

## **Agency Summary: Mathews DSS**

**Region:** Eastern

**Class Size:**

**Director:** Jo Ann Wilson-Harfst

**Early Prevention Contact Person:** Lisa Burns-Brown (lisa.burns-brown@dss.virginia.gov)

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

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

Mathews Department of Social Services has a specific staff devoted primarily to prevention. These workers 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 Mathews 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:
  - 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
  - Community collaboration with organizations re: issues related to prevention
  - 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:
  - Grant funding
  - Safe and Stable Families (budget line item 866/Title IVB Subpart 2)
- Staff that provide Early Prevention Public Awareness Activities:
  - Generic worker

- Kids Help Worker
- Volunteers used:
  - Clean Kids Help Center and plant flowers and shrubs on the outside of the Center
- Material printed in Spanish: None

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

- High Risk Groups Targeted:
  - Single parents
  - Low-income families
- 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 education for high risk groups (e.g., financial, health, child development, working with school systems, behavior management, family relationships.)
  - Financial assistance
  - One-on-one parenting and counseling
- Funding for Services to High Risk Groups:
  - Grant funding
  - Safe and Stable Families (budget line item 866/title IVB Subpart 2)
  - Budget line item 829-Family Preservation (SSGB)
  - Foundations and corporations
- Staff that Provide Early Prevention to High Risk Groups:
  - Family stabilization or other staff devoted primarily to prevention
  - CPS investigative worker
  - CPS family assessment worker
  - CPS on-going services worker
  - Generic 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:
  - Case management/coordination
  - Information and referral
  - Transportation
  - Services provided to children to increase protective factors
  - Children's services within domestic violence prevention or treatment programs
  - Financial assistance to individual families used for prevention
  - One-on-one parenting and counseling
- Funding for Services to Individual Families:
  - Grant funding
  - Safe and Stable Families (budget line item 866/title IVB Subpart 2)

- Community resources (e.g., churches, Salvation Army, etc.)
- Foundations and corporations
- Staff that Provide Early Prevention Services to Individual Families:
  - Intake worker
  - Family stabilization or other staff devoted primarily to prevention
  - Generic worker
  - Benefit program worker (VIEW, TANF, etc.)
  - Kids Help Worker
- Volunteers used: None

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

- Healthy Families Providers
- Part C Early Childhood Intervention
- Head Start (3 to 5 years old)
- Virginia Cooperative Extension Programs (including 4-H)
- Parent support group providers
  - Parents support groups for at-risk families
  - Mental health based support for any parent
  - Bay School of the Arts
  - Boys and Girls Club
  - Bay Aging
  - Grandparents support group
- Workshops and trainings provided by community groups to specific targeted groups, including:
  - General public
  - Families where domestic violence is present or suspected
  - Foster families
- Intensive in-home service providers
- Public health providers
- Private health providers
- Public mental health providers (e.g., community service boards)
- Schools
- Churches
- Mentoring program providers
- Domestic violence prevention providers
- Sexual Assault Centers
- Child Advocacy Centers
- Foundations and corporations