

Agency Summary: Essex DSS

Region: Central

Class Size:

Director: Paul Oswell

Early Prevention Contact Person: Tonya Christian (tonya.christian@dss.virginia.gov)

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

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

Essex Department of Social Services does not have specific staff devoted primarily to prevention. Nevertheless, they provide public education and awareness activities on prevention to the general public, early prevention services to high risk groups, and early prevention services to individual families.

Specific information about Essex 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:
 - 100% Local only funds
- Staff that provide Early Prevention Public Awareness Activities:
 - CPS investigative worker
 - CPS family assessment worker

- CPS on-going services worker
- Social Work Case Aid
- Volunteers used: None
- Material printed in Spanish: Yes

2. Early Prevention Services to High Risk Groups

- High Risk Groups Targeted:
 - Parenting teens
- Services Provided to High Risk Groups:
 - Resource Mother Program
- 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:
 - 3 Rivers Health District
- Volunteers used for Early Prevention for High Risk Groups: None

3. Early Prevention Services to Individual Families

- Early Prevention Services Provided to Individual Families:
 - Case management/coordination
 - Information and referral
 - Advocacy on behalf of the family within the community to secure services and support
- Funding for Services to Individual Families:
 - CSA funds
- Staff that Provide Early Prevention Services to Individual Families:
 - CPS investigative worker
 - CPS family assessment worker
 - CPS on-going services worker
- Volunteers used: None

4. Community based resources to which the agency refers

- Healthy Families Providers
- Virginia Cooperative Extension Programs (including 4-H)
- Public mental health providers (e.g., community service boards)
- Schools
- Churches
- Domestic violence prevention providers
- Child Advocacy Centers
- Stop Child Abuse Now