



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Comprehensive Services Act Becomes the Children's Services Act on July 1

RICHMOND, Va. (June 30, 2015) – In 1993, the General Assembly enacted the Comprehensive Services Act for At-Risk Youth and Families (CSA). This law established a single state pool of funds to purchase services for Virginia's at-risk youth and their families and a process for doing so. Local interagency teams plan and coordinate services to youth and their families. The mission of the CSA is to create a collaborative system of services and funding that is child-centered, family-focused and community-based when addressing the strengths and needs of troubled and at-risk youth and their families in the Commonwealth.

The 2015 General Assembly passed legislation, signed by Governor McAuliffe, to change the name of the Comprehensive Services Act as well as the state office that provides administrative support and oversight of the Act. Effective July 1, 2015, the Comprehensive Services Act for At-Risk Youth and Families will become the Children's Services Act. Likewise, the Office of Comprehensive Services (OCS) will become the Office of Children's Services. This mission of CSA remains as true today as it did 22 years ago through state and local collaboration and public - private partnerships. CSA core functions and values remain unchanged. Dr. Bill Hazel, Secretary of Health and Human Resources indicates that "this name change will clarify what types of services this agency provides and will help families find the services that they need. The Office of Children's Services continues to recognize the importance of serving children and families."

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) www.dss.virginia.gov Home Office is located in Richmond and administers social services programs, consistent with Federal and State law and policy of the State Board of Social Services through 120 local departments of social services (LDSS) throughout the state. VDSS mission is "People helping people triumph over poverty, abuse and neglect to shape strong futures for themselves, their families and communities."

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