

## **Agency Summary: Stafford County DSS**

**Region:** Northern

**Class Size:**

**Director:** Michael J. Muse

**Early Prevention Contact Person:** Karen Stidsen (aren.stidsen@dss.virginia.gov)

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

Stafford County Department of Social Services provides a system of services to the general public, high risk groups, and individual families. Stafford County 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

Stafford County Department of Social Services has a specific staff devoted primarily to prevention. These staff members 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 Stafford 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
  - Parent education groups open to anyone in the community
  - Parent training open to anyone in the community and focused on building skills of parents
  - 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:

- Safe and Stable Families (budget line item 866/Title IVB Subpart 2)
- Staff that provide Early Prevention Public Awareness Activities:
  - Staff devoted primarily to prevention (Family Stabilization staff, etc.)
  - CPS investigative worker
  - CPS on-going services worker
  - Foster care worker
  - Foster care supervisor
  - CPS supervisor
- Volunteers used: None
- Material printed in Spanish: None

## **2. Early Prevention Services to High Risk Groups**

- High Risk Groups Targeted:
  - Fathers
  - Parents with disabilities
  - Parents with children with disabilities
  - Incarcerated parents
  - Parenting teens
  - Single parents
  - Low-income families
  - Parents with children known to the courts
- 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 support groups for high-risk groups
  - Parent education for high risk groups (e.g., financial, health, child development, working with school systems, behavior management, family relationships.)
  - Parent training for high risk groups
  - Public speaking for high risk groups
  - Financial assistance
  - Translator services
- Funding for Services to High Risk Groups:
  - Safe and Stable Families (budget line item 866/title IVB Subpart 2)
  - Budget line item 829-Family Preservation (SSGB)
- Staff that Provide Early Prevention to High Risk Groups:
  - Family stabilization or other staff devoted primarily to prevention
  - Foster care worker
  - Adoption worker
- 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
  - 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:
  - Safe and Stable Families (budget line item 866/title IVB Subpart 2)
  - Adoption Assistance
  - United Way
  - Community resources (e.g., churches, Salvation Army, etc.)
  - Foster Care Prevention
- Staff that Provide Early Prevention Services to Individual Families:
  - Family stabilization or other staff devoted primarily to prevention
  - CPS investigative worker
  - CPS family assessment worker
  - CPS on-going services worker
  - Foster care worker
  - Adoption worker
- Volunteers used: None

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

- Healthy Families Providers
- Home visiting providers
- Early Head Start (birth to 3 years old)
- Head Start (3 to 5 years old)
- Virginia Cooperative Extension Programs (including 4-H)
- Parent Support group providers
  - Circle of Parents
- Workshops and trainings provided by community groups for specific targeted groups, including:
  - General public
  - High-risk families
  - Families where abuse and neglect has occurred
  - Families where domestic violence is present or suspected
  - 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

- Churches
- Mentoring program providers
- Domestic violence prevention providers
- Sexual Assault Centers
- Child Advocacy Centers