

# Child and Family Services Review



**Virginia Department of Social Services**

# ***CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW***

- The CFSR is a federal-state partnership to review services to children and families in all states.
- The CFSR covers Child Protective Services, Foster Care, Adoptions, and Family Preservation.
- Virginia's review occurred during week of **July 7, 2003**



# *CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW*

CFSR criteria includes 14 areas:

- Seven “Program Outcomes,” which include six performance indicators with national standards
- Seven “Systemic Factors”



# PROGRAM OUTCOME RESULTS FOR VIRGINIA

Program Outcomes	Results*
Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect	<b>Not Achieved</b>
Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their own homes whenever possible and appropriate.	<b>Not Achieved</b>
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.	<b>Not Achieved</b>
Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.	<b>Not Achieved</b>
Well Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.	<b>Not Achieved</b>
Well Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.	<b>Not Achieved</b>
Well Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.	Achieved

*\*Achieved means that at least 90% of applicable cases reviewed met the outcome, and, for Safety 1 and Permanency 1, the statewide data results met the national indicators*



# ***NATIONAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS***

*(Data Related to Safety 1 and Permanency 1 Outcomes)*

## Results

- Stability of foster care placement  
*(no more than 2 in 12 mo.)* **Not Achieved**
- Length of time to achieve reunification  
*(12 months or less)* **Not Achieved**
- Length of time to achieve adoption in  
*(24 months or less)* **Not Achieved**
- Recurrence of maltreatment  
*(within 12 months of return home)* **Achieved**
- Incidence of child abuse and/or neglect  
in foster care **Achieved**
- Incidence of foster care re-entries *(in 12 mo.)* **Achieved**

*(To achieve the indicator, statewide data must meet or exceed the national standard)*



# SEVEN SYSTEMIC FACTORS

Systemic Factors	Results*
Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment and Retention	<b>Not Achieved</b>
Service Array	<b>Not Achieved</b>
Case Review System	<b>Not Achieved</b>
Staff and Provider Training	<b>Not Achieved</b>
Quality Assurance System	Achieved
Agency Responsiveness to the Community	Achieved
Statewide Information System	Achieved

*\*Achieved means that the state's applicable systems support achievement of positive outcomes*



# ***CFS REVIEW APPROACH***

Three-fold approach to review:

- Statewide Assessment – 182-page document
- On-site Review
  - Review of 50 cases each in Bedford, Norfolk, and Fairfax
  - Follow-up on-site desk review of 115 cases occurred March 15-17, 2004, which resolved the foster care re-entry discrepancy between state data and on-site review
- Program Improvement Plan (PIP)
  - Virginia's PIP is due to the federal government 90 days after final report
  - Negotiation's can take three to six months to finalize the PIP
  - After Program Improvement Plan is implemented, Virginia will **report progress quarterly** and will be reviewed a second time after two years
  - Failure to demonstrate progress could result in financial penalties



# ***CFSR RESULTS IN OTHER STATES***

- Of the 50 states reviewed, **none** have passed all components of this review
- States were much more successful in meeting systemic factors than program outcomes
- Forty-six states have received their final report
- Thirty-three states have approved Program Improvement Plans



# ***LESSONS LEARNED FROM OTHER STATES***

## **Increased caseworker visits with child and family is significantly associated with:**

- Managing risk of harm to children
- Establishing permanency goals
- Meeting the physical needs of children
- Preserving children's connections while in foster care
- Maintaining the child's relationship with parents
- Assessing needs and providing services to children and families
- Involving children and parents in case planning
- Meeting the educational needs of children



# ***LESSONS LEARNED FROM OTHER STATES***

## **Ongoing case reviews significantly impact:**

- Adoption
- Proximity of placement
- Preserving connection with the child and family
- Needs/Services of children, parents, and foster parent
- Family engagement in case planning
- Worker visits with parents



# *LESSONS LEARNED FROM OTHER STATES*

- Foster & adoptive licensing, recruitment and retention leads to placement stability for children in foster care
- Training staff and resource families also impacts placement stability of children in foster care and manages risk of harm of the children



# ***NEXT STEPS***

- For areas not in substantial conformity, Virginia must complete a **Program Improvement Plan**, addressing:
  - Action steps and dates of completion
  - Benchmarks and methods for evaluation
  - Percentage of improvement toward national standards
- LDSS and other stakeholders are involved in developing and implementing program improvements
- Involvement of LDSS and stakeholders in identifying priorities that have the most impact system wide



# ***PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT PLAN***

**Potential priority areas may include the following:**

## **● Adoption**

- Implement concurrent planning
- Identify various termination of parental rights (TPR) improvements
- Implement dual approval

## **● Worker contact with child**

- Establish reasonable caseload standards
- Provide training
- Utilize management reports for monitoring visits
- Strengthen policy



# PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- Child and parent involvement in case planning
  - Develop assessment tools for needs and services
  - Involvement of child and parents, including foster parent, in assessment and service planning
  - Structured decision-making
  - Family group conferencing
- Training
  - Mandated training for foster care staff
  - Develop minimum competencies prior to staff carrying a caseload
  - Develop standardized curriculum for resource parents
- Foster & adoptive recruitment and retention
  - Promulgate standards for resource families
  - Increase number of approved resource families
  - Increase state recruitment efforts



# PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT PLAN

## Time frames for next steps

- Virginia's PIP submitted to HHS July 21, 2004
- PIP negotiation period (*estimated*) July – Dec 2004
- PIP implementation (*estimated*) Jan 2005
- PIP quarterly reporting period Apr 2005 – Jan 2007
- Follow-up review (*estimated*) Fall 2007



# PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT PLAN

## Time frames for next steps

- LDSS complete PIP fiscal impacts June – July 2004
- Virginia's PIP submitted to HHS July 21, 2004
- PIP negotiation period (*estimated*) July – Dec 2004
- Seek GA support for PIP Sep 2004 – Mar 2005
- PIP implementation (*estimated*) Jan 2005
- PIP quarterly reporting period Apr 2005 – Jan 2007
- Follow-up review (*estimated*) Fall 2007



# ***IMPACT OF NON-COMPLIANCE***

- **Failing to meet the needs of Virginia's children and families**
- **Loss of funding as a result of fiscal penalties assessed against the state if the State**



# ***KEY PLAYERS Needed for Implementation***

- General Assembly
- Local Departments of Social Services
- External Stakeholders – public and private
- Other State agencies



# ***SUMMARY***

- The review provides us with a great opportunity to make changes in the child welfare system that positively impact children and families.
- We have received free consultation from the federal government.
- We know where the weaknesses are in our system.
- We have a plan to improve safety, permanency and well-being for children and families in Virginia.
- We are committed making these changes and improving services in the coming years.
- We look forward to your support of our efforts in this endeavor.

***Thank you!***

*To learn more about the Child and Family Services Review, visit:*

*VDSS Website at: <http://www.dss.state.va.us/family/cfsr>*

*Federal web site at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp>*





# Title IV-E Demonstration Waiver



# Kinship Care Option

# *Title IV-E Waiver*

- *The Department submitted an application for a Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project in January 2004.*



# *Title IV-E Waiver*

- *The Department plans to use the IV-E Waiver to address specific areas in the Child and Family Services Final Report identified as needing improvement.*
- *These areas include:*
  - reducing the length of time children remain in foster care;
  - decreasing the number of placements while in foster care;
  - reducing re-entry into foster care; and
  - preserving the continuity of family relationships for children.



# *Title IV-E Waiver*

- *The Department proposes to address the identified areas needing improvement by implementing two distinct interventions:*
  - **A Subsidized Custody Program** for relative caregivers
  - **Intensive Case Management Services** to birthparents and their children who are participants in Family Drug Treatment Court



# *Title IV-E Waiver - Subsidized Custody*

- *The target population in this intervention is those children in foster care*
  - for whom the goal of reunification has been ruled out and adoption by the relative is not an option
  - the goal of adoption with a relative has been ruled out and
  - the child's goal is placement with relatives.



# *Title IV-E Waiver - Subsidized Custody*

- The Department will offer a comprehensive **range of services and supports** for relatives entering the Subsidized Custody Program.
- **Pre-placement Services include:**
  - a preliminary screening;
  - a home study; and
  - short term intensive counseling.



# *Title IV-E Waiver - Subsidized Custody*

- **Placement Services include:**
  - a subsidized custody agreement; and
  - one time only costs of finalizing the legal custody.



# *Title IV-E Waiver Subsidized Custody*

- **Post - Placement Services include:**
  - information and referral;
  - crisis intervention; and
  - a monthly maintenance payment.



# *Title IV-E Waiver*

## *Intensive Case Management*

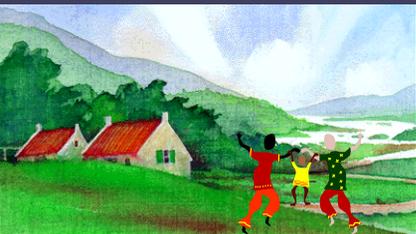
- Virginia's application for **intensive case management services** focuses exclusively on improving parent recovery, child safety, and permanency outcomes for:
  - children in the custody of local departments social services departments and
  - whose parents are involved in one of the three Family Drug Courts.



# *Title IV-E Waiver - Intensive Case Management*

- **The target population** for the intensive case management intervention includes:

Substance abusing birth parents and kinship care families that provide substitute care for children with a goal of reunification.



# *Title IV-E Waiver - Intensive Case Management*

- **The scope of services for the intensive case management intervention includes:**
  - information, support, and referrals concerning the signs and symptoms of drug abuse; the needs of substance exposed newborns; relapse and recovery and the associated impact on child safety, development; and permanency.
  - Children in foster kinship care will be provided with services focusing on the consequences of their parent's substance use.
  - Children in this group will have a **concurrent goal** of return home or subsidized custody with relatives.



# *Title IV-E Waiver - Status*

- Virginia was **one of 12 states** that submitted an application.
- HHS placed summaries of the 12 applications on the Administration for Children and Families web site to allow time for **public comments** on each of the 12 proposals.
- Virginia has received **positive feedback** from HHS on the application:
  - HHS has requested clarification on several issues in the application;
  - Virginia has been invited to participate in the Annual Child Welfare Demonstration Projects Meeting in D.C on May 20 and 21, 2004.
- VDSS anticipates a final response from HHS by July 2004.
- **It is important to understand that Virginia will not be receiving additional IV-E funding. The Waiver allows us to re-allocation existing funds to pay for service and children who would otherwise not be eligible for IV-E Funding.**

