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Governor's Office for Children

Larry Hogan, Governor

Boyd R. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Jaclin Warner Wiggins, Acting Executive Director

**Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Hearing Testimony
Governor's Office for Children
Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund**

**Jaclin Warner Wiggins, Acting Executive Director
Governor's Office for Children**

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Honorable Edward Kasemeyer, Chair
February 13, 2018

House Appropriations Committee
Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chair
February 16, 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to 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 would like to thank our Department of Legislative Services Analyst, Anne Wagner, for her thorough analysis.

Department of Legislative Services Issues

1) GOC should comment on why the report on out-of-home and out-of-State placements was not submitted.

Staff changes at the Office caused a delay in the preparation of the report. In addition, during final review, a possible data error was identified that caused a further delay and necessitated an additional review. The data now has been validated, and the report was recently issued.

2) GOC should provide an update on enrollment numbers [for the Governor's Young Readers Program] and future plans for the program, including any efforts to expand to jurisdictions outside of Baltimore City.

As of January 2018, current enrollment in the Governor's Young Reader's program is 6,719, with an average monthly growth rate of 5.0% since July 2017. The Program continues to be a priority for Governor Hogan, and he has dedicated

Governor's Office for Children
100 Community Place * Crownsville, MD 21032
410-697-9235
Info.goc@maryland.gov
www.goc.maryland.gov

funding to the program through the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund. Although no plans have been finalized, we intend to explore incremental program expansion based on the success we have seen in Baltimore City.

- 3) GOC should explain why the \$1.98 million [for Local Care Team coordinators] from expected MOUs was not included in the fiscal 2019 allowance as reimbursable funds. GOC should also comment on when it expects to receive the \$990,000 for half-year awards in fiscal 2018.**

The Memorandum of Understanding between the involved agencies was executed late in the calendar year, after the Office had submitted its initial budget plan. The Office is currently working with the Governor's Office and the Department of Budget and Management to address this budgetary issue.

- 4) GOC should explain why competitive funding from fiscal 2018 was allocated as base funding in fiscal 2019. GOC should also comment on whether it re-evaluates the allocation of these competitive funds after the first year.**

The FY18 competitive funding was new funding for eligible Local Management Boards to address one or more of the Governor's Strategic Goals:

- Improve Outcomes for Disconnected/Opportunity Youth
- Reduce the Impact of Incarceration on Children, Families, and Communities
- Reduce Childhood Hunger
- Reduce Youth Homelessness

The funds were included in the FY19 base funding to allow the Boards to fully implement their programs and strategies and adequately evaluate outcomes. Future funding will be based on program outcomes and performance as reported by the Boards.

- 5) GOC should comment on any other source of funds for competitive grants and whether it plans to withdraw the NOFA.**

The Governor's allowance does not include funds for competitive grants, and the FY19 Notice of Competitive Funding Availability has been withdrawn.

- 6) Recommendation to adopt committee narrative to request an out-of-home placement report.**

The Office concurs with this recommendation.