

the child's relatives, provided the placement has legal status, or if neither measure is in the best interests of the child, to encourage efforts at adoption of the child;

(2) to encourage all possible efforts for permanent foster care or kinship care or guardianship for minor children for whom return to a parent or adoption is not feasible; and

(3) to report to the juvenile court on the status of efforts to secure permanent homes for minor children.]

(1) AS TO MINOR CHILDREN WHO RESIDE IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF A LOCAL DEPARTMENT, TO CONDUCT CASE REVIEWS AND INDIVIDUAL CHILD ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THOSE CASE REVIEWS UNDER THE PROTOCOLS ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE BOARD;

(2) IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER LOCAL BOARDS, IF ANY, IN THE COUNTY, TO MAKE:

~~(I) FINDINGS ABOUT HOW WELL THE OUT-OF-HOME CARE SYSTEM DISCHARGES ITS RESPONSIBILITIES; AND~~

~~(II) RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING HOW THE OUT-OF-HOME CARE SYSTEM MAY BE IMPROVED;~~

(3) TO COORDINATE ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS UNDER ITEM (2) OF THIS SECTION WITH A LOCAL CITIZENS REVIEW PANEL SERVING THE COUNTY;

(4) TO MEET WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT AND THE JUDGE IN CHARGE OF THE JUVENILE COURT IN THE COUNTY TO DISCUSS THE BOARD'S FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS; AND

(5) TO ASSIST THE STATE BOARD IN HOLDING COMMUNITY FORUMS AS REQUIRED IN § 5-539.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

5-545.

(a) (1) Each local board shall review children in out-of-home [placement] CARE in accordance with [local plans approved] THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED by the State Board and the Secretary of Human Resources.