

## **Agency Summary: Montgomery County DSS**

**Region:** Western

**Class Size:**

**Director:** Larry Lindsey

**Early Prevention Contact Person:** Pam Basham (pam.basham@dss.virginia.gov)

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

Montgomery County Department of Social Services provides a system of services to the general public, high risk groups, and individual families. Montgomery County utilizes volunteers to provide some of its prevention services. 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

Montgomery County 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 individual families.

### **Specific information about Montgomery County 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:
  - 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:
  - Grant funding
  - Grant funding for Hugs and Kisses play. All other information sessions/trainings are provided by workers and no funds are needed
- Staff that provide Early Prevention Public Awareness Activities:
  - CPS investigative worker
  - CPS family assessment worker
  - CPS on-going services worker
  - CPS supervisor
  - Assistant Director
- Volunteers used: None

- Material printed in Spanish: None

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

- High Risk Groups Targeted:
  - Low-income families
- Services Provided to High Risk Groups:
  - Information on available services distributed to targeted groups, not just to the public
  - Information on preventing child abuse/neglect to VIEW clients as part of their training
- Funding for Services to High Risk Groups:
  - No supplies utilized
- Staff that Provide Early Prevention to High Risk Groups:
  - CPS supervisor
- 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
  - Finding relatives and other individuals to enhance parent support
  - Children's services within domestic violence prevention or treatment programs
  - Advocacy on behalf of the family within the community to secure services and support
  - Domestic violence prevention programs
- Funding for Services to Individual Families:
  - CSA funds
  - Medicaid
  - Budget line item 829-Family Preservation (SSGB)
  - Community resources (e.g., churches, Salvation Army, etc.)
- Staff that Provide Early Prevention Services to Individual Families:
  - CPS investigative worker
  - CPS family assessment worker
  - CPS on-going services worker
  - Foster care worker
- Volunteers used:
  - Help with transportation of clients
  - Provide information and referral sources

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

- Home visiting providers
- Early Head Start (birth to 3 years old)

- Head Start (3 to 5 years old)
- Parent Support group providers
  - Parent support groups for any parent
  - School based support groups for any parent
  - Mental health based support groups for any parent
- Workshops and trainings provided by community groups to specific targeted groups, including:
  - High risk families
  - Families where abuse and neglect has occurred
  - Families where domestic violence is present or suspected
  - Foster families
  - Adoptive families
- Intensive in-home service providers
- Public health providers
- Private health providers
- Public mental health providers (e.g., community service boards)
- Private mental health providers
- Respite care providers
- Schools
- Churches
- Mentoring program providers
- Domestic violence prevention providers
- Sexual Assault Centers
- Child Advocacy Centers