

## **Agency Summary: Nottoway County DSS**

**Region:** Central

**Class Size:**

**Director:** Robert Reitmeier

**Early Prevention Contact Person:** Bernetta Watkins (betnetta.watkins@dss.virginia.gov)

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

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

Nottoway County Department of Social Services has a specific staff devoted primarily to prevention. This staff provides public education and awareness activities on prevention to the general public and early prevention services to individual families.

### **Specific information about Nottoway 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
  - 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:
  - Community block grants
  - Community resources (e.g. churches, Salvation Army, etc.)
- Staff that provide Early Prevention Public Awareness Activities:

- Intake worker
- Staff devoted primarily to prevention (Family Stabilization staff, etc.)
- CPS investigative worker
- CPS family assessment worker
- CPS on-going services worker
- Foster care worker
- 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
  - 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
- Funding for Services to Individual Families:
  - CSA funds
  - Medicaid
  - Budget line item 829-Family Preservation (SSGB)
- Staff that Provide Early Prevention Services to Individual Families:
  - Intake worker
  - CPS investigative worker
  - CPS on-going services worker
  - Foster care worker
  - Generic worker
- Volunteers used: None

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

- Healthy Families Providers
- Part C Early Childhood Intervention
- Head Start (3 to 5 years old)
- Virginia Cooperative Extension Programs (including 4-H)

- Workshops and trainings provided by community groups for specific targeted groups, including:
  - General public
  - High-risk families
  - Families where abuse and neglect have occurred
  - Families whose children have been removed
  - Foster families
  - Adoptive families
- Intensive in-home service providers
- Public mental health providers (e.g., community service boards)
- Private mental health providers
- Schools
- Mentoring program providers