

Meeting Summary

Following is a summary of issues discussed at the DHR Stat on April 8, 2011. Analysis is provided by StateStat and the Governor's Delivery Unit (GDU).

Follow-Up

- Opt-In.** DHR was asked at the previous Stat to provide an update on the FSP Opt-In Provision. DHR states that they received a response to their letter to Under Secretary Concannon dated February 22nd, which requested special discretionary funding for technology enhancements to allow local education agencies to share data with DHR. While special discretionary funding is not available to local education agencies for this purpose, Under Secretary Concannon advised of an upcoming SNAP participation grant opportunity, which may support DHR's efforts. They will closely monitor the Federal grants website and confer with colleagues at MSDE regarding this grant opportunity.

DHR forwarded the draft MOU to their contacts in the LEA's in Cecil, Howard, Prince George's, Queen Anne's and Washington Counties; the five jurisdictions that are currently able to share data with DHR. They have received two responses to date. Washington County approved the draft MOU with a minor revision and Cecil County requested an extension until April 8. DHR will follow up with the remaining jurisdictions.

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

- Foster Care Requirements.** According to the article below, 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. This matter was discussed at the previous StateStat meeting but DHR was asked to provide any additional information at today's meeting. DHR provided a brief update on the matter but the investigation is still ongoing.

Foster Care Program Explained After Arrests of 2 Men

Posted: Mar 18, 2011 2:01 PM EDT Updated: Mar 21, 2011 7:32 AM EDT



MARDELA SPRINGS, Md.- Recent allegations of sexual abuse leveled against two Mardela Springs men, both certified foster parents, raised the question: what are the qualifications to foster children in Maryland?

Tracy Bayne, 51, was arrested Wednesday, March 16, and charged with sexual abuse of a minor, sex offense, and sodomy. His nephew, **Stephen James Merritt**, 38, was arrested on Tuesday, March 15, also on child sex abuse charges.

The Maryland Department of Human Resources confirmed both men were certified foster parents with a child placement agency, MENTOR Maryland.

Carnitra White, executive director of Maryland's Social Services Administration, explained there are two venues for potential foster parents. A public foster parent is certified by a public agency, or a foster parent can become certified by a child placement agency.

Regardless of the channel taken, White said the requirements to become, and remain, a foster parent are the same. She said the process, which takes around 120 days, includes a home study, 20 hours of training, numerous background checks, health exams, verification of income and expenses, and a safety inspection.

- **Processing of Medicaid Applications.** At the last Stat, DHR stated that they would do an analysis on ACE applications that were not processed within 10 days. DHR will discuss common issues for applications taking longer than 10 days at the next Stat.

Audit

- On March 16, 2011, an OLA audit of DHR's Social Services Administration (SSA) was released and it encompasses the period beginning July of 2007 and ending January of 2010. The OLA audit dated October 6, 2008 contained 9 findings and the OLA determined that DHR satisfied six of the findings. The remaining three are listed in this current report along with 3 more recent findings. Listed below are the OLAs findings:

Finding 1:	Certain CHESSIE modules, including those for in-home/family preservation and abuse/neglect investigation, contained incomplete and unreliable data hampering SSA's ability to effectively monitor child welfare activities performed by the LDSSs and to accurately report information to the federal government.
Finding 2:	SSA did not establish procedures to effectively monitor foster and kinship care placements to ensure that children were not placed with certain providers.
Finding 3:	SSA had not ensured compliance with foster care service requirements established by certain State and federal regulations.
Finding 4:	SSA did not have a process in place to ensure that reports from foster care group home providers detailing the disposition of overpayments retained from prior years are obtained, as required.
Finding 5:	SSA did not notify the LDSSs when it identified certain children born to individuals who have had their parental rights terminated for abuse or neglect.
Finding 6:	SSA did not adequately review invoices to substantiate certain charges.

- **Finding 1:** The OLA claims that CHESSIE's data was incomplete and this is a concern considering that information from CHESSIE is reported to the federal government. The OLA also notes that DHR did not implement adequate corrective measures although they were aware that data was incomplete. **OLA Recommendations (Repeats):** DHR ensure the completeness and reliability of CHESSIE and ensure that accurate information is reported to the federal government. **DHR Response:** Beginning in 2008, DHR did parallel processing and data backups of CHESSIE as well as implementing the following: ensuring proper data submissions to the federal government through the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), improving Title IV-E processing, and enhancing current reports.
- **Finding 2:** The OLA reports that from April 2008 to June 2010, there were 6 providers who cared for 32 children even though there was credible evidence of abuse or neglect against the provider prior to, or during, these placements. **OLA Recommendation:** That DHR establish procedures to ensure that children are not placed with providers with evidence of prior abuse or neglect unless LDSS has reviewed and approved the specific circumstances of the case. **DHR Response:** SSA notified LDSSs (as of April 1st) that these issues occurred. Also, SSA will query CHESSIE to find the cases that fall in this category and they will work with LDSS staff to review these matters. SSA will also maintain reports of this monitoring activity for review in future audits.
- **Finding 3:** The OLA reports that DHR did not have a process in place to ensure that foster children received their proper annual medical exams. The OLA reviewed 17 cases and DHR could not provide documentation for 9 of those cases. Also, the OLA stated that DHR did not achieve the required 90% success rate any of the seven outcome measures in the federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). The CFSR report also shows that SSA performance declined throughout the outcome period. **OLA Recommendations (Repeats):** That DHR take appropriate actions to ensure compliance with foster care services requirements

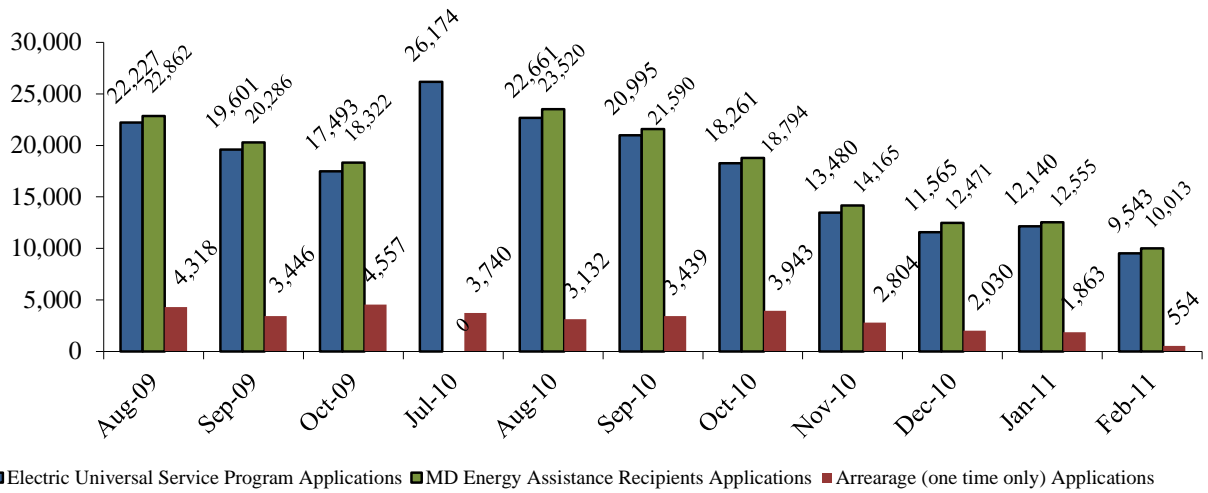
established by State regulations. That a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) is implemented, and that the state meets CFSR standards. **DHR Response:** SSA has implemented a new quality improvement process for the LDSSs to monitor services. Also, Maryland has developed a PIP and is working with the Children's Bureau for its approval. Once it is approved, DHR has two years to implement strategies outlined in the PIP.

- **Finding 4:** The OLA reports that DHR did not have a proper process in place ensuring that annual reports from foster care group home providers detailing the disposition of overpayments they retained from prior years were submitted, as required. As of May 2010, overpayments totaling approximately \$800,000 were not detailed in reports. According to SSA records, overpayments to 55 providers in FY08 totaled \$5.8 million dollars. **OLA Recommendations:** That DHR establish a process to review all annual reports so that refunds to SSA can be arranged. **DHR Response:** The OIG will review provider's reports to ensure that the audit report includes the disposition of prior year's earnings and that providers are aware of the requirement that they are to address the prior year's retained earnings.
- **Finding 5:** The OLA reports that as of March 2010, SSA identified 159 children who were born between January 2006 and October 2009 to a parent whose parental rights had been terminated before the births. Legal reasons, according to DHR, is why LDSSs of the counties where these children were born, were not notified. **OLA Recommendations:** That if SSA continues to assert that legal reasons are prohibiting notification to LDSSs, then DHR is being advised to obtain an Opinion of the Attorney General regarding the retroactive application of the law. **DHR Response:** DHR notes that their Counsel advised against notification regarding children born prior to October 1, 2009, therefore, they will seek the opinion of the AG's office on this matter.
- **Finding 6 (Repeat):** The OLA reports that SSA did not have in place the proper documentation showing invoices related to contracts totaling \$3.4 million dollars that DHR entered into with a State University from 2008-2010. Without verification supporting the obtaining of services, there is no assurance that DHR received the services for which they paid. **OLA Recommendations:** That DHR obtain and review documentation, such as payroll records, to support the propriety of amounts billed. **DHR Response:** SSA will take steps to ensure that all staff will conduct quarterly, on-site visits to review documentation for randomly selected line items from invoices submitted. The University will also provide payroll records, invoices, bills, et al, to support items charged.

Family Investment Administration

- **Energy Assistance.** DHR, for this Stat, has submitted data showing the % of Applications Entered, YTD applications, and total applications, by county.

Home Energy Programs Applications

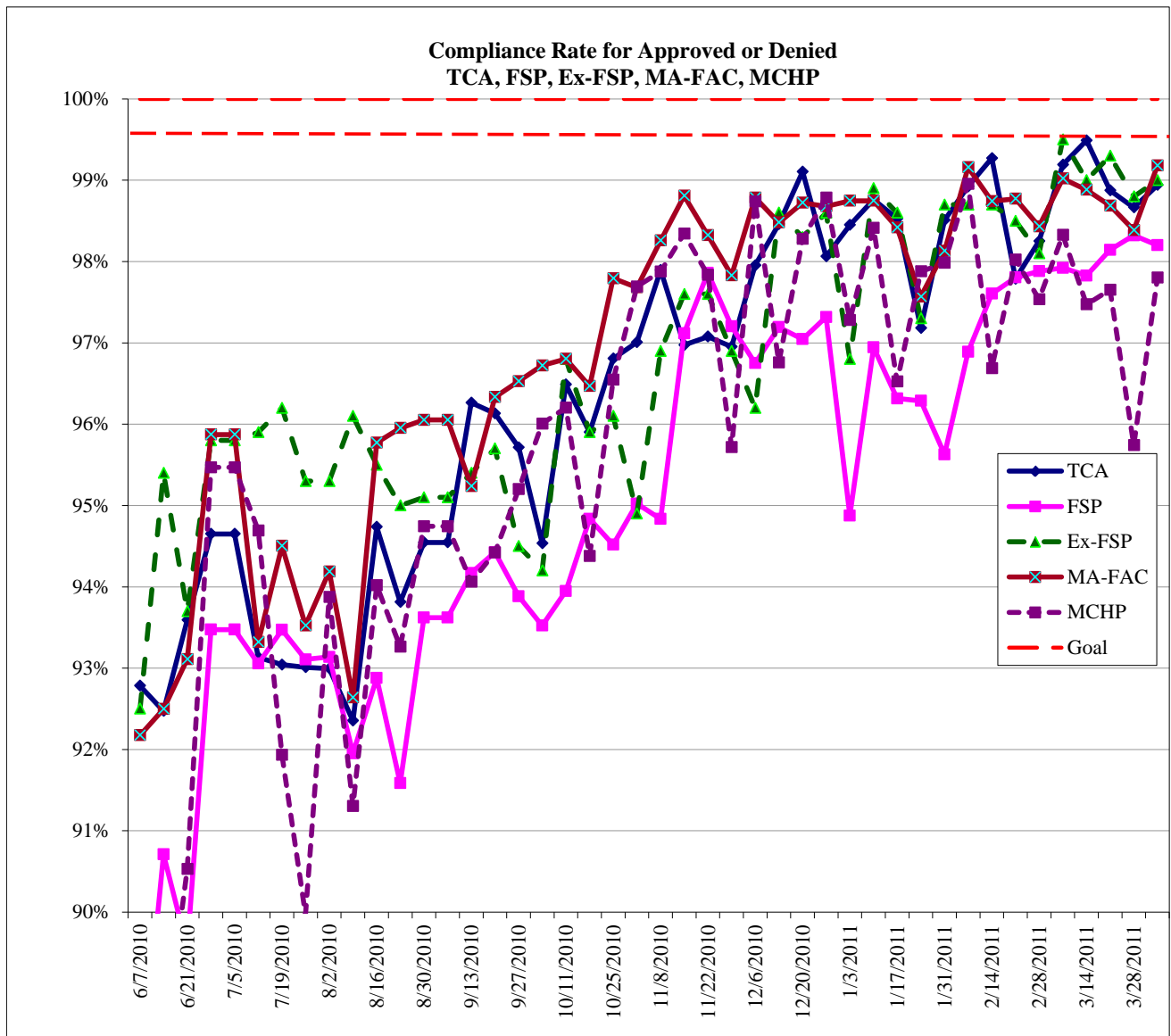


COUNTY	YTD Applications Entered	TBE	Total Applications	% Entered
Allegany	5,461	0	5,461	100.0%
Anne Arundel	8,526	16	8,542	99.8%
Baltimore City	36,151	795	36,946	97.8%
Baltimore	19,554	13	19,567	99.9%
Calvert	6,397	0	6,397	100.0%
Caroline	2,398	5	2,403	99.8%
Carroll	3,787	0	3,787	100.0%
Cecil Co.	4,455	0	4,455	100.0%
Charles	See Calvert	See Calvert	See Calvert	See Calvert
Dorchester	3,129	5	3,134	99.8%
Frederick	4,675	34	4,709	99.3%
Garrett	3,013	0	3,013	100.0%
Harford	6,382	62	6,444	99.0%
Howard	4,262	0	4,262	100.0%
Kent	1,278	6	1,284	99.5%
Montgomery	11,529	0	11,529	100.0%
Prince George's	16,321	0	16,321	100.0%
Queen Anne's	1,472	2	1,474	99.9%
St. Mary's	See Calvert	See Calvert	See Calvert	See Calvert
Somerset	10,378	25	10,403	99.8%
Talbot	1,642	8	1,650	99.5%
Washington	4,049	0	4,049	100.0%
Wicomico	See Somerset	See Somerset	See Somerset	See Somerset
Worcester	See Somerset	See Somerset	See Somerset	See Somerset
TOTAL	154,859	971	155,830	99.4%

Note: The TBE number represents a point in time. The applications may include those received in multiple months.

- 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 aforementioned programs continued through March of 2011. The data below the monthly report is through the week the ending before April 1, 2011.

Approved or Denied Trends							
Compliance Rate (Approved or Denied)	TCA	FSP	Ex-FSP	MA-FAC	MCHP	All Benefits	Goal
6/7/2010	92.8%	87.7%	92.5%	92.2%	86.9%	90.6%	100%
6/14/2010	92.5%	90.7%	95.4%	92.5%	88.3%	92.1%	100%
6/21/2010	93.6%	89.6%	93.7%	93.1%	90.5%	91.9%	100%
6/28/2010	94.7%	93.5%	95.8%	95.9%	95.5%	95.0%	100%
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%	99.2%	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%
3/28/2011	98.7%	98.3%	98.8%	98.4%	95.7%	98.3%	100%
4/4/2011	98.9%	98.2%	99.0%	99.2%	97.8%	98.7%	100%



- 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 is at **99%** for all benefits for the week ending April 1st. DHR previously 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%
3/28/2011	97.1%	98.4%	97.7%
4/4/2011	98.1%	99.0%	98.5%

