

Agency Summary: Albemarle County DSS

Region: Piedmont

Class Size:

Director: Kathy Ralston

Early Prevention Contact Person: Debbie Chlebnikow (dchlebnikow@albemarle.org)

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

Albemarle County Department of Social Services provides a system of services to the general public. Albemarle County utilizes volunteers to provide some of its prevention services. 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

Albemarle County Department of Social Services does not have specific staff devoted primarily to prevention in the universal and high risk realms. However, they do have staff primarily devoted to prevention for individual families. They also provide public education and awareness activities on prevention to the general public, early prevention services to high risk groups and individual families.

Specific information about Albemarle 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:
 - Public service announcements
 - 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)
 - Information and/or materials to children to increase their safety
 - Community collaboration with organizations re: issues related to prevention
 - Attend 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:
 - 100% Local only funds
- Staff that provide Early Prevention Public Awareness Activities:
 - Intake worker

- CPs investigative worker
- CPS family assessment worker
- Volunteers used: None
- Material printed in Spanish: Yes

2. Early Prevention Services to High Risk Groups

- High Risk Groups Targeted:
 - Fathers
 - Parents with disabilities
 - Parents with children with disabilities
 - Non-English speaking parents
 - Single parents
 - Low-income families
- 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.)
 - Public speaking for high risk groups
 - Financial assistance
 - Translator services
- Funding for Services to High Risk Groups:
 - 100% local funding
 - Staff the Provide Early Prevention to High Risk Groups:
 - Volunteers used for Early Prevention for High Risk Groups: None

3. Early Prevention Services to Individual Families

- Early Prevention Services Provided to Individual Families:
 - Information and referral
 - 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
 - Domestic violence prevention programs
- Funding for Services to Individual Families:
 - Grant Funding
 - CSA funds
 - Medicaid
 - Budget line item 829-Family Preservation (SSGB)
 - Community resources (e.g., churches, Salvation Army, etc.)
 - Foundations and Corporations

- Private donations
- Staff that Provide Early Prevention Services to Individual Families:
 - Intake worker
 - Family stabilization or other staff devoted primarily to prevention
 - CPS investigation worker
 - CPS family assessment worker
 - CPS on-going services worker
 - School based prevention workers
 - Family Support/Bright Stars
- Volunteers used: Yes
 - Student interns-case management

4. Community based resources to which the agency refers

- Healthy Families Providers
- Other home visiting providers
- Part C Early Childhood Intervention
- Head Start (3 to 5 years old)
- VA Cooperative Extension Programs (including 4-H)
- Parent Support group providers
 - Parent support groups for at-risk families
 - School based support groups for any parent and at-risk parents
 - Mental health based support groups for any parent and at-risk parents
 - Foster Parent Support Group
 - Children, Youth and Family Services
 - Strengthening Families-Skills Building
- Workshops and trainings provided by community groups to specific targeted groups, including
 - General public
 - High-risk families
 - Families where domestic violence is present or suspected
 - Families whose children have been removed
 - 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
- Mentoring program providers
- Domestic violence prevention providers

- Sexual Assault Centers
- Child Advocacy Centers
- Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN)