

## **Agency Summary: Washington County DSS**

**Region:** Western

**Class Size:**

**Director:** Jennifer Hensley

**Early Prevention Contact Person:** Tom Casteel (tommy.casteel@dss.virginia.gov)

### **Description of Early Prevention Services (prior to a current, valid CPS report)**

Washington County Department of Social Services provides a system of services to high risk groups and individual families. Washington County utilizes volunteers to provide some of its prevention services. They also use Family Partnership meetings (FPMs) in early prevention. The staff facilitates alternate living arrangements with relatives or non-relatives for a child at risk of removal and entering foster care (Foster Care Diversion). They also directly provide services to any of the 'diversion families' and/or birth families involved after they have facilitated an informal out of home alternative living arrangement

Washington County Department of Social Services does not have specific staff devoted primarily to prevention. Nevertheless, they provide early prevention services to high risk groups and individual families.

### **Specific information about Washington County Department of Social Services for each type of Early Prevention Services provided**

#### **1. Universal Early Prevention Services (Public Education and Awareness to the General Public)**

None

#### **2. Early Prevention Services to High Risk Groups**

- High Risk Groups Targeted:
  - Pregnant women
- Services Provided to High Risk Groups:
  - Parent education and child development materials to targeted groups
  - Information on available services distributed to targeted groups, not just to the public
  - Parent education for high risk groups (e.g., financial, health, child development, working with school systems, behavior management, family relationships.)
  - Parent training for high risk groups
  - Financial assistance
  - Translator services
  - Parent Training for high risk groups
- Funding for Services to High Risk Groups:
  - CSA funds

- Safe and Stable Families (budget line item 866/title IVB Subpart 2)
- Budget line item 829-Family Preservation (SSGB)
- 100% local funds
- United Way
- Foundations and corporations
- Staff that Provide Early Prevention to High Risk Groups:
  - Contract staff
  - Volunteers
- Volunteers used for Early Prevention for High Risk Groups:
  - Direct and supportive services

### **3. Early Prevention Services to Individual Families**

- Early Prevention Services Provided to Individual Families:
  - Case management/coordination
  - Information and referral
  - LDSS funded respite care
  - Services provided to children to increase protective factors
  - Finding relatives and other individuals to enhance parent support
  - Advocacy on behalf of the family within the community to secure services and support
  - Financial assistance to individual families used for prevention
  - LDSS funded child care
  - Translator services
- Funding for Services to Individual Families:
  - Grant funding
  - CSA funds
  - Safe and Stable Families (budget line item 866/title IVB Subpart 2)
  - Budget line item 829-Family Preservation (SSGB)
  - 100% local only funds
  - Adoption Assistance
  - United Way
  - Foundations and corporations
- Staff that Provide Early Prevention Services to Individual Families:
  - Intake worker
  - Homemaker/Parent aide
- Volunteers used:
  - Direct and supportive services

### **4. Community based resources to which the agency refers**

- Home visiting providers
- Part C Early Childhood Intervention
- Early Head Start (birth to 3 years old)

- Head Start (3 to 5 years old)
- Parent Support group providers
  - Parent support groups for at-risk families
  - School based support groups for the general public and at-risk parents
  - Mental health based support groups for the general public and at-risk parents
- Workshops and trainings provided by community groups to specific targeted groups, including:
  - General public
  - Families where child abuse and neglect have occurred
  - Families where domestic violence is present or suspected
  - Families where children have been removed
  - Foster families
- Intensive in-home service providers
- Public health providers
- Private health providers
- Public mental health providers (e.g., community service boards)
- Private mental health providers
- Respite care providers
- Schools
- Churches
- Mentoring program providers
- Domestic violence prevention providers
- Child Advocacy Centers