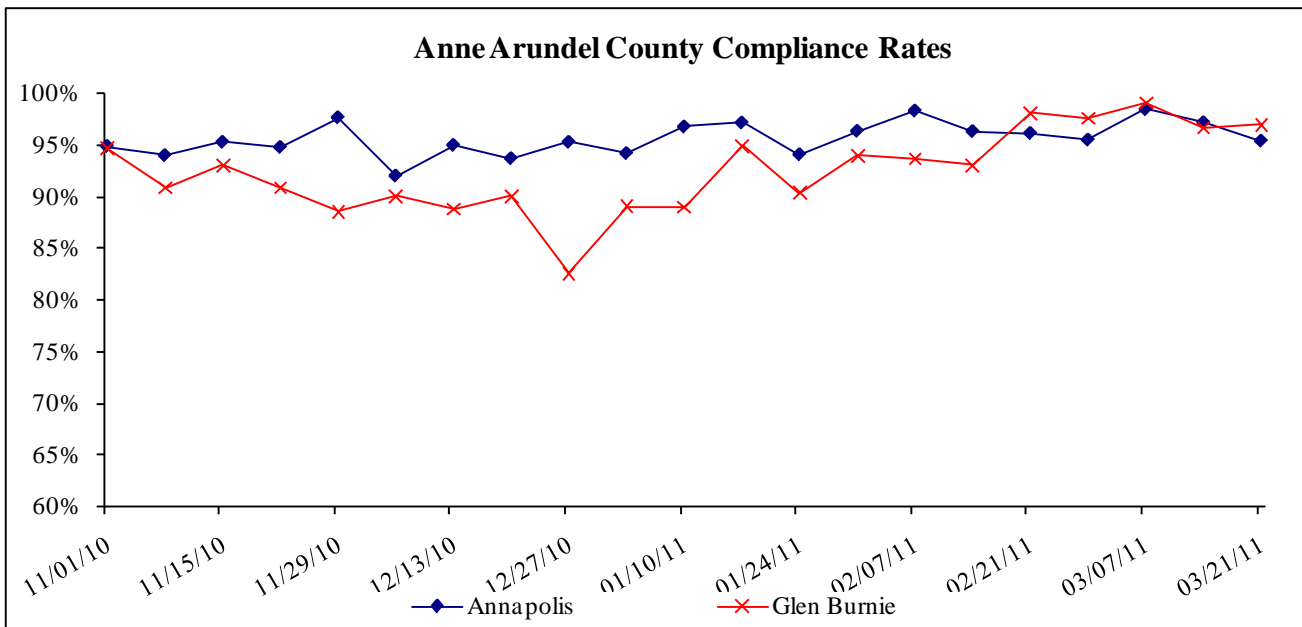
Family Investment Administration

- **Anne Arundel Compliance.** DHR was asked to provide office breakdowns of output in Anne Arundel County FIA offices to StateStat (similar to reports that were previously submitted to StateStat involving Baltimore County). The data is shown below.

In reference to the data, DHR states that they are closely monitoring compliance trends in Anne Arundel County. Their overall compliance rate decreased by **2.6%** since the last meeting (data for the week of 3/7). DHR has approved funding for personal services contracts to assist Anne Arundel County with initial applications and re-certifications for a limited time period.

Approved or Denied Trends Anne Arundel) -- All Benefits

Compliance Rate (Approved or Denied)	Annapolis	Glen Burnie	Total AA. Co.
11/1/2010	94.9%	94.7%	94.8%
11/8/2010	94.0%	90.9%	92.5%
11/15/2010	95.3%	93.1%	94.2%
11/22/2010	94.8%	90.9%	93.0%
11/29/2010	97.7%	88.6%	93.5%
12/6/2010	92.0%	90.1%	91.1%
12/13/2010	95.0%	88.8%	91.8%
12/20/2010	93.7%	90.1%	92.1%
12/27/2010	95.3%	82.6%	89.4%
1/3/2011	94.2%	89.1%	91.2%
1/10/2011	96.8%	89.0%	93.2%
1/17/2011	97.2%	94.9%	96.1%
1/24/2011	94.1%	90.4%	92.6%
1/31/2011	96.4%	94.0%	95.3%
2/7/2011	98.4%	93.7%	96.2%
2/14/2011	96.3%	93.0%	94.8%
2/21/2011	96.2%	98.1%	97.0%
2/28/2011	95.5%	97.7%	96.4%
3/7/2011	98.5%	99.1%	98.8%
3/14/2011	97.2%	96.7%	97.0%
3/21/2011	95.4%	97.0%	96.2%

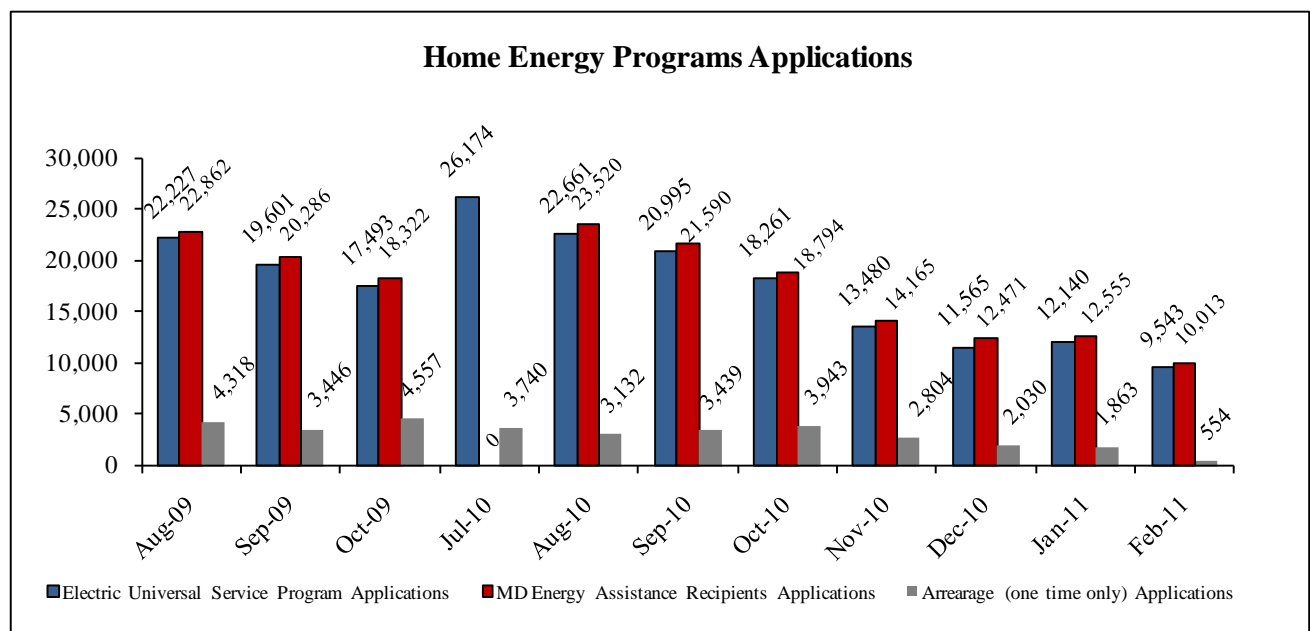


- Overall Statewide Compliance.** The data below shows the overall statewide compliance rates for Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA), The Food Supplement Programs (FSP, also known as Food Stamps) for Regular and Expedited compliance, Medical Assistance-Family and Children (MA-FAC), and the Maryland Children’s Health Program (MCHP). DHR reports that, statewide, the upward trend in monthly compliance rates for all of the previously mentioned programs continued through February of 2011. The data below the monthly report is through the week the ending before March 7, 2011.

Approved or Denied Trends							
Compliance Rate (Approved or Denied)	TCA	FSP	Ex-FSP	MA-FAC	MCHP	All Benefits	Goal
7/5/2010	94.7%	93.5%	95.8%	95.9%	95.5%	95.0%	100%
7/12/2010	93.1%	93.1%	95.9%	93.3%	94.7%	93.8%	100%
7/19/2010	93.0%	93.5%	96.2%	94.5%	91.9%	94.3%	100%
7/26/2010	93.0%	93.1%	95.3%	93.5%	90.0%	93.5%	100%
8/2/2010	93.0%	93.1%	95.3%	94.2%	93.9%	93.9%	100%
8/9/2010	92.4%	92.0%	96.1%	92.6%	91.3%	93.0%	100%
8/16/2010	94.7%	92.9%	95.5%	95.8%	94.0%	94.4%	100%
8/23/2010	93.8%	91.6%	95.0%	96.0%	93.3%	93.8%	100%
8/30/2010	94.5%	93.6%	95.1%	96.1%	94.7%	94.7%	100%
9/6/2010	94.5%	93.6%	95.1%	96.1%	94.7%	94.7%	100%
9/13/2010	96.3%	94.2%	95.4%	95.2%	94.1%	95.0%	100%
9/20/2010	96.1%	94.4%	95.7%	96.3%	94.4%	95.4%	100%
9/27/2010	95.7%	93.9%	94.5%	96.5%	95.2%	95.0%	100%
10/4/2010	94.5%	93.5%	94.2%	96.7%	96.0%	95.1%	100%
10/11/2010	96.5%	93.9%	96.8%	96.8%	96.2%	95.8%	100%
10/18/2010	95.9%	94.8%	95.9%	96.5%	94.4%	95.6%	100%
10/25/2010	96.8%	94.5%	96.1%	97.8%	96.5%	96.2%	100%
11/1/2010	97.0%	95.0%	94.9%	97.7%	97.7%	96.2%	100%
11/8/2010	97.9%	94.8%	96.9%	98.3%	97.9%	97.0%	100%
11/15/2010	97.0%	97.1%	97.6%	98.8%	98.3%	97.8%	100%
11/22/2010	97.1%	97.9%	97.6%	98.3%	97.8%	97.9%	100%
11/29/2010	97.0%	97.2%	96.9%	97.8%	95.7%	97.2%	100%
12/6/2010	98.0%	96.8%	96.2%	98.8%	98.7%	97.6%	100%
12/13/2010	98.5%	97.2%	98.6%	98.5%	96.8%	98.0%	100%
12/20/2010	99.1%	97.0%	98.3%	98.7%	98.3%	98.2%	100%
12/27/2010	98.1%	97.3%	98.6%	98.7%	98.8%	98.2%	100%
1/3/2011	98.4%	94.9%	96.8%	98.7%	97.3%	97.2%	100%
1/10/2011	98.8%	96.9%	98.9%	98.7%	98.4%	98.3%	100%
1/17/2011	98.5%	96.3%	98.6%	98.4%	96.5%	97.7%	100%
1/24/2011	97.2%	96.3%	97.3%	97.6%	97.9%	97.1%	100%
1/31/2011	98.5%	95.6%	98.7%	98.1%	98.0%	97.5%	100%
2/7/2011	98.9%	96.9%	98.7%	98.2%	99.0%	98.4%	100%
2/14/2011	99.3%	97.6%	98.7%	98.7%	96.7%	98.3%	100%
2/21/2011	97.8%	97.8%	98.5%	98.8%	98.0%	98.3%	100%
2/28/2011	98.3%	97.9%	98.1%	98.4%	97.5%	98.1%	100%
3/7/2011	99.2%	97.9%	99.5%	99.0%	98.3%	98.8%	100%
3/14/2011	99.5%	97.8%	99.0%	98.9%	97.5%	98.5%	100%
3/21/2011	98.9%	98.1%	99.3%	98.7%	97.7%	98.6%	100%

- Energy Assistance.** DHR, at a previous Stat, was asked to provide the average length of time to input cases by jurisdiction. They provided some data showing applications to be entered, as a percent of applications received. This is a good metric to track in future Stats and DHR stated that they will work on this data for the next Stat.

Jurisdiction	1/14/11	1/28/11	2/11/11	2/25/11	3/11/11	3/25/11
Baltimore City	2,364	2,024	993	2,899	1,628	1,008
Harford	98	97	85	120	25	57
Somerset (Includes Worcester, Wicomico)	126	103	70	74	22	32
Frederick	113	107	51	76	80	24
Prince George's	35	40	21	20	20	23
Anne Arundel	115	87	61	0	29	21
Kent	24	25	24	17	13	14
Talbot	64	43	33	23	8	11
Dorchester	25	21	31	20	25	10
Caroline	19	23	38	27	0	3
Baltimore	23	0	0	15	0	0
Queen Anne's	30	18	10	0	0	0
Calvert (includes Charles, St Mary's)	1	1	0	0	0	0
Montgomery	145	0	0	0	0	0
Carroll	23	0	0	0	0	0
Allegany	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cecil Co.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Garrett	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington	0	0	0	0	0	0
Howard	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	3,205	2,589	1,417	3,291	1,850	1,203
Sorted by most recent period						
Generally, numbers less than 50 represent what has been received within the last day.						
Notes 3/25/11						
The drop in Baltimore City's numbers are the result of identifying multiple applications for the same applicant. More than 2,000 applicants submitted more than one application.						



- FSP Opt-in Provision** (GDU Goal 12- End Childhood Hunger in Maryland by 2015). The panel may recall that DHR has been working with MSDE to include an “opt-in” section for FSP in the FARMS application. All jurisdictions have sent out the application with the opt-in language; however, only 5 LEA’s have been able to effectively gather their opt-in data to date.

DHR last reported that they were working to create MOU's for each of the 5 LEA's, which are needed in order for the LEA's to share their results with DHR. As for the remaining LEAs, Frederick, Kent, and Montgomery want to work with their local departments of social services to arrange for WEX interns to gather the data. If this attempt is successful, DHR will discuss using WEX interns for the other 16 jurisdictions. DHR has submitted a written request to Under Secretary Concannon about the possibility of using USDA funding to help the LEAs who cannot currently automate their data, do so.

Contributing Actions/Deliverables	Implementation Targets	Delivery Date	Progress to Date	Explanatory Comments
A. Increase the Participation Rate for the Number of Children in the Food Supplemental Program by 9% by December 2010				
FSP opt-in addition to FARMS Benefit Application	All jurisdictions distribute new application; automate and report data back to DHR; DHR target eligible population	TBD after we confer with LEAs.	All jurisdictions included the opt-in language in the application; 5 jurisdictions have the data automated and will send to DHR. We will work with 3 volunteer non-automated jurisdictions to use WEX interns to gather that data. Conference call scheduled 11/9/10 with 5 automated jurisdictions.	TBD- how remaining 16 jurisdictions will automate and report opt-in data back to DHR

- 10-Day Processing of Medicaid Applications.** As discussed at the previous DHR Stat, the case managers in the DSS offices use the ACE process when they cannot process pregnant women's Medical Assistance applications on the day that they are filed. As DHR only sees MCHP data—of which ACE data is a subset—DHMH has agreed to share data with DHR.

DHR reports that the average time to process ACE applications in DSS offices was 9.1 days in February. The average times to process both ACE and Medical Assistance applications for pregnant women in the Family and Children and MCHP categories were 6.2 days in February. DHR stated that they will do an analysis of cases that are over 10 days and an update will be provided at the next Stat.

	Percentage of Pregnant Women's M.A. Applications Processed Within 10-Days					
	Baltimore City		Prince George's County		Somerset County	
	DSS	LHD	DSS	LHD	DSS	LHD
June	77.0%	96.3%	68.2%	95.2%	100.0%	100.0%
July	86.9%	92.4%	74.5%	97.4%	75.0%	100.0%
August	80.0%	97.2%	83.5%	98.4%	66.7%	100.0%
September	88.4%	100.0%	82.1%	98.5%	100.0%	100.0%
October	83.2%	95.5%	87.7%	97.8%	85.7%	85.7%
November	85.3%	98.7%	84.8%	99.0%	100.0%	100.0%
December	78.6%	100.0%	82.7%	98.6%	100.0%	100.0%
January	82.7%	98.5%	84.6%	98.6%	57.1%	100.0%
Average	83%	97%	81%	98%	86%	98%

- **Shortfall.** According to the article below, if Congress does not vote to provide additional TANF funds to Maryland, there will be a \$34 million dollar shortfall. According to the article, DHR planned their budget based on the fact they believed that they would be receiving these funds.

DHR was asked at a previous Stat what the tangible impacts are if there were to be a federal shutdown in the future. DHR states that the largest factor in determining the impact of any federal government shutdown is its length. While a brief shutdown would be inconvenient, a longer term shutdown could prove to be significantly problematic. The table below highlights the impacts if a shortfall occurred.

Child Support Enforcement Administration	Family Investment Administration	Social Services Administration
<p>There should be minimum impact to the Child Support program in the event of a federal shutdown. States will be able to draw money through the PMS system even if a continuing resolution does not get approved. The Federal Grants Management office believes they are mission critical and would be there to ensure the money flows to the states. In 1995, the Federal Parent Locator Service (FPLS) was temporarily shut down and we had fewer sources to locate parents who either owe or receive child support. The FPLS sources include other states and federal agencies. We will receive additional information from the federal office of child support enforcement once available.</p>	<p>Effects on FIA customers are expected to be minimal based on a 1980 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) memorandum that defines “essential” government services and “essential” employees as those: Providing for benefit payments and the performance of contract obligations under no-year or multi-year or other funds remaining available for those purposes; According to reports, during the 1995 shutdown experience, policymakers substantially followed these definitions.</p>	<p>Since most Federal grant funds to SSA are in the form of re-imbursments, SSA believes services would be initially covered by State funds. We might anticipate the timeliness of Federal re-imbusement of the State might be affected, however.</p>

Md. fund for needy families may have \$34M shortfall

Posted: 7:00 pm Sun, January 30, 2011
 By marylandreporter.com
 Megan Poiniski

If Congress does not approve additional funds for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, the Maryland Department of Human Resources will be scrambling to offset a \$34 million shortfall.

The TANF program, funded by the federal government and administered here by Human Resources, helps families with short-term financial needs. Every year, Maryland receives a base grant of \$229 million, according to interim Human Resources Secretary Ted Dallas. The program has also received money from the federal stimulus program, as well as TANF contingency funds set aside for states with large caseload increases.