



State of Maryland Executive Department

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor

Boyd Rutherford
Lieutenant Governor

Arlene Lee
Executive Director

**Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Hearing Testimony
Governor's Office for Children (GOC)
Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund (CCIF)**

Arlene Lee, Executive Director of GOC and Chair of the Children's Cabinet

House Appropriations Committee
Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chair
February 20, 2015

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Honorable Edward Kasemeyer, Chair
March 3, 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to appear and testify before your Committee as you review the proposed budget for the Governor's Office for Children and the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund.

I look forward to meeting with each of you in the upcoming weeks to gain your insights and perspectives as we take inventory of the data and research and chart a new strategic trajectory for GOC and the Children's Cabinet.

I would also like to thank our Department of Legislative Services Analyst, Richard Harris, for his thoughtful analysis.

DLS Recommendations

Adopt committee narrative to request an out-of-home placement report.

GOC concurs with this recommendation.

GOC should comment on continuing to reduce out-of-home placements and when the declines may level-off.

The decline in out-of-home placements is the result of successful initiatives within child-placing agencies and the development of community-based services. The environment of child welfare and juvenile services is complex and any projections of future placements would be unreliable at best.

GOC should comment on increasing local support to the LMBs and the feasibility in assisting them in receiving private, nonprofit, and federal funds.

GOC will continue to provide technical assistance and training to Local Management Boards. The Governor's Grants Office is also an excellent resource to help LMBs find, win and manage grants from the federal, State and foundation sectors. In addition, GOC continues to support peer learning and full engagement of LMB Board Members, who include local representatives of the community and State agencies, as the best avenues for the innovative, collaborative, resourceful and effective delivery of child services.