

## Agency Summary: James City County DSS

**Region:** Eastern

**Class Size:**

**Director:** Diana Hutchens

**Early Prevention Contact Person:** Romona Vasser (romonar@james-city.va.us)

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

James City County Department of Social Services provides a system of services to the general public and individual families. James City 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

James City 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 individual families.

### **Specific information about James City 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
  - Public speaking at community events or to groups within the community
  - 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)
  - Child Abuse Prevention Month Activities
- **Funding Sources for Early Prevention Public Education and Awareness:**
- Staff that provide Early Prevention Public Awareness Activities:
  - Staff devoted primarily to prevention (Family Stabilization staff, etc.)
  - CPS investigative worker
  - CPS family assessment worker
  - CPS on-going services worker
  - Foster care worker

- Adoption worker
- Generic worker
- Social Work Assistants
- Volunteers used:
  - Serve as public speakers and as participants in the annual Child Abuse Prevention Vigil
- Material printed in Spanish: Yes

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

None

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

- Early Prevention Services Provided to Individual Families:
  - Case management/coordination
  - Information and referral
  - LDSS funded respite care
  - Transportation
  - Counseling by LDSS
  - 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
  - Translator services
  - Family Partnership Meetings
- Funding for Services to Individual Families:
  - CSA funds
  - Medicaid
  - 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
  - Community block grants
  - Foundations and corporations
- Staff that Provide Early Prevention Services to Individual Families:
  - Family stabilization or other staff devoted primarily to prevention
  - CPS investigative worker
  - CPS family assessment worker
  - CPS on-going services worker
  - Foster care worker
  - Adoption worker

- Generic worker
  - Benefit program worker (VIEW, TANF, etc.)
- Volunteers used:
  - BSW and MSW Student Interns are used to provide information and referral, some case management and transportation

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

- Part C Early Childhood Intervention
- Early Head Start (birth to 3 years old)
- Head Start (3 to 5 years old)
- Virginia Cooperative Extension Programs (including 4-H)
- Parent support group providers
  - School based support group for any parent
  - Mental health based support groups for any parent and high-risk families
- Workshops and trainings provided by community groups to specific targeted groups, including:
  - General public
  - High-risk families
  - Foster families
  - Adoptive families
- Intensive in-home service providers
- Public health providers
- Public mental health providers (e.g., community service boards)
- Private mental health providers
- Respite care providers
- Schools
- Churches
- Mentoring program providers
- Child Advocacy Centers