

## **Agency Summary: Shenandoah Valley DSS**

**Region:** Northern

**Class Size:**

**Director:** Elizabeth Middleton

**Early Prevention Contact Person:** Lisa Dunn (lisa.dunn@dss.virginia.gov)

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

Shenandoah Valley Department of Social Services provides a system of services to the general public. Shenandoah Valley does not utilize volunteers to provide some of its 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

Shenandoah Valley 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.

### **Specific information about Shenandoah Valley 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:
  - Provide 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:
  - Community resources (e.g. churches, Salvation Army, etc.)
- Staff that provide Early Prevention Public Awareness Activities:
  - CPS investigative worker
  - CPS family assessment worker
  - CPS on-going services worker
  - CPS supervisor

- Volunteers used: None
- Material printed in Spanish: Yes

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

None

**3. Early Prevention Services to Individual Families**

None

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

- Healthy Families Providers
- Head Start (3 to 5 years old)
- Parent Support group providers
  - Parent support groups for the general public
  - School based support groups for any parent
  - Mental health based support groups for any parent
  - Office on Youth provides parenting classes and support for early prevention to intervention parenting for at-risk youth and families
- Workshops and trainings provided by community groups to specific targeted groups, including:
  - General public
  - High-risk families
  - Families where abuse and neglect has occurred
  - Families whose children have been removed
- Intensive in-home service providers
- Public health providers
- Private health providers
- Public mental health providers (e.g., community service boards)
- Private mental health providers
- Schools
- Churches
- Mentoring program providers
- Domestic violence prevention providers
- Child Advocacy Centers