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County Executive

Prince George's County Department of Social Services County Council Budget Session Briefing

Child Protection: 1, 4

Sex Abuse Victims Aftercare Services

Beginning in FY2018, Prince George's County sexual abuse survivors and their non-offending caregivers can receive crisis intervention services through the use of Victim Advocates. Survivors are able to access therapeutic services, as well as legal clinic services, court education/court accompaniment services, and in-home intervention services. To date, 125 survivors have accessed victim advocate services but all survivors are offered aftercare services.

CPS Training Unit

In October 2017, this unit began training the general public on issues related to identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse. It utilizes Darkness to Light, Stewards of Children, an evidence-based sex abuse prevention curriculum, with the objective of trying to increase awareness about sex abuse identification, prevention and reporting in the county. Since inception, 129 training sessions were completed and 2,062 attendees have been trained to identify and report suspected child abuse and/or neglect.

School-based CPS Investigative Unit

The School-based CPS Investigative Unit was implemented to conclude CPS investigations within 30 days, decreasing the length of time school staff alleged of abuse or neglect remained on administrative leave increasing stability in the classroom and reducing the need for substitute teaching. For those staff who are indicated, the school system is able to move to an employment disposition more quickly, allowing for more permanent replacements to be found. Since implementation, the number of days to complete an investigation has reduced by 32 days, from an average of 60 days to 28 days. In addition, this unit collaborates with the school system to increase communication between PGCPD and DSS of referral outcomes of staff real-time to support the school system's quick disposition by the central office based on their employment practices. This collaboration has reduced total number of reports but increased the percentage of those reports, which are investigated and has supported the school systems policy and practice decisions in quickly managing staff involved in allegations.

Child Advocacy Center Expansion and Prep for Accreditation

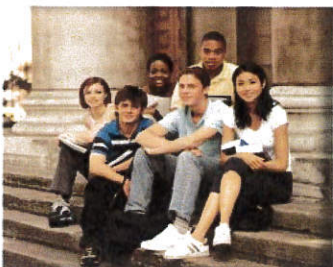
The Department has implemented a number of best practices in regard to the manner in which sex abuse investigations are conducted. These improvements include the expansion of the CAC's physical space to accommodate housing key stakeholders, the creation of a new CAC Director position, and improvements to the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) approach. The culmination of this work will result in becoming accredited within the next year.

CPS Caseload Summary

From FY2017-18, the Department experienced a 15% increase in abuse and neglect cases and a 71% increase in court protective orders, which are non-CPS referral cases. Additionally, over the past two years there appears to be an upward trend in Investigative Responses. This would suggest that the referrals are more complex, requiring investigations rather than supportive services provided through Alternative Response.

Human Trafficking

In 99% of the human trafficking cases received, the victims enter into the care and custody of the Department and are placed in one of three specialized placement settings approved by the State for human traffic victims. Medical, mental health, and/or substance abuse treatment services are provided while the youth is in care and forensic interviews are conducted in collaboration with CPS and law enforcement. When a child affected by human trafficking is placed on an emergent basis, they are provided with a *Backpack of Love* – an overnight bag that contains basic toiletries and new sleep wear. Since 2012, when Maryland law changed to reflect that human trafficking was child abuse, the Department has served 33 children in this category.



Agency Priorities

1. Simplify service access with timely, accurate and quality interactions to all community stakeholders.
2. Lead the shift in the public's focus to intervention and prevention services for youth at risk of experiencing homelessness or entering the child welfare system.
3. Improve and expand access to home and community-based services for older adults.
4. Support efforts to build county residents' awareness and education about specific family violence and human trafficking issues.
5. Strive towards providing LGBTQ affirming services and practices.

Crossover Youth Initiative: 1



The Judiciary, Department of Social Services and Department of Juvenile Services implemented the Crossover Youth Practice Model to provide better care for all children who are involved with social and juvenile services departments. The Crossover Youth program has successfully diverted 67% of youth from subsequent court involvement in FY2019. There has been a noticeable reduction in the number of child welfare youth arrested and significant increase in joint case planning between the systems for youth formally adjudicated. The primary objective of this intervention is to prevent subsequent involvement with the adult criminal justice system.

Improving Outcomes for Youth in Care: 1, 2, 4, 5

The Place Matters and Family Blossoms initiatives ensure children are in the most appropriate placement, prioritize placing children in family placements, and increase attention on establishing permanent connections for children. When it is feasible, children are reunified, adopted or placed with a guardian, as such, the Department has helped 300 children achieve permanent family connections over the past four fiscal years. Other critical improvements directly related to ensuring child safety include shortened investigative response times, timely visitation, timely documentation, and increased family placements.

Measure	FY18 Goal	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019*
Children In Out of Home Care	481 +/- 10%	483	480	482	507	513
Children in Family Homes	>= 85.0%	79%	80%	80%	81%	80%
Caseworker Visitation	>= 95%	93%	95%	95%	94%	96%
CPS Response Timeliness - IR	>= 90%	86%	82%	91%	93.6%	96%
CPS Response Timeliness - AR	>= 90%	91%	93%	99%	99.5%	98%
Exit to Permanency		57	96	67	95	32

An average of 68 youth age out of foster care annually. The Department partners closely with the Model Court Improvement Project on a variety of goals, one of which is Better Outcomes for Older and Transitioning Youth. This workgroup developed and implemented the Emancipation Checklist that helps staff, courts and attorneys maintain focus on important areas necessary for youth to successfully transition. In a recent project¹ in which youth outcomes were reviewed, researchers found that youth who aged out in 2017 did better on 10 of the 12 the original check points measured. Data from this and other reviews has led to additional checklist questions and the implementation of practice improvements that will best position youth for transition to adulthood with as many tools as possible.

Mitigating Poor Outcomes for Former and Aging-out Foster Youth

Improving services to mitigate poor outcomes for former foster youth is a priority for the Department. A new initiative, the Bridge to Y.E.S. (Youth Experiencing Success) Project, is led by the Circuit Court which seeks to create a resource center for youth who have aged out of care. This governmental and community-based collaboration is working toward developing an innovative program/service model that has drop-in and residential-based services. The primary focus of this initiative is to build a center that will assist youth who have exited foster care with a comprehensive array of services addressing health and wellbeing, education, employment, housing, legal issues, and transportation, as well as identifying ways to assist youth in establishing permanent connections with other adults. National data reflects that approximately 25% of youth who may have been involved with the child welfare system have negative outcomes to include homelessness and criminal justice involvement.

AFFIRM: 5



The Department is in the second year of a QIC-LGBTQ2S grant that is designed to improve placement stability, well-being, and permanency for children and youth in foster care with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities and expression (SOGIE). The All Children - All Families (ACAF) Cultural Competency Training and the AFFIRM Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Model, have been implemented and are expected

to enhance staff, caregiver, and provider knowledge, skills, and competency in providing safe, affirming, and supportive environments for LGBTQ youth in foster care. To date, 275 staff and community partners have received the ACAF foundation-level training, and 83 staff have participated in higher-level training. Ten (10) staff have been trained to facilitate the ACAF training and three (3) staff have been trained to facilitate the AFFIRM program. The project has received 15 youth referrals to participate in the program.

Prince George's Community Schools Network (formerly TNI@School): 1, 2, 3, 4

The partnership between the Office of the County Executive, PGCPs and DSS to implement the Community Resource Advocate program (CRA) serving as the centerpiece program of the larger Prince George's Community Schools Network (formerly referred to as TNI@Schools) with placement of a DSS staff person, referred to as a CRA, and a behavioral health provider in 40 schools located in high need schools within the County. This project targets at-risk youth based on needs related to attendance, academic performance, and a school progress index. The goal is to improve school performance by ensuring that at-risk students in identified schools are resilient, successful, and ready to learn. In school year 2018, the CRA Program provided services to 1,727 students and to date, in SY 2019, 885 have been served. Using strategic plans for each school, in addition to departmental services, The Community School Network has leveraged extensive community partnerships to serve just over 10,000 individuals.

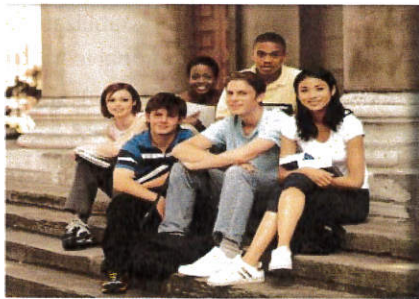
Project Partners:

Community Resource Advocates

- Hired by the Department of Social Services and provided access to agency expertise along with specialized training in resource navigation and advocacy.
- Non-PGCPs employee to promote privacy and build trust.
- Connections to government and local resources.

On-Site Behavioral Health Services

- Advanced Behavioral Health, The Children's Guild, Family Services, Inc., Thrive Behavioral Health, and Maryland Family Resource provide behavioral health services.
- La Clinica del Pueblo provides clinical services to minors fleeing violence from Central America.
- In addition, these providers have access to special funding to support uninsured or underinsured populations have access to behavioral health services, which are provided through collaboration with the CRA at each school site.



Prince George's County Public Schools

- Partnership with PGCPs Administration, Pupil Personnel Workers, School Counselors, Parent Engagement Assistants and other student support teams.
- Integration into essential student identification processes: School Instructional Team (SIT), attendance, leadership, and teachers.

Graduation and 9th Grade Promotion Interventions

- *Intensive Case Management:* Maryland Multicultural Youth Center provides students at three high schools with intensive case management to help them reach their educational, employment, and healthy living goals.
- *College and Career Readiness/Youth Development:* Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection provides graduation, promotion, college, and career readiness services.

Community Partnerships

- This project aims to tailor community –based partnerships at each school depending on the needs of the school that have been identified.
- Capital Area Food Bank serves families at six monthly school-based food markets to address community food insecurity. To date in SY2018-19, an average of 230 families were served each month and CRAs helped to provide over 120 families per week with food bags to address food disparity for students that rely on school-based meals.

School Sites

District 1

Mary Harris Mother Jones ES
Buck Lodge MS
High Point HS

District 2

Carole Highlands ES
Langley Park-McCormick ES
Northwestern HS

District 3

Beacon Heights ES
Glenridge ES
Riverdale ES

Woodridge ES

Charles Carroll MS
William Wirt MS
Riverdale HS

District 5

Cora L. Rice ES
Judge Sylvania Woods ES
Port Towns ES
Roger Heights ES
William Paca ES
G. James Gholson MS
Thomas Johnson MS

Bladensburg HS

Fairmont Heights HS

District 6

North Forestville ES
Samuel P. Massie Academy
Walker Mill MS

Central HS

District 7

Bradbury Heights ES
Suitland ES
Andrew Jackson Academy
William W. Hall Academy

Benjamin Stoddert MS

Drew Freeman MS

Thurgood Marshall MS

Suitland HS

William Beanes HS

District 8

Barnaby Manor ES
Oxon Hill MS
Crossland HS
Oxon Hill HS
Potomac HS

Note: The 2020 budget proposes 2 additional schools to establish a presence in in Districts 4 and 9.

Adult Resources: 1

Adult Protective Services

Since legislation was enacted to allow Adult Protective Services investigators 60 days to complete investigations, the Department has made significant progress in meeting this goal. Specific attention was paid to closing cases timely and this was achieved by conducting weekly compliance meetings to discuss cases nearing the 60th day.

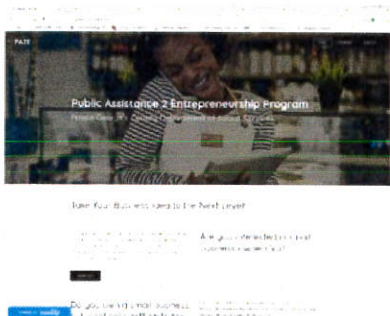


Measure	Goal	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019*
APS Response Timeliness	>=95%	88.8%	99.8%	100%
Measure	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019*
Unable to Investigate	20%	25%	22%	29%
Ruled Out	0%	1%	3%	0%
Unsub	54%	51%	50%	44%
Indicated	25%	23%	25%	27%

Two-Generation Next Step Program: 1, C, F, P

The Two-Generation Family Economic Security Commission was established by the State of Maryland Governor's Office to mitigate multigenerational poverty in Maryland. The Commission is charged with identifying current State services and policies that can be utilized in a multigenerational approach to address the needs of both parents and children in low-income families. The Prince George's County Next Step Program was selected as one of two pilot programs in the State. The Next Step Program is a partnership between the Prince George's County Department of Social Services and the Prince George's Community College that began service provision in 2001. This initiative is designed to provide former and current recipients of Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) with access to post secondary educational and training opportunities in order to elevate the economically challenged residents' earning potential and help them achieve economic independence. The Next Step Program addresses academic and stabilization challenges along with professional development through enrichment activities and exposure to educational and vocational learning environments and activities. Participants of the Next Step Program receive: free tuition, professional career counseling, and academic advising, aggressive case management, variety of economic supports, youth-focused academic exposure and enrichment. There were approximately 40 participants active in FY2018.

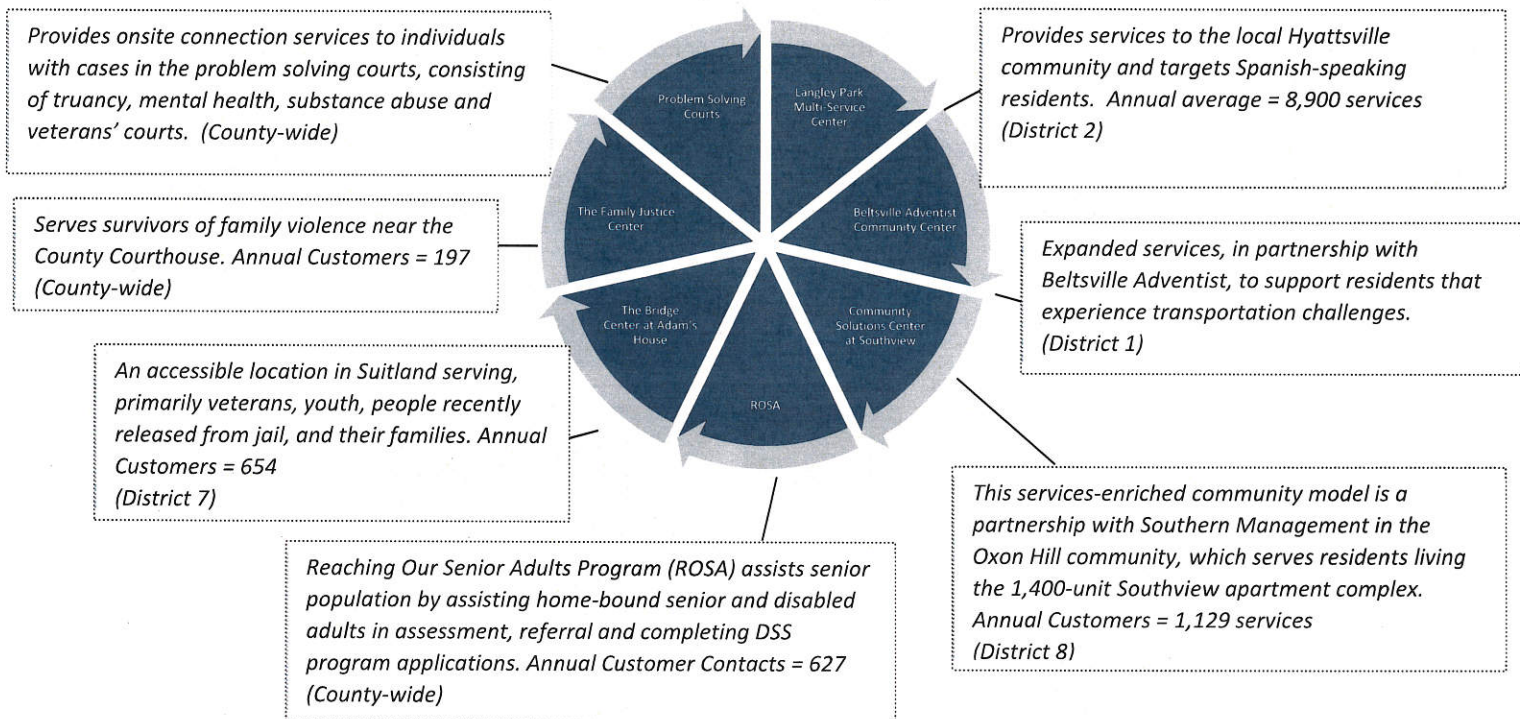
Public Assistance to Entrepreneurship (PA2E): 1



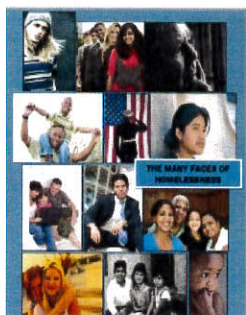
This partnership between Prince George's County DSS, the DHS central office, and the University of Maryland Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is designed to assist entrepreneurs, currently receiving SNAP/Food Supplement, who are interested in learning the necessary skills for small business management. DSS made the project available to all SNAP participants but conducted a targeted recruitment for recipients who are currently or previously self-employed. The Department launched the program with its first cohort of 18 participants during the first week of April. There are 8 sessions designed to help participants in understanding and building their credit, learning about marketing strategies and developing a business plan.

Community-based Services Model: 1

The Department has collaborated with governmental and community partners to create community-based service centers and one-stop shops throughout the County. In addition to the five (5) sites below, there are currently staff strategically located in 15 other community locations and the Problem Solving Courts throughout the County.



Homeless Services: 1, 2, 3



The Department provides Homeless Services to county residents and works collaboratively with the Regional Action Coalition on Homelessness (ReACH) which is facilitated by the Metropolitan Washington Council on Governments. In addition, the Department continues its efforts in providing services to homeless and unaccompanied youth as well as implementing funding and data integration tools that will improve service delivery, reduce costs driven by high-system users.

Data Driven Justice (DDJ): The initiative is designed to reduce involvement with the justice system for low-risk individuals with mental illness.

Pay for Success (PFS) grant for Permanent Supportive Housing: This collaboration involves using social impact bonds from investors to increase Permanent Supportive Housing. The interventions are for homeless persons who are also identified as significantly high users of public services, namely corrections and emergency rooms.

Homeless and Unaccompanied Youth: Services to homeless and unstably housed youth and young adults, ages 13-24 years, were improved by partnering with Sasha Bruce to provide youth specific services including a confidential emergency shelter. Since these changes were made, the Department has served 220 of homeless and unstably housed youth.

Opioids and Other Substance Abuse Support: 1

Salvation Army Partnership: The Salvation Army's Adult Rehabilitation Center offers a 6 to 12 month residential program for men involved with the criminal justice system that assists with substance abuse rehabilitation through with therapeutic counseling, recovery meetings, life skills workshops, Bible studies and workshops, recreational activities, and educational training and employment support. Our unique partnership supports the rehabilitation process by ensuring those who qualify receive SNAP benefits and medical coverage and also provides career and job counseling, training, employment fairs and placement through PGCDSS' vendor Jobs Have Priority.

SAFERR: The Screening and Assessment for Family Engagement, Retention, and Recovery (SAFERR) is a collaborative model to help child welfare, substance abuse treatment, and family court professionals make better informed decisions when determining outcomes for children and families affected by substance use disorders (SUD). Currently a representative from leadership from Prince George's County Circuit Court, Health Department, and Social Services participate in Technical Assistance from the National Center of Substance Abuse and Child Welfare to begin building the collaborative system within Prince George's County. The goal of the TA is to better identify families with SUD at intake and ensure a seamless transition to services within the Behavioral Health system, and develop an oversight and support system by the courts in monitoring participation and progress to achieve better outcomes from their involvement with Child Welfare.

Leadership Team

