

## **Agency Summary: Highland County DSS**

**Region:** Piedmont

**Class Size:**

**Director:** Sharon Sponaugle

**Early Prevention Contact Person:** Sarah Rexrode (sarah.rexrode@dss.virginia.gov)

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

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

Highland 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 Highland 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
  - 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:
  - 100% Local only funds
  - Community resources (e.g. churches, Salvation Army, etc.)
- 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
  - 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
  - Financial assistance to individual families used for prevention
- 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
  - Community resources (e.g., churches, Salvation Army, etc.)
  - Foundations and corporations
- Staff that Provide Early Prevention Services to Individual Families:
  - Generic worker
- Volunteers used:
  - Transportation
  - Mentoring
  - Community support

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

- Home visiting providers
- Head Start (3 to 5 years old)
- Virginia Cooperative Extension Programs (including 4-H)
- 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
- Mentoring program providers