VIRGINIA’S FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY
for CHILD WELFARE

Purpose of Statewide Implementation of Virginia’s Family Engagement Model (VA-FEM)

- To establish a consistent method of deliberately and meaningfully involving families in decision-making
- To empower families to take an active role in decision-making
- To create a process for local departments to partner with families to make decisions for themselves
- To establish criteria for structured sharing and family involvement

COLLABORATION & INTEGRATION
Family Engagement Work group (FEW) and Family Engagement Advisory Committee (FEAC)
- State and local reps provide ongoing consultation on the development and assist with the identification of resources to support family partnership

CSA
- OCS will have a workgroup to make recommendations about changes or clarifications needed to increase the utilization of family engagement practices by FAPT

INFORMATION SHARING
Online Overview
- Available through the Knowledge Center
  - September 2009

Speakers Bureau
- Presentations to stakeholders including LDSS staff and other child serving partners upon request

Children’s Services Transformation Website
vafamilyconnections.com

LOCAL READINESS ASSESSMENT ANALYSIS
Evaluation
- Disseminate readiness assessment tool to LDSS
  - September-October 2009

Review & Analysis
- November 2009

Follow-Up
- Training phase identification for LDSS
  - December 2009

DFS GUIDANCE & OASIS RELEASE
Review Existing Child Welfare Guidance
- July – Sept 2009

Develop & Finalize Family Engagement Guidance
- Sept – Nov 2009

Guidance Broadcast and Training Phase Identification
- December 2009

OASIS Documentation Available for Family Engagement
- November 2009

TRAINING and SUPPORT
Phase One
- State & Local Staff
  - Fall 2009

Phase Two
- Local staff
  - February 2010

Phase Three
- Local staff
  - June 2010

Phase Four
- Local staff
  - September 2010

TA to Locals
Regional Specialists and OCS will provide technical assistance