

Agency Summary: Amherst Department of Social Services

Region: Piedmont

Class Size:

Director: Glenn Sullivan

Early Prevention Contact Person: Barbara McPherson (barbara.mcpherson@dss.virginia.gov)

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

Amherst Department of Social Services provides a system of services to individual families. Amherst 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

Amherst Department of Social Services does not have specific staff devoted primarily to prevention. Nevertheless, they provide early prevention services to individual families.

Specific information about Amherst 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**
None
- 3. Early Prevention Services to Individual Families**
 - Early Prevention Services Provided to Individual Families:
 - Information and referral
 - Financial assistance to individual families used for prevention
 - Funding for Services to Individual Families:
 - CSA funds
 - Medicaid
 - Staff that Provide Early Prevention Services to Individual Families:
 - CPS on-going services worker
 - Foster care worker
 - Volunteers used: None
- 4. Community based resources to which the agency refers**

- Part C Early Childhood Intervention
- Parent support group providers
 - Parent support groups for the general public and at-risk families
- Workshops and trainings provided by community groups to specific targeted groups, including:
 - General public
 - 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
- Schools
- Mentoring program providers
- Domestic violence prevention providers