

# Family First Prevention Services Act And Implementation Updates

Carl Ayers, Director  
Division of Family Services  
American Youth Policy Forum  
March 29, 2019  
AYPF Washington D.C.



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES



## Family First Overview

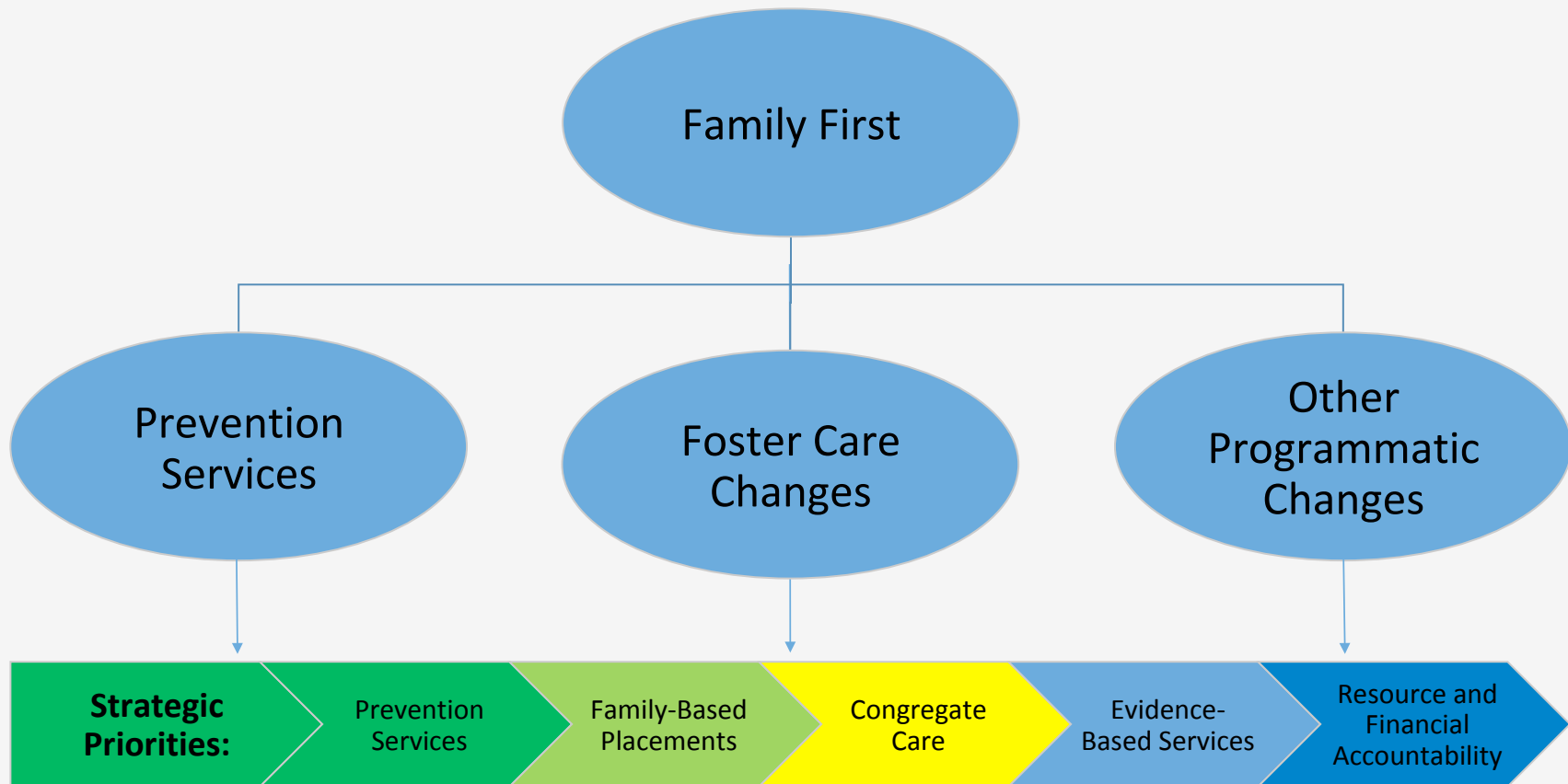
Family First  
Vision

Prevention  
Services

Foster Care  
Changes

Implementation  
Updates

## Three Tiers of Family First



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.

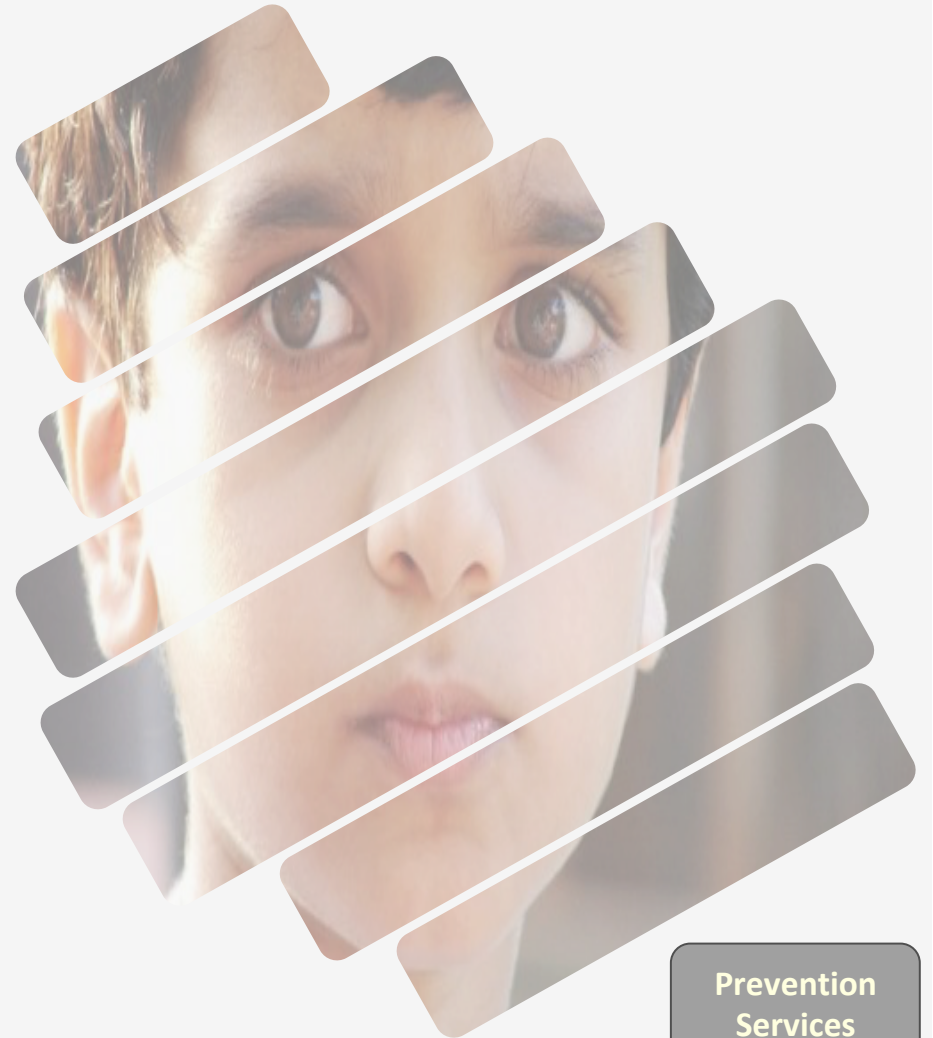




# Prevention Services

Who is Eligible for Title IV-E  
Prevention Services Funds?

- ❖ A child (and their caregivers) who is a candidate for foster care who can remain safely at home or in a kinship home and is identified as being 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 a risk of a disruption/dissolution and includes post-reunification services



Prevention  
Services

## Imminent Risk Definition

**“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

Prevention  
Services

**What services are reimbursable?**

# IV-E Reimbursable Services

Mental Health  
Prevention  
Treatment  
Services

Substance Abuse  
Prevention  
Treatment  
Services

In-Home Parent  
Skill-Based  
Programs

## Trauma Informed

Prevention  
Services

## Well Supported

- Improved outcome must be based on the results of at least 2 studies that used a random control or quasi-experimental trial
- Carried out in a usual care or practice setting
- Sustained effect for at least one year beyond the end of treatment

## Supported

- Improved outcome must be based on the results of at least one study that used a random control or quasi-experimental trial
- Carried out in a usual care or practice setting
- Sustained effect for at least 6 months beyond the end of treatment

## Promising

- Improved outcomes must be based on at least one study that use some form of control group

**Evidence-  
Based  
Services**



# Initial List of Services Under Review

## Mental Health Prevention Treatment Services

- Parent-Child Interaction Therapy
- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Multisystemic Therapy
- Functional Family Therapy

## Substance Abuse Prevention Treatment Services

- Motivational Interviewing
- Multisystemic Therapy
- Families Facing the Future
- Methadone Maintenance Therapy

## In-Home Parent Skill- Based Programs

- Nurse-Family Partnership
- Healthy Families America
- Parents as Teachers

## Kinship Navigator Programs

- Children's Home Inc. Kinship Interdisciplinary Navigation Technologically-Advanced Model (KIN-Tech)
- Children's Home Society of New Jersey Kinship Navigator Model

Evidence-  
Based Services

# Federal Prevention Services Clearinghouse

Release of Clearinghouse  
Handbook of Standards and  
Procedures  
April 2019

Release of the next list of  
evidence-based services  
to be reviewed  
Late Spring-Summer 2019

May 2019  
Release of Program  
and Service Ratings of  
the Initial 11 evidence-  
based services

Prevention  
Services



## Foster Care Program Changes

*We believe that children do best when raised in families.*

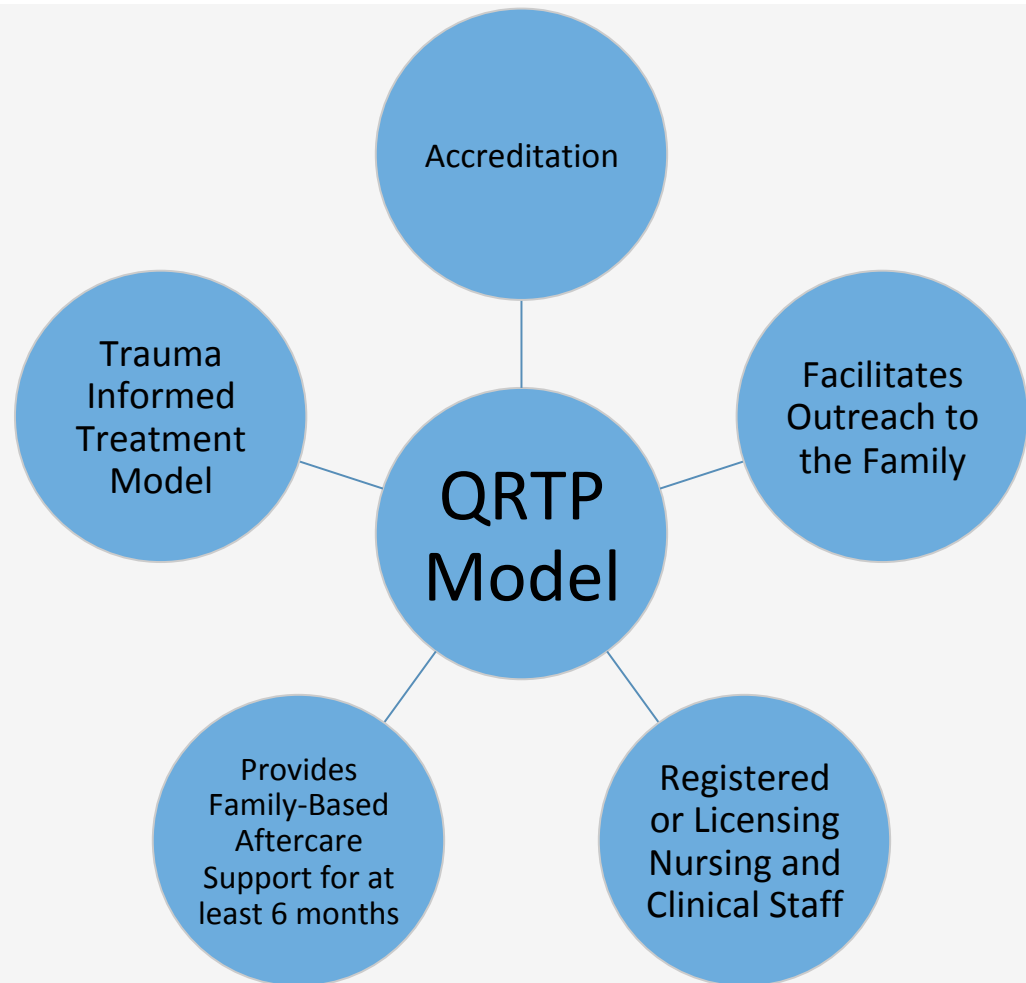


After a two-week grace period, IV-E payments will be limited to the following placement types:

- ❖ Family and kinship foster homes
- ❖ Placements for pregnant or parenting youth
- ❖ Supervised independent living for youth 18+
- ❖ Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP) for youth with treatment needs
- ❖ Specialized placements for victims of sex trafficking
- ❖ Family-based residential treatment facility for substance abuse (*beginning October 2018*)

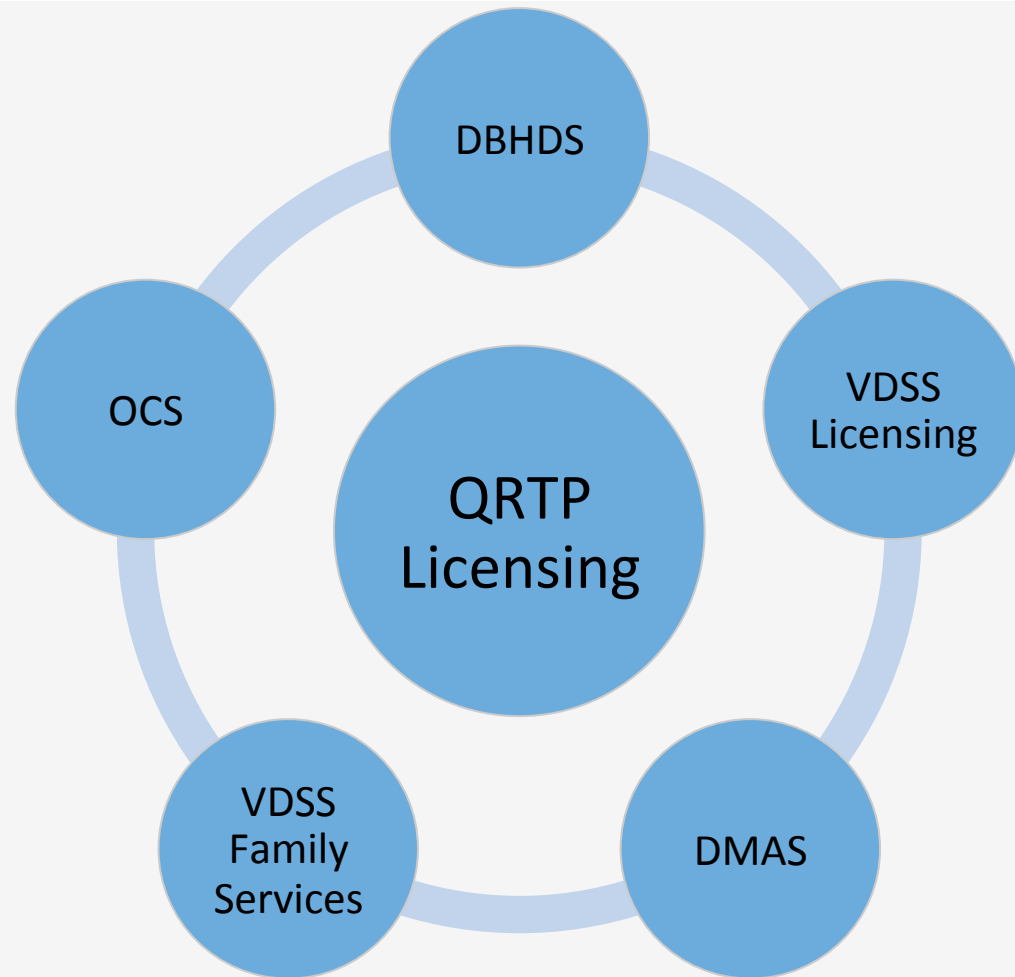
Family Based  
Placements

# Qualified Residential Treatment Program(QRTP )



Congregate  
Care

## QRTP Collaborations



Congregate  
Care

# QRTP Requirements

30-day Assessment

12-month review by Commissioner

60-day Court Review

Reduce Congregate Care

Congregate  
Care



## Definitions: QRTP Process

- Qualified Individual: Licensed Mental Health Professional means a physician, licensed clinical psychologist, licensed professional counselor, licensed clinical social worker, licensed substance abuse treatment practitioner, licensed marriage and family therapist, certified psychiatric clinical nurse specialist, or licensed behavior analyst. As defined in 12VAC35-105-20.
- QRTP Assessment Process: Use of the mandatory Medicaid clinical assessment process (currently known as IACCT), with the possibility of an added Child Welfare module.
  - This will require extensive collaboration and planning with the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) to determine feasibility.



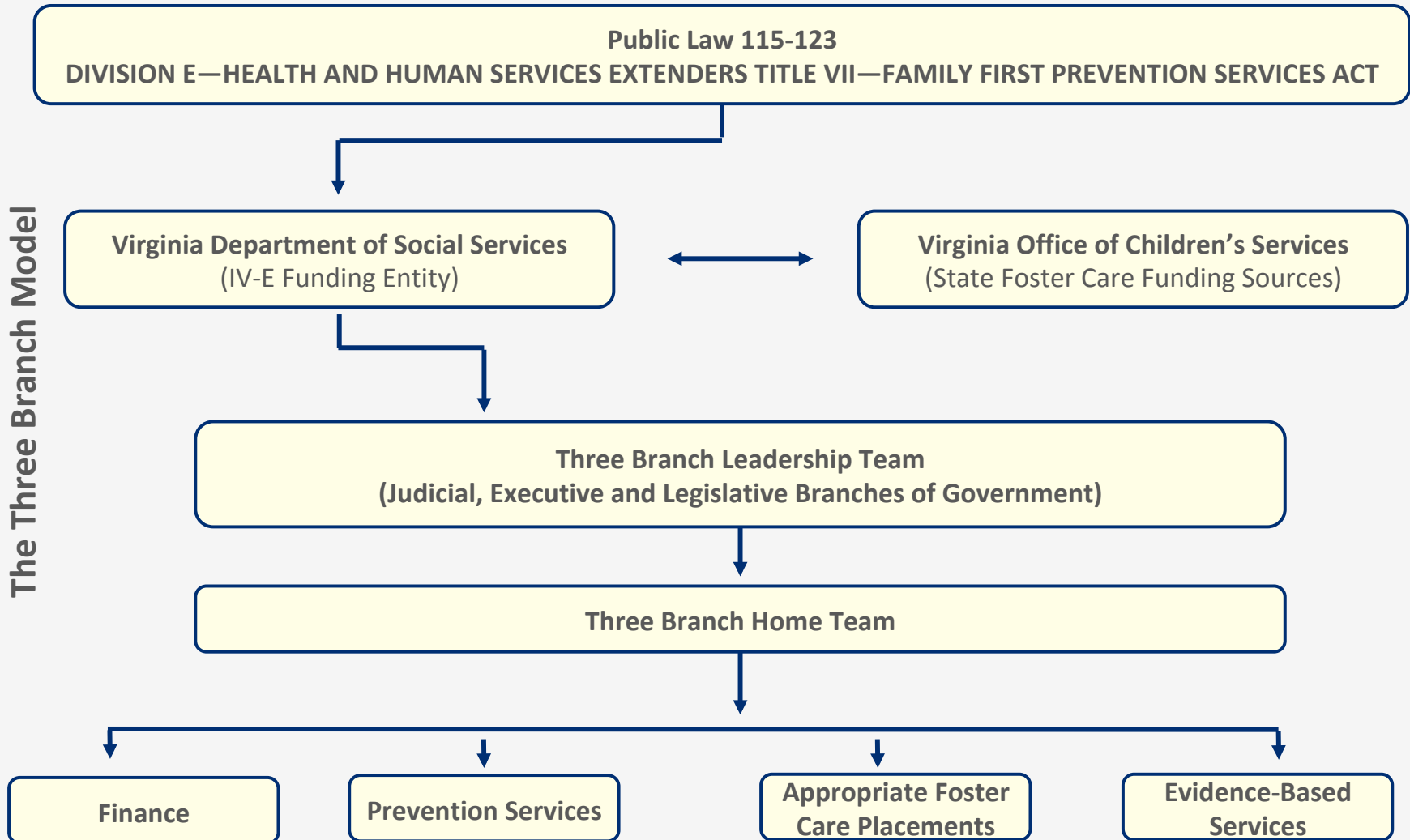


## Implementation Updates



We know some of  
the pieces,  
But we're still  
figuring out many  
of the pieces.

**A Collaborative Approach to Implementation:  
The Three Branch Model**



## Core Team

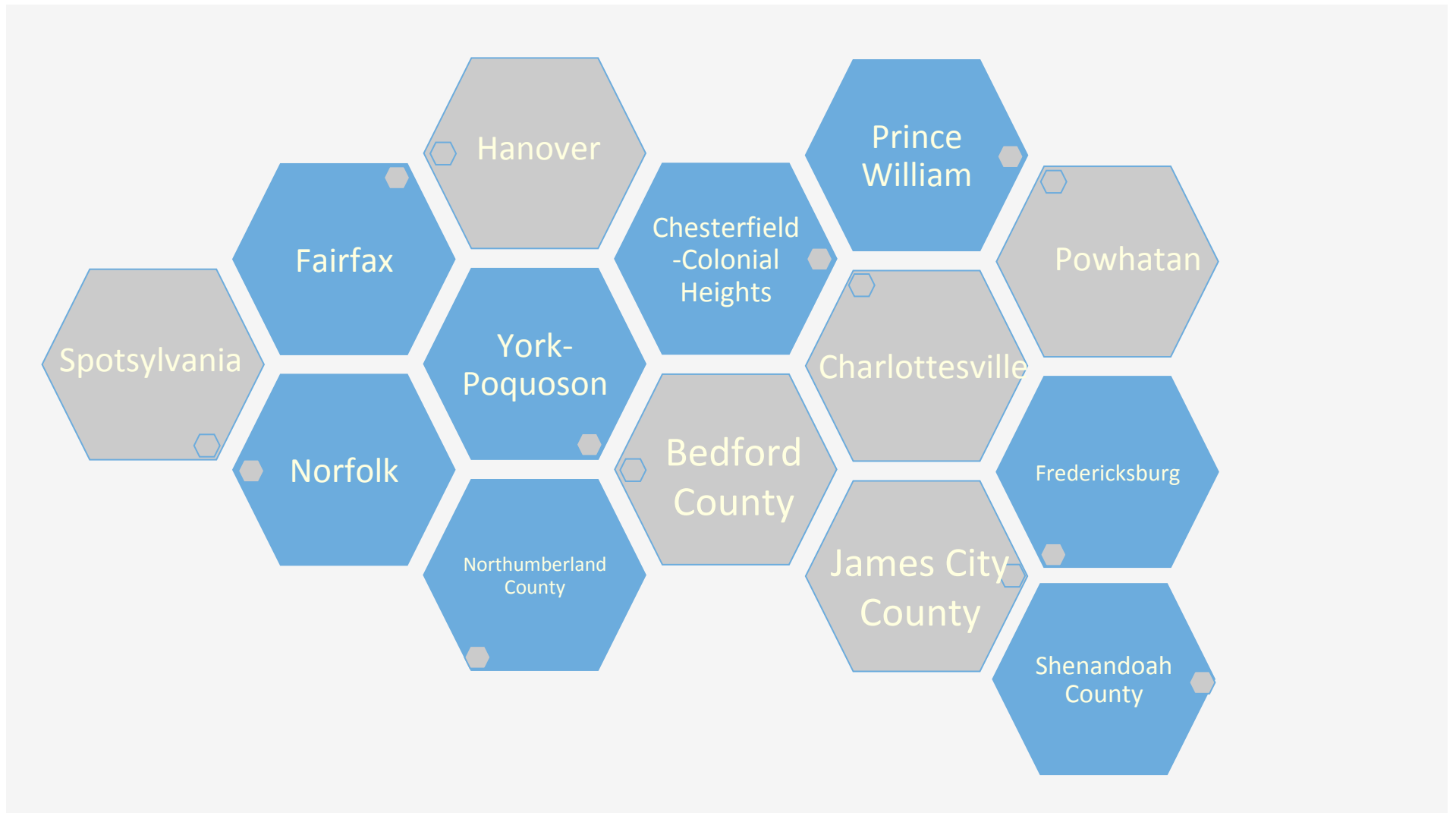
Carl Ayers, Virginia Department of Social Services  
Sandy Karison, Court Improvement Program  
Scott Reiner, Office of Children's Services  
The Honorable Monty Mason, Senator  
The Honorable Chris Peace, Delegate  
The Honorable Frank Somerville, Culpeper JDR Court

Children's Home Society  
Commission on Youth  
Court Improvement Program, Office of the Executive Secretary Supreme Court of Virginia  
Culpeper Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court  
Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services  
Elk Hill Farm  
Fairfax Department of Human Services  
Families Forward  
Family and Children's Trust Fund of Virginia  
Family Focused Treatment Association  
Fredericksburg Department of Social Services  
Governor's Office  
Greater Richmond SCAN  
HopeTree Family Services  
Norfolk Department of Human Services  
Office of Children's Services  
Office of the Attorney General  
Powhatan Department of Social Services  
Senate Rehabilitation and Social Service Committee  
Spotsylvania Department of Social Services  
Troutman Sanders Strategies  
United Methodist Family Services  
Virginia Association of Community Services Boards  
Virginia Association of Counties  
Virginia Association of Licensed Child Placing Agencies  
Virginia Association of Local Human Services Officials  
Virginia Coalition of Private Provider Associations  
Virginia Department of Health  
Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice  
Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services  
Virginia Department of Social Services  
Virginia League of Social Services Executives  
Virginia Municipal League  
Virginia Poverty Law Center  
Voices for Virginia's Children  
Youth for Tomorrow



= **9,282 hours of work** invested in the implementation of the Family First Act in Virginia

*\*\*June 2018 – February 2019*





Prevention  
Advisory  
Group

The  
“Local”  
Voice

Permanency  
Advisory  
Committee

CPS Advisory  
Group

## To Date Accomplishments

### Finance Workgroup

- Maintenance of Effort
- Budget Implications
- Budget Proposal for General Assembly

### Evidence-Based Services Workgroup

- Survey for EBS in Virginia
- Collaboration with DMAS, DBHDS and DJJ
- Increased understanding of the Hexagon Tool

### Prevention Services Workgroup

- Recommendations on defining key terms
- Continuum of Prevention Services
- Feedback for Development of Federal Clearinghouse

### Appropriate Foster Care Placements Workgroup

- Recommendations for QRTP Assessment
- Feedback for Development of Federal Foster Home Model Licensing Standards





Moving Forward

## Moving Forward

### Finance Workgroup

- Understand the financial costs of group home placements if not IV-E eligible
- Understand the financial costs of supporting the start up of evidence-based services
- Recommending a fiscal auditing tool and process

### Evidence-Based Services Workgroup

- Analyze results of EBS Survey (service gaps)
- Perform CANS data analysis
- Provide recommendations for fidelity monitoring and CQI process
- Use of Hexagon Tool to assist in understanding where specific EBPs may fit in our system

### Prevention Services Workgroup

- Maximize and leverage CSA and Family First Funds (as well as other child serving agencies) to meet the diverse and complex needs of families
- Develop a long term vision for the prevention services continuum
- Recommendations for Title IV-E Prevention Services Plan

### Appropriate Foster Care Placements Workgroup

- Develop workflow recommendations for the judicial and Commissioner review requirements for a youth placed in a QRTP
- Develop strategies to increase foster homes with an emphasis on kinship homes
- Recommendation for key terms: Family and Permanency Team and After-Care Supports

## To Do

- Consider establishing a local Three Branch Team
- Stay tuned to Fusion for critical updates
- Send representatives to child welfare advisory committees
- Maintain open communication with Three Branch VLSSE Representatives

Thank you!

[familyfirst@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:familyfirst@dss.virginia.gov)

Family First Team

Carl Ayers, Director

Elizabeth Lee – Project Manager

Laura Reed – Project Manager

Jim Fiske – Financial Consultant

Allyson Roberts – Change  
Management Consultant



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES