

Agency Summary: Fairfax County DSS

Region: Northern

Class Size:

Director: Nannette M. Bowler

Early Prevention Contact Person: Ramona Simmons (ramona.simmons@fairfaxcounty.gov)

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

Fairfax County Department of Social Services provides a system of services to the general public, high risk groups, and individual families. Fairfax 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

Fairfax County Department of Social Services has a specific staff devoted primarily to prevention. These staff members provide public education and awareness activities on prevention to the general public and early prevention services to high risk groups and to individual families.

Specific information about Fairfax 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)

- Public Education and Awareness Services Provided:
 - Parent education and/or child development information and/or information on services available to the general public
 - Parent support groups open to anyone in the community
 - Parent education groups open to anyone in the community
 - Parent training open to anyone in the community and focused on building skills of parents
 - Public speaking at community events or to groups within the community
 - Information and/or materials to children to increase their safety
 - Community collaboration with organizations re: issues related to prevention
 - Attendance at Hugs and Kisses performances
 - Training to community based organizations/providers, (e.g. Boy Scouts, child care providers, school personnel)
- Funding Sources for Early Prevention Public Education and Awareness:
 - Staff time funded through multiple sources

- Staff that provide Early Prevention Public Awareness Activities:
 - Intake worker
 - Staff devoted primarily to prevention (Family Stabilization staff, etc.)
 - CPS investigative worker
 - CPS family assessment worker
 - CPS on-going services worker
 - Foster care worker
- Volunteers used: None
- Material printed in Spanish:
 - Due to budget cuts, not printing material. Have material from previous years which will be used until they run out

2. Early Prevention Services to High Risk Groups

- High Risk Groups Targeted:
 - Fathers
 - Non-English speaking parents
 - Parenting teens
 - African American families
 - Relative caregivers High risk neighborhoods
- 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 support groups for high-risk groups
 - 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
 - Drop in neighborhood centers in high risk neighborhoods
- Funding for Services to High Risk Groups:
 - Mostly local funds but revenue sources for staff are blended
- Staff the Provide Early Prevention to High Risk Groups:
 - Family stabilization or other staff devoted primarily to prevention
 - Selected staff from multiple programs serve as volunteers
- Volunteers used for Early Prevention for High Risk Groups:
 - Facilitate parent training classes.

3. Early Prevention Services to Individual Families

- Early Prevention Services Provided to Individual Families:
 - Case management/coordination
 - Information and referral
 - Transportation
 - Counseling by LDSS
 - LDSS funded home repair

- 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
- Mentoring
- Financial assistance to individual families used for prevention
- LDSS funded child care
- Domestic violence prevention programs
- Translator services
- Funding for Services to Individual Families:
 - Grant funding
 - CSA funds
 - Medicaid
 - Safe and Stable Families (budget line item 866/title IVB Subpart 2)
 - Adoption Assistance
 - Community resources (e.g., churches, Salvation Army, etc.)
 - Some local funds
- Staff that Provide Early Prevention Services to Individual Families:
 - Intake worker
 - Family stabilization or other staff devoted primarily to prevention
- Volunteers used:
 - Parent training
 - Mentoring

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 to at-risk families
 - Mental health based support groups for at-risk parents
- Workshops and trainings provided by community groups to specific targeted groups, including:
 - High-risk groups
 - Families where abuse and neglect has occurred
 - Foster families
 - Adoptive 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
- Domestic violence prevention providers
- Child Advocacy Centers
- Stop Child Abuse Now