



## GOVERNOR'S COORDINATING OFFICES

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES • SERVICE & VOLUNTEERISM • PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT  
CRIME CONTROL & PREVENTION • SMALL, MINORITY & WOMEN BUSINESS AFFAIRS  
CHILDREN • DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

September 19, 2019

The Honorable Nancy King  
Chair  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, Suite 3 West  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh  
Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
House Office Building, Room 121  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair King and Chair McIntosh:

In accordance with the 2018 Joint Chairmen's Report – FY 2019 Operating and Capital Budgets (Page 19), please find an enclosed copy of the corrected 2018 Out-of-Home Placement and Family Preservation Resource Plan (The Report). The Report fulfills the requirement, pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, Human Services Article, §8-703(e), to produce annually a State Resource Plan "in order to enhance access to services provided by residential child care programs" and the Joint Chairmen's Report requesting an evaluation of "Maryland's family preservation programs in stemming the flow of children from their homes."

As you know, this report is compiled by the Governor's Office for Children, which recently became a division within the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention. The data in the report is received by the state's child-serving agencies. This past July, our Office was made aware of incorrect data that was included in the 2018 report. Following an internal comprehensive review, the appropriate edits were made in response to any identified errors. The following errors were identified:

- On page 14, the rate cited does not correspond to the rate identified on table 7
- On table 6, Baltimore City and Baltimore County data is transposed
- On table 7, Baltimore City and Baltimore County data is transposed
- On table 49, a copy and paste error resulted in totals being incorrect and the 1/31/18 Psychiatric Hospitalization number was incorrect.
- On table 64, a copy and paste error resulted in county specific totals being off. The grand total is correct.

Additionally, the following errors were identified in Appendix A:

- Family Home, Treatment Foster Care
  - Grand total does not equal county totals.
- Family Home, Adoptive
  - Baltimore City and Baltimore County numbers are transposed
- Community, Independent Living
  - Grand total does not equal county totals. Some county totals are also incorrect.
- Psychiatric Hospitalization
  - Grand total does not equal county totals. Some county totals are also incorrect.
- Non-Community, Substance Use and Addiction Programs
  - Grand total does not equal county totals. Some county totals are also incorrect.

While the data errors identified do not affect Statewide trends or funding, they did indicate the need for a corrected report to be issued. Moving forward, the Office is implementing the following guidelines and procedures to ensure data and report integrity:

- Ensure data is submitted to the Office from the child-serving state agencies in the same order and/or manner it was requested.
- The Office's Chief of Research and Analysis is working to create a data plan to include a web-based data form for uniform reporting that allows for real time data analysis. This will be developed over the next several months and ready for launch in time for next year's report.
- Encourage state agencies to utilize an internal sign off process so that data submitted has been properly vetted.
- Encourage state agencies to agree to provide complete data by the deadline to avoid updating numbers as the report works through the sign off process.
- When internal data errors are identified, provide a Departmental response that acknowledges the correct data with an explanation on how the error occurred.

We are confident that by taking the additional steps above, we can help eliminate many of the issues that have historically occurred with this report.

Should you have any questions relating to the information provided in this report, please feel free to contact me at 410-697-9338.

Sincerely,



V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.  
Executive Director