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Governor's Office for Children

Larry Hogan, Governor

Boyd R. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Jaclin Warner Wiggins, Deputy Director

Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Hearing Testimony Governor's Office for Children Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund

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

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Honorable Nancy Kling, Chair
February 12, 2019

House Appropriations Committee
Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chair
February 15, 2019

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

(p. 4) GOC should comment on why the report on out-of-home and out-of-state placements was not submitted.

Completion of this report requires the compilation and calculation of data points from multiple State agencies. The process took longer than anticipated, and as of the week of January 21, we still were receiving updated and corrected data. We now are in the final stages of review and plan to submit the report within the next two weeks.

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(p. 9) GOC should discuss any changes that result from this move, including the office's organizational framework and chain of command, the Children's Cabinet membership and strategic goals, and the LMB grant management and monitoring process.

The Governor's Office for Children (GOC), which will continue to be called by the same name, is now a division under the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP). Glenn Fueston is the Executive Director of the GOCCP, and Jaclin Warner Wiggins, formerly the acting Executive Director of GOC, will report directly to him as the Deputy Director of GOC. Ms. Warner Wiggins will continue to chair the Children's Cabinet, and Cabinet membership will remain the same.

In terms of strategic goals, GOC will continue to focus on reducing the impact of incarceration on children, families, and communities; reducing the number of youth who are not working and not going to school; and reducing youth homelessness and childhood hunger. For the FY 2020 Notice of Funding Availability, three additional priority areas were identified by the Children's Cabinet: juvenile justice diversion, trauma-informed care and reducing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and reducing out-of-State placements.

Regarding Local Management Board grant management and monitoring, we envision that changes eventually may take place to allow for greater operational efficiency, but these changes will happen over time. We do not anticipate significant changes in FY20.

(p.9) GOC should discuss whether it plans to propose a departmental bill that would establish GOCCP as the fiscal agent of the fund or move the CCIF under GOCCP.

MSDE was selected as the fiscal agent for the Fund when responsibility for the residential child care rate setting process was transferred from the then Office of Children, Youth, and Families to MSDE. MSDE's role as fiscal agent is strictly technical. GOC handles all of the contracting, determines when and if payments should be made out of the fund (in accordance to the policies and procedures approved by the Children's Cabinet), and authorizes payments. MSDE handles the accounting and the technical work of ensuring that the payments get to the grantees/vendors. GOCCP does not have the technical ability in-house to take over this function. Therefore, there currently are no plans to propose moving the CCIF under GOCCP.

(p. 13) GOC should provide an update on any plans to expand the Governor's Young Readers Program or to partner with organizations in regions not currently receiving books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

The Program continues to be a priority for Governor Hogan, and although there currently are no plans to expand the program, we will continue to explore that possibility.

(p. 15) GOC should discuss all funding availability for the fiscal 2020 LMB grant award cycle and beyond.

As stated in the analysis, \$18.1 million is allocated in the Governor's Allowance for Local Management Board (LMB) administrative support and programming. An additional \$1.8 million is allocated to support expenditures associated with Local Care Team coordinators. Through the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, the LMBs will have access to the \$160 million in federal and State grants managed by that office.

(p.15) Due to recent changes to the CCIF grant award process, specifically the addition of three new priorities for LMB programs and strategies, the Department of Legislative Services recommends committee narrative requesting that GOC and GOCCP submit a report on funding allocations to LMBs.

GOC and GOCCP concur with this recommendation. However, we respectfully ask for a due date of January 15, 2020 to allow time to finalize contracts and receive from Local Management Boards information regarding funding from non-CCIF sources.

(p. 17) GOC should provide the fiscal 2018 and 2019 grant allocations for each of the programs that received fiscal 2018 competitive grants. GOC should also present outcome data and performance analysis for these programs.

Please see the attached Appendix. In cases where more than one outcome is listed, more than one vendor was performing the activities. Performance measures were not required for planning activities, which generally consist of capacity-building activities for the Local Management Board, including research on best practices, data analysis, and asset mapping.

(p. 18) GOC should describe the types of complaints commonly categorized as other and discuss some resolutions that resulted from the tips.

Of the 127 concerns received in 2018 that were categorized as other:

- 79 are related to special education: 36 of these are from parents of students with dyslexia who believe their children have not been properly identified and provided the research-based interventions necessary for their success
- 15 deal with retaliation towards whistleblowers and advocates
- 7 concern local school systems not enforcing attendance policies or allowing students with excessive absences to earn credits and/or Maryland High School Diplomas

OEA has collaborated with school safety offices and other school system staff to facilitate resolutions to school safety concerns to which parents had not received responses.

After receiving multiple transportation complaints from parents and staff members in one school system, OEA met with several Board of Education members to discuss the concerns and encouraged them to add transportation as an agenda item for their next Board of Education meeting. OEA then advised the parents and staff members how to sign up to speak and have their voices heard. OEA also provided the Board members and school system administration with serious concerns raised by staff members while maintaining their anonymity.

After receiving complaints about mold in a school, OEA communicated with a Superintendent's Office, Building Services Director and Board of Education members until parents and teachers were informed about the situation and plan of action; environmental testing was conducted; remediation was carried out; systemic renovation projects to rectify the underlying issues commenced; and clearance testing showed that the learning environment was safe for students and staff.

(p. 18) GOC should comment on the planned activities for the Office of Education Accountability in fiscal 2020.

In Fiscal Year 2020, the Office of Education Accountability will continue to:

- Provide outreach to public school stakeholders by receiving, prioritizing and categorizing contacts made through the electronic tipline, email, phone and mail; as well as receiving and tracking allegations of applicable whistleblower protections for individuals who raise concerns about public school systems
- Resolve Concerns by consulting public school officials, Board of Education members, state agencies, departments and resources, as appropriate; performing research and requesting information while maintaining confidentiality; and referring possible violations of criminal law to the State's Attorneys with jurisdiction to prosecute them
- Serve as a clearinghouse for concerns regarding public school safety, grading, graduation requirements, assessments, educational facilities, procurement, and budgets
- Identify systemic concerns related to fraud, abuse, waste, and unethical conduct within Maryland's public school systems
- Provide the Maryland State Board of Education and local Boards of Education with recommendations, solutions, and strategies for improving Maryland's public school systems and communication between schools and parents
- Report on goals and priorities indicated by a periodic assessment of existing and emerging issues affecting Maryland's public school systems
- Offer recommendations for legislation to enhance the integrity and accountability in Maryland's public school systems
- Serve as a liaison to the Executive Branch by facilitating responses by State units subject to the supervision and direction of the Governor to concerns about public school systems

Additionally, we will create resources to assist stakeholders with identifying and contacting their Board of Education representatives; finding applicable state laws and regulations; understanding school funding processes and deciphering education lingo and abbreviations.

(p. 19) Recommendation to submit a report on out-of-home placements.

GOC and GOCCP concur with this recommendation. However, we respectfully ask for a due date of March 1, 2020 to allow adequate time to collect and organize the data included in the report.

| LMB | FY18 Total | FY18 Competitive Program/Strategy | FY18 Award By Project | FY19 Award By Project** | FY18 Performance*** |
|----------------|-------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Anne Arundel | \$126,500 | Community of Hope Planning & Associated Strategies | \$115,000 | \$100,000 | 88% of participants demonstrated an increase in school attendance as indicated by a comparison of first quarter report card and most recent report card (unduplicated) |
| | | | | | 100% of participants self-reported an increase in the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables each day based on pre- and post-assessment |
| | | Board Support | \$11,500 | * | |
| Baltimore City | \$442,124 | Opportunity Youth-Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Strategy | \$442,124 | \$605,544 | 17 youth were housed last year. As of 1/31/19, five (5) youth have exited rapid rehousing supports. Outcome data for these youth will be available starting 3/31/19 (3 months post-exit per program design) |
| Baltimore | \$294,953 | Multisystemic Therapy - Emerging Adult | \$202,953 | \$333,809 | Clients began receiving services the last week of January, 2018. Because clients typically receive services for 6-12 months, there is no outcome data available for FY18. |
| | | Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Assessment Project | \$62,000 | \$62,000 | |
| | | Turning Pages | \$30,000 | \$30,000 | 95% of families reported stronger family bonds |
| Calvert | \$107,645 | Home Visiting Hybrid for High Risk Moms | \$102,520 | \$91,565 | 96% of mothers delivered babies free from drug withdrawal |
| | | | | | 100% of pregnant or new moms (disconnected youth 16-24) were linked to education or workforce program |
| | | | | | 100% of mothers demonstrated an increase in positive parenting behaviors |
| | | Board Support | \$5,125 | * | |
| Cecil | \$149,564 | Legacy Program (for Disconnected Youth) | \$110,053 | \$161,681 | 89% of students demonstrated improvement in transition skills (e.g. goal setting, communications, stress management, decision making and risk, managing time and money, and building relationships) based on Life Skills pre- and post-tests. |
| | | Collective Impact Planning | \$30,000 | \$81,692 | |
| | | Board Support | \$9,511 | * | |
| Harford | \$88,000 | Planning Grant for Childhood Hunger and Youth Homelessness | \$13,000 | ^ | |
| | | Reducing Childhood Hunger | \$75,000 | \$78,000 | 100% of clients reported they learned at least one process through which they can improve their family's consumption of nutrient-rich food |
| Montgomery | \$439,468 | Re-engagement Center | \$439,468 | \$499,572 | 53% of youth were re-engaged/placed with education or career pathways |
| Talbot | \$109,775 | Support and Connect | \$33,796 | # | 82% of unduplicated families reported they were able to successfully connect to at least one resource as a result of assistance from the Resource Navigator |
| | | Reengagement Coordinator | \$26,000 | \$40,400 | 100% of unduplicated program youth were enrolled in school or other alternative education program and/or working, part or full time |
| | | Career Pathways | \$40,000 | \$25,000 | 100% of unduplicated Disconnected Youth placed in Employment or Education |
| | | Board Support | \$9,979 | * | |
| Worcester | \$241,971 | WE3 (Worcester Education, Employment, and Empowerment) | \$150,000 | \$150,000 | 50% of youth retained employment or educational program for at least 90 days |
| | | Building Bridges | \$91,971 | \$165,971 | 78% of youth were engaged for at least six months in programs or activities that promote resilience |
| | \$2,000,000 | | \$ 2,000,000 | \$2,425,234 | |

** Amounts for FY19 do not always equal the FY18 award due to the LMB reallocating funding.

* Competitive Board Support funds that were awarded in FY18 were not separated from other Board Support funds.

^ Funds awarded as a planning grant in FY18 were allocated to other programs in FY19.

For FY19, the functions of this program continued as part of the Mentoring and Support program, the total budget of which is \$72,856.

***Performance measures not required for planning activities. Board support performance is not disaggregated by strategy - but is reported for the LMB as a whole.