

## **Agency Summary: Bland County DSS**

**Region:** Western

**Class Size:**

**Director:** Kimberly D. Sobey

**Early Prevention Contact Person:** Kimberly Sobey (kimberly.sobey@dss.virginia.gov)

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

Bland County Department of Social Services provides a system of services to the general public and individual families. Bland does not utilize volunteers to provide prevention services. However, they 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

Bland County Department of Social Services does not have specific staff devoted primarily to prevention. Nevertheless, they provide public education and awareness activities on prevention to the general public and early prevention services to individual families.

### **Specific information about Bland 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
  - 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:
  - Generic worker's salary
- Staff that provide Early Prevention Public Awareness Activities:
  - Generic worker
- Volunteers used: None
- Material printed in Spanish: None

**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
  - Finding relatives and other individuals to enhance parent support
- Funding for Services to Individual Families:
  - Part of generic workers salary
- Staff that Provide Early Prevention Services to Individual Families:
  - Generic worker
- Volunteers used:

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

- Head Start (3 to 5 years old)
- Virginia Cooperative Extension Programs (including 4-H)
- Intensive in-home service providers
- Public mental health providers (e.g., community service boards)