Family First Prevention Services Act
And Implementation Updates

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Division of Family Services
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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Three Tiers of Family First

- Prevention Services
- Foster Care Changes
- Other Programmatic Changes

Strategic Priorities:
- Prevention Services
- Family-Based Placements
- Congregate Care
- Evidence-Based Services
- Resource and Financial Accountability
The **vision** for Family First is to **keep children safe**, **strengthen families** and **reduce the need for foster care** whenever it is safe to do so.
Prevention Services
Who is Eligible for Title IV-E Prevention Services Funds?
❖ A child (and their caregivers) who is a candidate for foster care who can remain safely at home or in a kinship home and is identified as being at imminent risk of entering foster care

❖ A child in foster care who is pregnant or parenting

❖ A child whose adoption or guardianship arrangement is a risk of a disruption/dissolution and includes post-reunification services
“Imminent risk” means a child and family’s circumstances demand that a defined case plan is put into place within 30 days that identifies interventions, services and/or supports and absent these interventions, services and/or supports, foster care placement is the planned arrangement for the child.
The Candidate for Foster Care must have a written prevention plan which includes the following:

- Identify the prevention strategy so that the child can remain in the home, live temporarily with a kin caregiver until reunification can be safely achieved, or live permanently with a kin caregiver;
- List of services or programs to be provided to or on behalf of the child to ensure success of the prevention strategy.
What services are reimbursable?
IV-E Reimbursable Services

Mental Health Prevention Treatment Services

Substance Abuse Prevention Treatment Services

In-Home Parent Skill-Based Programs

Trauma Informed
Well Supported

- Improved outcome must be based on the results of at least 2 studies that used a random control or quasi-experimental trial
- Carried out in a usual care or practice setting
- Sustained effect for at least one year beyond the end of treatment

Supported

- Improved outcome must be based on the results of at least one study that used a random control or quasi-experimental trial
- Carried out in a usual care or practice setting
- Sustained effect for at least 6 months beyond the end of treatment

Promising

- Improved outcomes must be based on at least one study that use some form of control group
Initial List of Services Under Review

**Mental Health Prevention Treatment Services**
- Parent-Child Interaction Therapy
- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Multisystemic Therapy
- Functional Family Therapy

**Substance Abuse Prevention Treatment Services**
- Motivational Interviewing
- Multisystemic Therapy
- Families Facing the Future
- Methadone Maintenance Therapy

**In-Home Parent Skill-Based Programs**
- Nurse-Family Partnership
- Healthy Families America
- Parents as Teachers

**Kinship Navigator Programs**
- Children’s Home Inc. Kinship Interdisciplinary Navigation Technologically-Advanced Model (KIN-Tech)
- Children’s Home Society of New Jersey Kinship Navigator Model
Federal Prevention Services Clearinghouse

- Release of Clearinghouse Handbook of Standards and Procedures
  - April 2019

- May 2019
  - Release of Program and Service Ratings of the Initial 11 evidence-based services

- Release of the next list of evidence-based services to be reviewed
  - Late Spring-Summer 2019
Foster Care Program Changes
We believe that children do best when raised in families.

After a two-week grace period, IV-E payments will be limited to the following placement types:

- Family and kinship foster homes
- Placements for pregnant or parenting youth
- Supervised independent living for youth 18+
- Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP) for youth with treatment needs
- Specialized placements for victims of sex trafficking
- Family-based residential treatment facility for substance abuse *(beginning October 2018)*
Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)

- Accreditation
- Trauma Informed Treatment Model
- Facilitates Outreach to the Family
- Provides Family-Based Aftercare Support for at least 6 months
- Registered or Licensing Nursing and Clinical Staff

QRTP Model
QRTP Collaborations

QRTP Licensing

- DBHDS
- VDSS Licensing
- DMAS
- VDSS Family Services
- OCS
Reduce Congregate Care

QRTP Requirements

- 30-day Assessment
- 60-day Court Review
- 12-month review by Commissioner
Definitions: QRTP Process

• **Qualified Individual:** Licensed Mental Health Professional means a physician, licensed clinical psychologist, licensed professional counselor, licensed clinical social worker, licensed substance abuse treatment practitioner, licensed marriage and family therapist, certified psychiatric clinical nurse specialist, or licensed behavior analyst. As defined in 12VAC35-105-20.

• **QRTP Assessment Process:** Use of the mandatory Medicaid clinical assessment process (currently known as IACCT), with the possibility of an added Child Welfare module.
  • This will require extensive collaboration and planning with the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) to determine feasibility.
Implementation Updates
We know some of the pieces, 
But we’re still figuring out many of the pieces.
Public Law 115-123
DIVISION E—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES EXTENDERS TITLE VII—FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT

Virginia Department of Social Services
(IV-E Funding Entity)

Virginia Office of Children’s Services
(State Foster Care Funding Sources)

Three Branch Leadership Team
(Judicial, Executive and Legislative Branches of Government)

Three Branch Home Team

Finance
Prevention Services
Appropriate Foster Care Placements
Evidence-Based Services

A Collaborative Approach to Implementation:
The Three Branch Model
Core Team
Carl Ayers, Virginia Department of Social Services
Sandy Karlson, Court Improvement Program
Scott Reiner, Office of Children’s Services
The Honorable Monty Mason, Senator
The Honorable Chris Peace, Delegate
The Honorable Frank Somerville, Culpeper JDR Court
29 meetings

91 hours

102 Experts

= **9,282 hours of work** invested in the implementation of the Family First Act in Virginia

**June 2018 – February 2019**
Prevention Advisory Group

The “Local” Voice

Permanency Advisory Committee

CPS Advisory Group
Finance Workgroup
- Maintenance of Effort
- Budget Implications
- Budget Proposal for General Assembly

Evidence-Based Services Workgroup
- Survey for EBS in Virginia
- Collaboration with DMAS, DBHDS and DJJ
- Increased understanding of the Hexagon Tool

Prevention Services Workgroup
- Recommendations on defining key terms
- Continuum of Prevention Services
- Feedback for Development of Federal Clearinghouse

Appropriate Foster Care Placements Workgroup
- Recommendations for QRTP Assessment
- Feedback for Development of Federal Foster Home Model Licensing Standards
Moving Forward
Finance Workgroup
- Understand the financial costs of group home placements if not IV-E eligible
- Understand the financial costs of supporting the start up of evidence-based services
- Recommending a fiscal auditing tool and process

Evidence-Based Services Workgroup
- Analyze results of EBS Survey (service gaps)
- Perform CANS data analysis
- Provide recommendations for fidelity monitoring and CQI process
- Use of Hexagon Tool to assist in understanding where specific EBPs may fit in our system

Prevention Services Workgroup
- Maximize and leverage CSA and Family First Funds (as well as other child serving agencies) to meet the diverse and complex needs of families
- Develop a long term vision for the prevention services continuum
- Recommendations for Title IV-E Prevention Services Plan

Appropriate Foster Care Placements Workgroup
- Develop workflow recommendations for the judicial and Commissioner review requirements for a youth placed in a QRTP
- Develop strategies to increase foster homes with an emphasis on kinship homes
- Recommendation for key terms: Family and Permanency Team and After-Care Supports
To Do

• Consider establishing a local Three Branch Team
• Stay tuned to Fusion for critical updates
• Send representatives to child welfare advisory committees
• Maintain open communication with Three Branch VLSSE Representatives
Thank you!

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