FAMILY FIRST OVERVIEW

- Family First Vision
- Prevention Services
- Foster Care Changes
- Implementation Updates
FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT

PREVENTION

IV-E Funded Prevention Services

Quality Evidence-Based Services

Promote Family-Based Placements

FOSTER CARE

Reduce Congregate Care Placements

PREVENTION FOSTER CARE
**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

**Prevention Services:** Target resources and services that prevent foster care placements and help children remain safely in their home.

**Family-Based Placements:** Ensure children maintain family connections needed for healthy development and emotional well-being while finding safe, permanent homes for children as quickly as possible.

**Evidence-Based Services:** Advance the implementation and sustainability of evidence-based, trauma-informed services that appropriately and effectively improve child safety, ensure permanency, and promote child and family well-being.

**Congregate Care Placements:** Safely reduce the inappropriate use of non family-based placements; when non family-based placements are needed, ensure children are placed in the least restrictive, highest-quality setting appropriate to their individual needs.

**Resources and Financial Accountability:** Build capacity and leverage resources to provide effective services to prevent foster care placement while ensuring financial accountability.
The vision for Family First is to keep children safe, strengthen families and reduce the need for foster care whenever it is safe to do so.
PREVENTION AND FAMILY FIRST

PRIMARY Prevention
SECONDARY Prevention
TERTIARY Prevention

The CHILD & FAMILY
- A child *(and their caregivers)* who is identified as a candidate for foster care who can remain safely at home or in a kinship home and is at imminent risk of entering foster care
- A child in foster care who is pregnant or parenting
- A child whose adoption or guardianship arrangement is at risk of a disruption/dissolution and includes post-reunification services
“Imminent risk” means a child and family’s circumstances demand that a defined case plan is put into place within 30 days that identifies interventions, services and/or supports and absent these interventions, services and/or supports, foster care placement is the planned arrangement for the child.
The Candidate for Foster Care must have a written prevention plan which includes the following:

- Identify the prevention strategy so that the child can remain in the home, live temporarily with a kin caregiver until reunification can be safely achieved, or live permanently with a kin caregiver;

- List of services or programs to be provided to or on behalf of the child to ensure success of the prevention strategy.
WHAT SERVICES ARE REIMBURSABLE?
PREVENTION SERVICES

**Prevention Changes**
- Target resources and services that prevent foster care placements and help children remain safely in their home.
- In-Home Case Management
- Evidence Based Services
  - Multisystemic Therapy Teams
  - Functional Family Therapy Teams
  - Parent Child Interaction Therapy

**In-home Case Management**

**Access to Evidence Based Services**

**Evidence Based Service Providers**

**EBS Fidelity Evaluation**
EVIDENCE BASED SERVICES

What are Evidence Based Services?

- Research based and rigorously evaluated
- Services have proven positive outcomes
- Specific interventions and models
- Quality Approach
Mental Health Prevention and Treatment Services

Substance Use Disorder Prevention and Treatment Services

In-Home Parent Skills-Based Programs

Kinship Navigator Programs

TRAUMA INFORMED AND EVIDENCE-BASED
FOSTER CARE PROGRAM CHANGES
Family First helps to ensure children maintain family connections needed for healthy development and emotional well-being while finding safe, permanent homes for children.

If removal is imminent:
- Achieve Family Based placements
- Promote Family, siblings and community Connections

Non-family based placements should be:
- Temporary
- Focus on children’s needs
- Prepare them to return to family/community

Shortage of homes is NOT an acceptable reason for a more restrictive setting
FOSTER CARE

Foster Care Changes
- Focus on Family Based Placements
- Enhance Diligent Recruitment Efforts
- Focus on kin-first culture

Review Congregate Care Placements
Foster Parent Communication and Training
Focus on Kin-Placements
Implement Strategic Plan for Recruitment of kinship and foster parents
VIRGINIA’S FAMILY FIRST IMPLEMENTATION
WE KNOW SOME OF THE PIECES,
but we’re still figuring out many of the pieces.
THREE BRANCH

Core Team:
5 members
2 from each branch of government (judicial, executive and legislative)

Home Team:
Approximately 50 senior-level decision makers from across the state
Additional Workgroup Members

Three Branch Members

- Prevention Services
- Appropriate Foster Care Placements
- Evidence-Based Services
- Finance
IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE UPDATE

July 2020

Extended Implementation

January 30, 2021
Extension Rationale

COVID19 Impact
- Budget
- Provider Training
- EBP Learning Collaborative
- LDSS Training
- Implementation Meeting transition to virtual platforms

Other
- IT
- Contracts
- Evaluation
FAMILY FIRST WEBSITE

familyfirstvirginia.com

Our Vision

The Family First Prevention Services Act aims to keep children safe, strengthen families and reduce the need for foster care whenever it is safe to do so. Family First supports the overarching mission that kids should grow up in a safe, stable and secure family that supports their long-term well-being.
THANK YOU!

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