

Meeting Summary

Following is a summary of issues discussed at the DHR Stat on July 1, 2011. Analysis is provided by StateStat and the Governor's Delivery Unit (GDU).

Family Investment Administration

- **Electric Universal Service Program (EUSP) Plan.** According to the article below, DHR/OHEP has proposed some changes to EUSP in FY12 as a result of reduced funding in the EUSP Proposed Operations Plan submitted to the PSC.

DHR's plan for FY12 calls for a decline in payments due to declining revenues and a projected increase in demand. Secretary Dallas from DHR stated that he will be meeting with DHCD to discuss making the EUSP program more efficient.

Md. energy assistance payments to decline next year

By Liz F. Kay, The Baltimore Sun

Payments that help low-income Marylanders cover their electric bills will decrease next year, according to the operating plan for the state's Electric Universal Service program.

The cuts are the result of declining revenues and increased demand for help, according to the plan proposed by state officials.

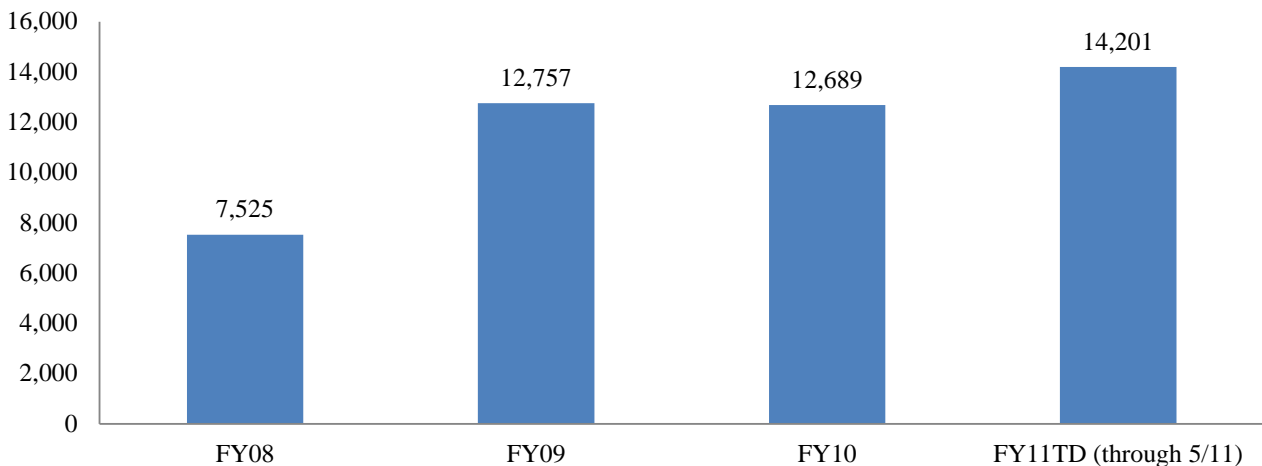
The total funding for the program in fiscal year 2012 is about \$56 million, down 30 percent from the previous year's budget of more than \$81 million. The Maryland Public Service Commission was scheduled to review the plan at a hearing Wednesday afternoon.

The Office of Home Energy Programs, which is part of the state Department of Human Resources, estimated the number of households receiving aid would increase by 3 percent to more than 142,000, although many more may meet eligibility standards that include a household income less than 175 percent of the federal poverty level.

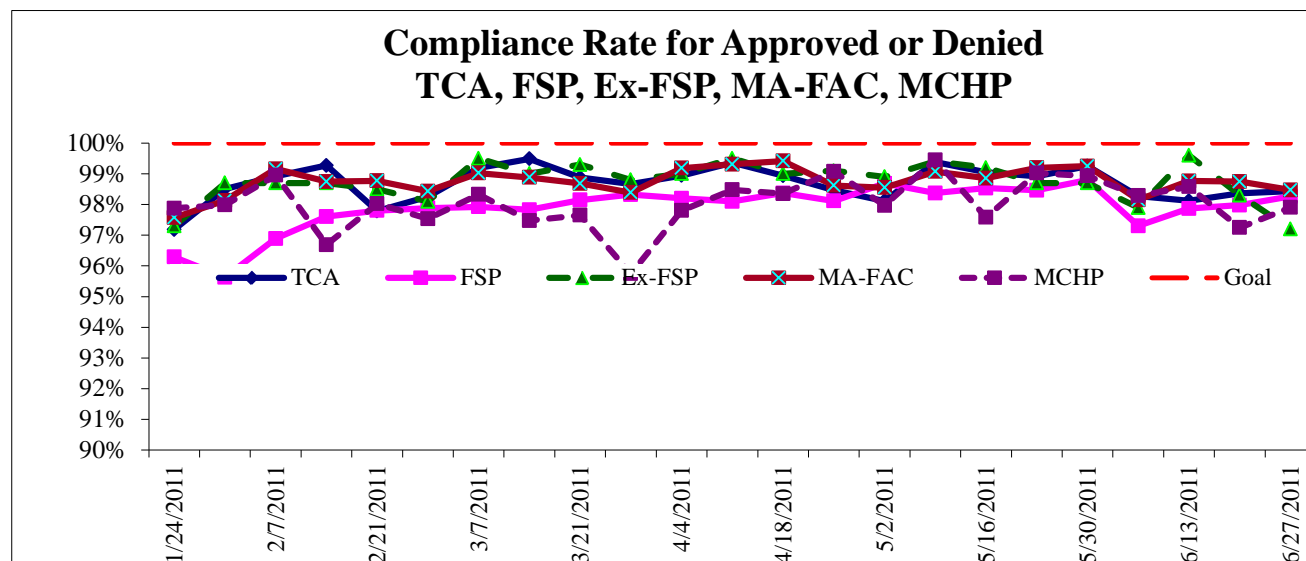
The federal poverty level for a family of four is \$22,350.

Marylanders taking part in the program are expected to receive, on average, \$323 a year in aid in 2012, down from \$444 in 2011.

EUSP Applications (Average Per Month)



- Overall Statewide Compliance.** The compliance chart below shows the overall statewide 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 monthly compliance rates for all of the aforementioned programs stayed steady through April and May of 2011. The data below the monthly report is through the week ending on June 20, 2011.



Approved or Denied Trends							
Compliance Rate (Approved or Denied)	TCA	FSP	Ex-FSP	MA-FAC	MCHP	All Benefits	Goal
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%
4/11/2011	99.4%	98.1%	99.5%	99.3%	98.5%	98.9%	100%
4/18/2011	98.9%	98.4%	99.0%	99.4%	98.4%	98.9%	100%
4/25/2011	98.5%	98.1%	99.1%	98.6%	99.1%	98.6%	100%
5/2/2011	98.1%	98.7%	98.9%	98.5%	98.0%	98.5%	100%
5/9/2011	99.4%	98.4%	99.4%	99.1%	99.5%	99.0%	100%
5/16/2011	99.1%	98.5%	99.2%	98.9%	97.6%	98.7%	100%
5/23/2011	98.9%	98.5%	98.7%	99.2%	99.0%	98.8%	100%
5/30/2011	99.3%	98.8%	98.7%	99.2%	98.9%	99.0%	100%
6/6/2011	98.3%	97.3%	97.9%	98.2%	98.3%	97.9%	100%
6/13/2011	98.1%	97.9%	99.6%	98.8%	98.6%	98.6%	100%
6/20/2011	98.4%	98.0%	98.3%	98.7%	97.2%	98.3%	100%
6/27/2011	98.4%	98.3%	97.2%	98.5%	97.9%	98.1%	100%

Child Support Enforcement Administration (CSEA)

- **Child Support in Prince George's County.** Secretary Dallas and the Head of Child Support Enforcement in Prince George's County recently attended a Board of Public Works (BPW) meeting and they were in support of a jobs program in Prince George's for parents who owe child support. This program was approved but it should be noted that the Prince George's program is voluntary although some other counties' programs are mandatory (through court orders, etc). Secretary Dallas indicated that mandatory programs have higher success rates, but due to the fact that this program involves federal funding, DHR intends to ask for permission to make the program mandatory.
- **CSEA Raids.** At a previous Stat, there was a discussion that took place involving Child Support collections and the methods being used to collect in the state. According to the article below, raids took place before Mother's Day where 22 parents were arrested in Baltimore city that had warrants for not paying child support. DHR stated that these programs are run by the respective police departments and CSEA has contact with Sheriff's Offices on a regular basis.

22 parents owing child support arrested in weekend raids

By Eileen Ambrose, The Baltimore Sun
9:15 p.m. EDT, May 8, 2011

Twenty-two parents owing nearly \$328,000 in back child support were arrested late last week during the fifth annual raid by the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office, officials said.

The child support sweep is typically held the week before Mother's Day. This year, 17 deputy sheriffs took part in the two-day raid that started at 4:00 a.m. on Thursday and Friday.

While most of the offenders were men, five women were taken into custody, the highest number since the sweeps began, Captain Sam Cogen said Sunday.

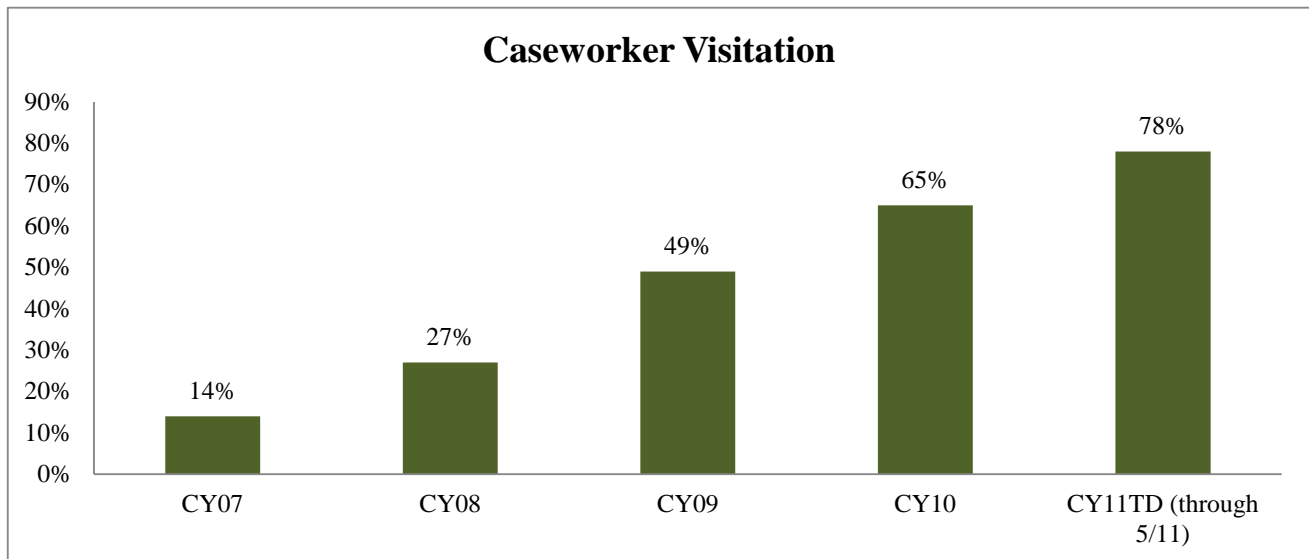
Officials estimate there are more than 2,000 outstanding warrants for parents who once lived in Baltimore or still do. The Sheriff's Office, which has a team assigned to locate parents wanted for child support offenses, typically arrests more than 30 adults each month.

- **Arrearage Collections.** At a May StateStat meeting, representatives from CSEA were asked several questions about Child Support Collection and in particular, what was being done as far as Arrearage collections in Maryland. CSEA stated that other states outsource to get help in collecting arrears. Reporting to StateStat for CSEA metrics ran through March when this item was discussed in May. At that time, CSEA was at 1 percent distributed but as indicated in the chart below, the rate dropped to .7 percent in April and May of this year. According to the ranking table below, through FFY10, Maryland ranked 26th in "Percentage of Cases Paying Arrears". CSEA staff mentioned that they will look into some best practices that they can use to collect more owed money but there will be a movement to clear their databases of older cases. The cleaning out process will help CSEA tend to more current matters in terms of arrearage collections.

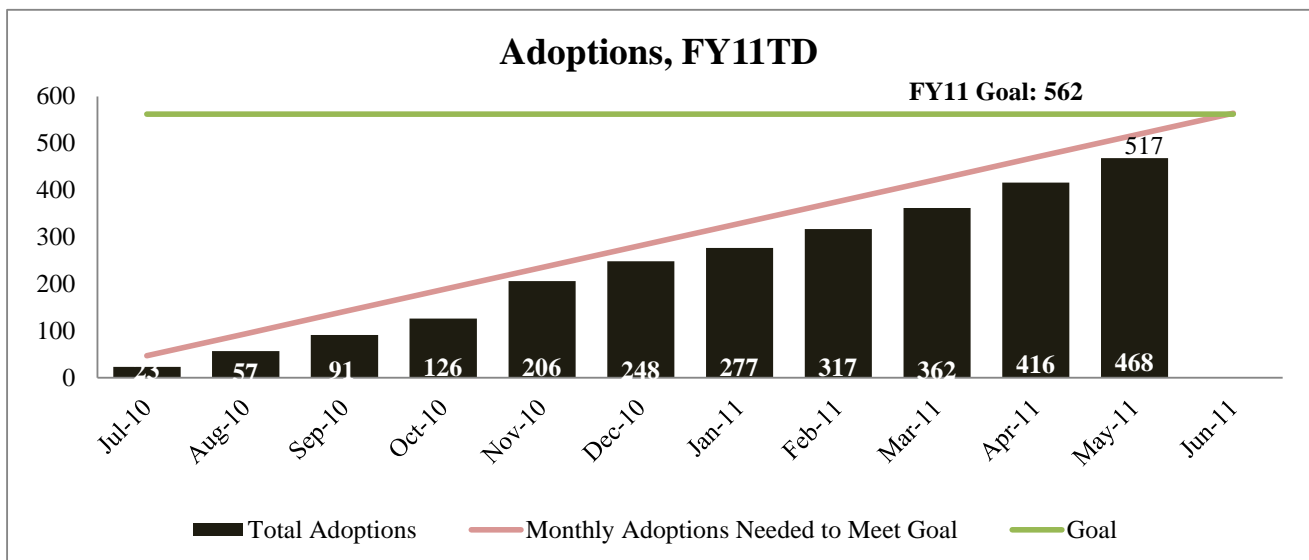
Total Number of Cases	Rank	State	% of Cases Paying Arrears
1,509,144	1	Pennsylvania	83.1%
1,236,852	2	West Virginia	71.4%
992,344	3	Minnesota	70.0%
965,638	4	Colorado	69.7%
906,724	5	New Hampshire	69.4%
860,183	6	Vermont	69.2%
530,682	7	Wyoming	68.9%
441,655	8	Iowa	68.8%
439,530	9	North Dakota	68.7%
430,873	10	Georgia	68.2%
392,525	11	Nebraska	68.1%
384,709	12	New Mexico	67.1%
361,339	13	South Dakota	66.8%
356,394	14	Arkansas	66.4%
351,161	15	Alaska	65.9%
346,337	16	Montana	65.9%
343,125	17	Utah	64.9%
342,051	18	Texas	64.5%
300,742	19	Indiana	64.1%
285,824	20	Ohio	64.0%
258,327	21	North Carolina	63.7%
248,027	22	Kansas	63.3%
242,102	23	Washington	62.9%
232,650	24	New Jersey	62.4%
228,780	25	Wisconsin	62.1%
225,262	26	Maryland	61.6%
195,779	27	Oklahoma	61.4%
195,701	28	Illinois	61.3%
193,909	29	Massachusetts	60.7%
190,736	30	Virginia	60.5%
141,912	31	California	60.3%
129,351	32	Florida	59.9%
124,916	33	Mississippi	59.7%
121,340	34	Oregon	59.3%
119,629	35	Connecticut	59.3%
109,351	36	New York	59.2%
106,937	37	Kentucky	59.0%
81,908	38	Missouri	58.2%
81,457	39	Maine	58.0%
74,902	40	Delaware	58.0%
66,395	41	Tennessee	57.5%
62,699	42	Louisiana	57.3%
57,776	43	Idaho	57.2%
53,781	44	Michigan	57.1%
46,217	45	Nevada	56.8%
37,405	46	Rhode Island	56.0%
37,030	47	Alabama	55.4%
35,929	48	Arizona	54.1%
34,975	49	South Carolina	54.0%
31,673	50	Dist. Of Columbia	49.7%
20,230	51	Hawaii	45.6%
NA	52	Guam	NA
NA	53	Puerto Rico	NA
NA	54	Virgin Islands	NA
15,564,918	Weighted National Average/Total		62.11%

- Caseworker Visitation.** As seen in the PlaceMatters table, the Federal Standard for “Caseworker Visitation per Month” is 90 percent. Through May of this year, DHR is at 78 percent and the bar chart below shows DHR’s overall rates over the past four calendar years. The table below shows the visitation rate for all jurisdictions and the ones highlighted are below 90 percent. At the previous Stat, DHR showed that Prince George’s County was having problems with their visitation rate, as well as their rate for CPS investigations staying open longer than 60 days. DHR stated that they believe one of the problems is the fact that there are glitches in their database and these glitches are not counting caseworker visitations. DHR plans to do some IT maintenance to correct these glitches.

	Apr-11	May-11
Monthly Caseworker Visitation	74%	78%
Allegany	96%	96%
Anne Arundel	81%	88%
Baltimore City	86%	88%
Baltimore	70%	78%
Calvert	35%	38%
Caroline	38%	38%
Carroll	81%	88%
Cecil	76%	87%
Charles	31%	34%
Dorchester	65%	65%
Frederick	92%	95%
Garrett	71%	80%
Harford	77%	78%
Howard	44%	70%
Kent	77%	85%
Montgomery	58%	63%
Prince George's	24%	27%
Queen Anne's	94%	94%
St. Mary's	45%	58%
Somerset	62%	75%
Talbot	100%	100%
Washington	72%	73%
Wicomico	90%	90%
Worcester	90%	93%



- Adoptions.** The chart below highlights Total Finalized Adoptions for FY11 to date. Through May of this year, there have been 468 total adoptions and DHR is averaging 43 adoptions per month. As indicated, in order to reach the FY11 goal of 562 adoptions, DHR would have to average 47 adoptions per month and if they were on track, they would have been at 517 total adoptions through May. DHR reports that many of their jurisdictions have exceeded their targets but DHR does not believe that they will reach the 562 target for FY11.



- Dually-Supervised Youth.** At the previous Stat, DHR was asked about youth who are dually-supervised by DHR and DJS and they were asked to provide data showing the amount of dually-supervised kids and the kinds of services that are available for these children. Also, DHR was asked to explain how they are collaborating with DJS to monitor these youths?

In their follow-up to StateStat, DHR stated that they define “dually-supervised” to mean children who are committed to the care and custody of both agencies. In order to determine how many

children fall into that category, DHR would have to do a query in MD CHESSIE which takes about three weeks. DHR will provide that number as soon as it is available.

As far as services, local DSS and DJS staff work together to ensure appropriate services for the children involved with both agencies. Services are determined based upon the specific needs of the youth and their respective families. When dually committed children are in placement, the court will usually designate one agency as the lead in making major decisions such as placement and permanency planning decisions. Placement funding is usually a joint responsibility.

In April 2010, DHR issued a policy to their local departments detailing how they can identify dually involved youth and work with DJS to provide services to the youth and their families. The policy (#10-24 DJS and DHR dually involved populations) provided direction on accessing the Child Safety Dashboard and guidance on how the two agencies should do joint planning after a youth has been identified as dually involved. The policy requires the local DSS worker to make immediate contact with the DJS worker in order to begin joint planning.