

DSS and CSA

Working together for a brighter future for Virginia's most vulnerable youth and families.

Structure of Department of Social Services

- Virginia is a State-Supervised/County Administered System
- Virginia DSS (State) is responsible for promulgating regulations and guidance based on Federal and State laws and regulations
- This includes the Richmond office and five (5) Regional offices
- Local DSS are responsible for implementing the various programs

Systemic Efforts for Permanency



The Learning Collaborative Series

-
- Goal
 - The goal of the Virginia Learning Collaborative Series (VA LC Series) is to bring together VA LDSS participant teams to learn about and apply innovative practices and strategies to improve their ability to support abused and neglected children and their families. The VA LC Series will focus on Enhancing Service Assessment, Planning, and Delivery as it relates to the Virginia Three Branch Initiative outcomes of safety, permanency, and well-being.
 - The LC's are driven by VDSS and supported by Casey Family Programs.

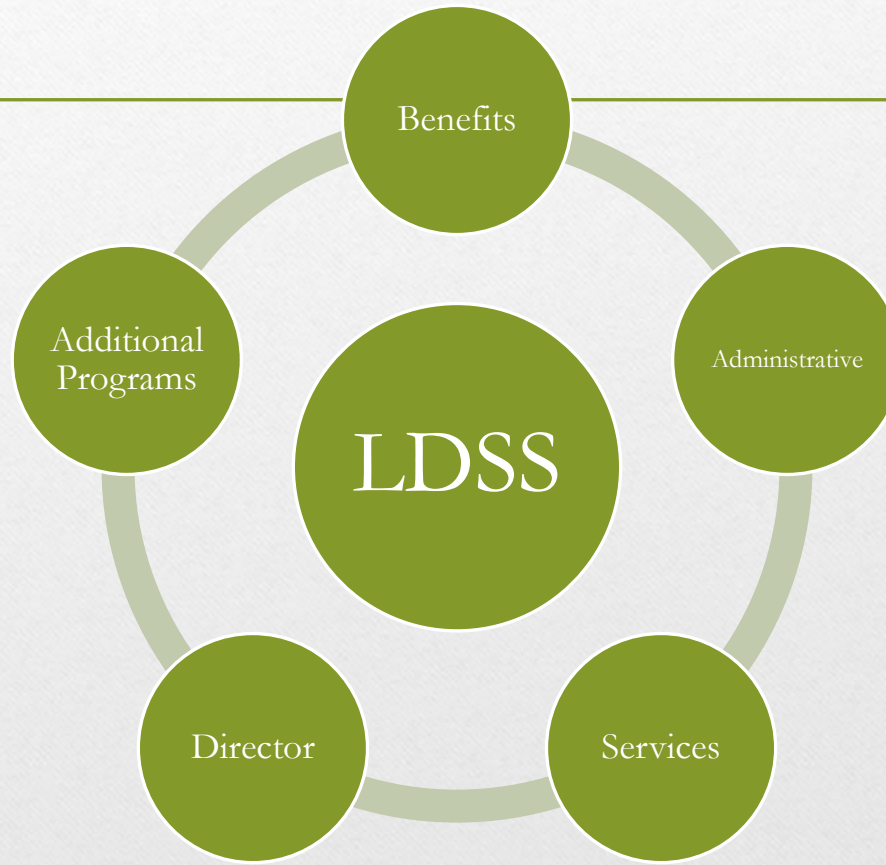
Concurrent Planning in Foster Care

- A foster care casework practice that involves identifying and working towards a child's primary permanency goal (such as reunification) while simultaneously identifying and working on a secondary goal (such as custody transfer to a relative.)
 - Structured case work practice: at each contact address both plan A and plan B
 - Service plan addresses needs and services for both plan A and B (more than just identify Plan B)
 - Family and extended family are actively involved in decision-making
 - Relationship between foster parents and birth family is promoted
 - Full disclosure meetings
 - Many similar elements to FPMs

Permanency Values Training and Round Tables

- Permanency Values Training
 - Permanency Values Trainings are the pre-requisite training for Permanency Round Table skills training.
 - In the training participants learn the values associated with permanency and the working definition of permanency.
- Permanency Round Tables
 - General Objectives
 - To stimulate thinking about connections to permanency for youth in foster care
 - To develop a permanency plan for specific youth that can be realistically implemented. To establish life long connections and/or supports for these youth.

Local DSS current structure



Benefit Programs

- TANF – Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
- Medicaid
- SNAP - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
(formerly known as Food Stamps)
- Energy Assistance

Service Programs

- Prevention
- CPS – Child Protective Services
- Foster Care
- Adoption
- IL - Independent Living
- ICPC – Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children
- ICAMA – Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance

Family Search and Engagement

- Family engagement requires a shift from the belief that agencies alone know what is best for children and families to one that allows the family to fully participate in decision-making. LDSS are encouraged to:
 - Explore all of a child's extended networks of people
 - Search both maternal and paternal sides of the child's family
 - Utilize the family engagement toolkit

Family Engagement

- VDSS Family Engagement Practice Model
- Norfolk Family Engagement Brochure
- Frederick County Child and Family Team Packet
- Family Partnership Meeting
- Connection with our Learning Collaborative Series – Family Engagement is more than Family Partnership Meetings

Prevention Services

- Preventing maltreatment and out of home care can begin prior to a valid referral to CPS.
- Prevention continues once a child comes into care by preventing maltreatment and the trauma of multiple moves in both foster care and adoption.
- Prevention funding is relatively non-existent in local departments, so many of these cases are served through Medicaid and/or CSA funds.

Child Protective Services

- Family Assessments/Investigations
- Foster Care Prevention
- Family Preservation funding
- Promoting safe and stable families funding (PSSF)

Foster Care

- Removals
- Court Orders
- Service Plans
- Foster Parents
- Achieving Permanency –Permanency goals

Title IV-E

- Federal Program
- IV-E/AFDC eligibility criteria
- State Policy
- Allowable Cost
- Reasonable Efforts/Contrary to the welfare
- Licensed Placements
- Non-Custodial Foster Care Agreements
- IV-E Adoption Subsidy

VEMAT

- Why is VEMAT necessary?
- VEMAT Tool
- VEMAT Rate Sheet
- VEMAT Process

Adoption

- Adoptive Process
- AREVA -
<http://www.adoptuskids.org/states/va/index.aspx>
- Adoption resources
- Adoption Funding

Adoption Initiative

- The Division continues to promote activities geared toward identifying safe and appropriate families to adopt youth in foster care.
- Strategies include working collaboratively with an Adoption Champion and increased public awareness of the foster care adoption process.
- Governor Terry McAuliffe announced the appointment of Deborah J. Johnston as Virginia's newest Adoption Champion. Visit <http://www.careadvantageinc.com/> to learn more.
- We presently have 800+ children who are free for adoption in Virginia.

Independent Living/ETV

- Independent Living placements
- ETV (Education and Training Voucher)
- ETV Brochure

ICPC/ICAMA

- ICPC process
- ICPC documents
- ICAMA (Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance)
- ICJ (Interstate Compact on Juveniles)
- ICMH (Interstate Compact on Mental Health)

Driving factors in our localities

- Service gaps
- Money
- Politics
- Silos (locally)
- Regional dynamics
- Staff turnover

The need for collaboration

- Families are at stake
- Societal change and awareness of mental health and family discord.
- Affects the future of the cost of services in localities
- Strong functioning families = strong functioning communities.
- We are all in this together for the purpose of improving the lives of those we serve.

Current Issues

- Fostering Futures
- Sex Trafficking and Foster Care Changes Due to Federal Law Changes
- Adoption Negotiations
- Diversion
- Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KGAP)

Virginia Department of Social Services
801E Main St
Richmond, VA 23219

Carl E. Ayers, Director
Division of Family Services
(804) 726-7597
carl.e.ayers@dss.virginia.gov