

VIRGINIA CHILDREN'S SERVICES PRACTICE MODEL
Comparison to
Virginia's Quality Service Review Protocol

We believe that all children and youth deserve a safe environment.	Quality Service Review Protocol Elements
1. Child safety comes first. Every child has the right to live in a safe home. Ensuring safety requires a collaborative effort among family, agency staff, and the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child & Family Status Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1a - Exposure of Threats to Harm ○ 1b - Risk to Self/Others ▪ Practice Performance Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1a - Engagement ○ 1b - Role and Voice ○ 2 - Teaming ○ 4 - Assessment and Understanding ○ 5 - Long-Term View for Safe Case Closure ○ 6 - Planning for Safe Case Closure
2. We value family strengths, perspectives, goals, and plans as central to creating and maintaining child safety.	
3. In our response to safety and risk concerns, we reach factually supported conclusions in a timely and thorough manner.	
4. Participation of parents, children, extended family, and community stakeholders is a necessary component in assuring safety.	
5. We separate caregivers who present a threat to safety from children in need of protection. When court action is necessary to make a child safe, we use our authority with respect and sensitivity	
We believe in family, child, and youth-driven practice.	Quality Service Review Protocol Elements
1. Children and families have the right to have a say in what happens to them and will be treated with dignity and respect. The voices of children, youth and parents are heard, valued, and considered in the decision-making regarding safety, permanency, and well-being.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Practice Performance Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1a - Engagement ○ 1b - Role and Voice ○ 2 - Teaming ○ 3 Cultural Awareness and Responsiveness ○ 10 - Maintaining Quality Connections
2. Each individual's right to self-determination will be respected.	
3. We recognize that family members are the experts about their own families. It is our responsibility to understand children, youth, and families within the context of their own family rules, traditions, history, and culture.	
4. Children have a right to connections with their biological family and other caring adults with whom they have developed emotional ties.	
5. We engage families in a deliberate manner. Through collaboration with families, we develop and implement creative, individual solutions that build on their strengths to meet their needs. Engagement is the primary door through which we help families make positive changes.	
We believe that children do best when raised in families.	Quality Service Review Protocol Elements
1. Children should be reared by their families whenever possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child & Family Status Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2 - Stability ○ 3 - Living Arrangement ○ 4 - Permanency ○ 8 - Pathway to Independence ○ 9 - Parent and Caretaker Functioning
2. Keeping children and families together and preventing entry into foster care is the best possible use of resources.	
3. Children are best served when we provide their families with the supports necessary to raise them safely. Services to preserve the family unit and prevent family disruption are family-focused, child- centered, and community-based.	

<p>4. People can and do make positive changes. The past does not necessarily limit their potential.</p>	<p>▪ Practice Performance Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1a - Engagement ○ 1b- Role and Voice ○ 2 - Teaming ○ 3 - Cultural Awareness and Responsiveness ○ 4 - Assessment and Understanding ○ 7 - Planning for Transitions and Life Adjustments ○ 8 - Resource Availability ○ 10 - Maintaining Quality Connections
<p>5. When children cannot live safely with their families, the first consideration for placement will be with kinship connections capable of providing a safe and nurturing home. We value the resources within extended family networks and are committed to seeking them out.</p>	
<p>6. When placement outside the extended family is necessary, we encourage healthy social development by supporting placements that promote family, sibling and community connections.</p>	
<p>7. Children’s needs are best served in a family that is committed to the child.</p>	
<p>8. Placements in non-family settings should be temporary, should focus on individual children’s needs, and should prepare them for return to family and community life.</p>	
<p>We believe that all children and youth need and deserve a permanent family.</p>	
<p>1. Lifelong family connections are crucial for children and adults. It is our responsibility to promote and preserve kinship, sibling and community connections for each child. We value past, present, and future relationships that consider the child’s hopes and wishes.</p>	<p>▪ Child & Family Status Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2- Stability ○ 3 - Living Arrangement ○ 4 – Permanency <p>▪ Practice Performance Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1a - Engagement ○ 4 - Assessment and Understanding ○ 5 - Long-Term View for Safe Case Closure ○ 6 - Planning for Safe Case Closure ○ 7 - Planning for Transitions and Life Adjustments ○ 11 - Tracking and Adjustment
<p>2. Permanency is best achieved through a legal relationship such as parental custody, adoption, kinship care or guardianship. Placement stability is not permanency.</p>	
<p>3. All planning for children is focused on the goal of preserving their family, reunifying their family, or achieving permanency with another family.</p>	
<p>4. Permanency planning for children begins at the first contact with the children’s services system. We proceed with a sense of urgency until permanency is achieved. We support families after permanency to ensure that family connections are stable.</p>	
<p>We believe in partnering with others to support child and family success in a system that is family- focused, child-centered, and community-based.</p>	
<p>1. We are committed to aligning our system with what is best for children, youth, and families.</p>	<p>▪ Child & Family Status Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 5 - Physical Health ○ 6 - Emotional Well-Being ○ 7a or 7b - Early Learning Status/Academic Status
<p>2. Our organization, consistent with this <i>practice model</i>, is focused on providing supports to families in raising children. The <i>practice model</i> should guide all of the work that we do. In addition to practice alignment, infrastructure and resources must be aligned with the model. For example, training, policy, technical assistance and other supports must reinforce the model.</p>	

<p>3. We take responsibility for open communication, accountability, and transparency at all levels of our system. We share success stories and best practices to promote learning within and across communities and share challenges and lessons learned to make better decisions.</p>	<p>▪ Practice Performance Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1a - Engagement ○ 2 - Teaming ○ 8 - Resource Availability ○ 9 – Intervention Adequacy ○ 11 - Tracking and Adjusting
<p>4. Community support is crucial for families in raising children.</p>	
<p>5. We are committed to working across agencies, stakeholder groups, and communities to improve outcomes for the children, youth, and families we serve.</p>	
<p>6. Services to families must be delivered as part of a total system with cooperation, coordination, and collaboration occurring among families, service providers and community stakeholders.</p>	
<p>7. All stakeholders share responsibility for child safety, permanence and well-being. As a system, we will identify and engage stakeholders and community members around our <i>practice model</i> to improve services and supports.</p>	
<p>8. We will communicate clearly and often with stakeholders and community members. Our communication must reinforce the belief that children and youth belong in family and community settings and that system resources must be allocated in a manner consistent with that belief.</p>	
<p>We believe that how we do our work is as important as the work we do.</p>	
<p>1. The people who do this work are our most important asset. Children and families deserve trained, skillful professionals to engage and assist them. We strive to build a workforce that works in alignment with our <i>practice model</i>. They are supported in this effort through open dialogue, clear policy, excellent training and supervision, formal and informal performance evaluation and appropriate resource allocation.</p>	<p>▪ Practice Performance Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1b - Role and Voice ○ 4 – Teaming ○ 8 – Resource Availability
<p>2. As with families, we look for strengths in our organization. We are responsible for creating and maintaining a supportive working and learning environment and for open, respectful communication, collaboration, and accountability at all levels.</p>	
<p>3. Our organization is focused on providing high quality, timely, efficient, and effective services.</p>	
<p>4. Relationships and communication among staff, children, families, foster parents, and community providers are conducted with genuineness, empathy, and respect.</p>	
<p>5. The practice of collecting and sharing data and information is a non-negotiable part of how we continually learn and improve. We will use data to inform management, improve practice, measure effectiveness and guide policy decisions.</p>	
<p>6. As we work with children, families, and their teams, we clearly share with them our purpose, role, concerns, decisions, and responsibility.</p>	