

STUDIES AND INITIATIVES FOR 2017 STUDY YEAR

INITIATIVE	COMMISSION'S INVOLVEMENT	DESCRIPTION
Survey of Children Aging Out of Foster Care	Virginia Commission on Youth (VCOY) and Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS)	<p>During the 2017 General Assembly Session, House Bill 1451 (Farrell) was adopted. This legislation directs VCOY to coordinate with VDSS to develop a process and standardized survey to gather feedback from children aging out of foster care. The survey will include information about the child's experience with and opinion of the Commonwealth's foster care services, recommendations for improvement, the amount of time the child spent in the foster care system and any other information deemed relevant by VDSS or VCOY.</p> <p>VCOY and VDSS will present on this effort during the 2017 study year.</p>
Substance Use Awareness and Education Programs at Virginia's Universities	VCOY is the lead agency for this initiative.	<p>During the 2015 and 2016 study years, VCOY adopted a recommendation to submit a budget amendment directing the State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV) to work with the Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control (ABC) to identify the current substance-use prevention and intervention programs including programs that address recreational and illicit drug use at colleges and universities. A list of best practices would then be compiled and included in a plan for Virginia's colleges and universities to implement. A final report with recommendations would be made to VCOY. While the budget amendments were included in the House of Delegate's adopted budget, the amendments were not included in the final version of the budget.</p> <p>Prior to the 2018 General Assembly Session, VCOY will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. identify the current substance-abuse prevention and intervention programs including programs that address recreational and illicit drug use at colleges and universities; and ii. compile a list of best practices to be included in a plan for Virginia's colleges and universities to implement. This may include, but not be limited to, student-initiated or student-led peer-to-peer education programs and college recovery programs.

<p>Dissemination of the <i>Collection of Evidence-based Treatments for Children and Adolescents with Mental Health Treatment Needs, 6th Edition (Collection)</i></p> <p>Collection sections Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjustment Disorders • Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder • Oppositional Defiant & Conduct Disorders • Sexual Offending • Eating Disorders • Juvenile Firesetting • Non-Suicidal Self-Injurious Behavior • Habit Disorders • Anxiety Disorders • Trauma • Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder • Depression and Dysthymia • Pediatric Bipolar Disorder • Early-onset Schizophrenia • Substance Abuse Disorders • Youth Suicide • Juvenile Offending • Developmental Disabilities and Co-occurring Mental Health Disorders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Autism Spectrum Disorder</i> ○ <i>Intellectual Disability</i> • Antidepressants and the Risk of Suicidal Behavior • School-based Mental Health Services • Role of the family in Treatment Programs • Key Components of Successful Treatment • Reference Chart of Disorders and Treatments 	<p>VCOY is the lead for this initiative.</p>	<p>VCOY Staff is in the process of finalizing the Collection 6th Edition. SJR 358 (2002) requires VCOY to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the Collection available through web technologies; • Seek the assistance of the Collection Update Advisory Group, Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Secretary of Public Safety, and Secretary of Education in posting, maintaining and biennially updating the Collection; and • Develop a cost-effective and efficient dissemination method to allow for easy access to the information. <p>Evidence-based treatments in the field of child and adolescent mental health improves the quality of care provided to youth and their families by enhancing treatment outcomes (i.e., improved school performance, improved family and peer relationships, less involvement with law enforcement); increasing provider and system accountability; and reducing service and treatment costs (i.e., fewer days are spent in more costly and restrictive settings and services are received in the community). One of the challenges in the field of children’s mental health field is transitioning effective mental health treatments from the research setting to the practice setting. Dissemination of evidence-based practices can aide in the implementation of these practices in the community mental health setting.</p>
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<p>Virginia Family Impact Seminar – Adverse Effects of Childhood Trauma</p>	<p>VCOY and Virginia Commonwealth University’s (VCU) Wilder School of Government</p>	<p>Virginia is participating in the Family Impact Seminar, a national model developed by the Family Impact Institute, an initiative of the National Conference of State Legislators. Family Impact Seminars provide state policymakers with nonpartisan, solution-oriented research on family issues. Twenty-five states and the District of Columbia are part of the Family Impact Institute for Family Impact Seminars network and are currently conducting or planning to conduct Family Impact Seminars at their state capitals. The Seminars target state policymakers, including legislators, legislative aides, governor’s office staff, legislative service agency staff, and agency representatives. This is the sixth Family Impact Seminar co-sponsored by VCOY and VCU. The 2017 Seminar topic is on adverse effects of childhood trauma.</p>
<p>Virginia’s Three Branch Institute on Improving Child Safety and Preventing Child Fatalities</p>	<p>VDSS is the lead agency. VCOY members and the Executive Director serve on the Three Branch Home Team.</p>	<p>Virginia is one of eight states selected to receive a technical assistance grant from the National Governor’s Association (NGA). Representatives from the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government will develop and implement an integrated approach to improve child safety and reduce fatalities that occur due to child abuse and/or neglect. Virginia’s Three Branch Team will explore and implement best practices/ strategies in an effort to redesign how all systems work, not just the child welfare system, in order to prevent these tragic deaths. Customized technical assistance will be provided by NGA and its partners, including the National Conference of State Legislators, the National Center for State Courts, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and Casey Family Programs. The Three Branch Team will meet regularly through the end of 2017.</p>
<p>Quality Improvement Center for Workforce Development Grant</p>	<p>VDSS is the lead agency. VCOY staff will participate in in the second phase of the grant application.</p>	<p>VDSS submitted an application to the Quality Improvement Center for Workforce Development (QIC-WD) for a technical assistance grant opportunity to improve child welfare workforce outcomes. Staff recruitment and retention are persistent challenges for many child welfare agencies, including those in Virginia. Virginia’s average turnover rate is approximately 30 percent. Not only is staff turnover costly and burdensome, it negatively affects the relationship between families and the agency. The QIC-WD will use a continuous workforce development process to identify workforce needs and implement evidence-informed interventions. The QIC-WD will select five to ten agencies for this opportunity. VDSS is one of 15 sites that have been selected to move into the</p>

		<p>second phase of the application process.</p> <p>VCOY is a participant of the second phase of the application process. This will include a full day site visit with QIC-WD staff. QIC-WD gather information regarding the vision for the workforce; information from “front-line” staff about their experience working in the agency; overview of workforce challenges; overview of current and previous implementation and evaluation projects; organizational culture and climate; and human resources procedures. This site visit is the final step of the application process.</p>
<p>2017 Federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR).</p>	<p>VDSS is the lead agency. VCOY staff will serve as a partner/reviewer for the Central Virginia Review.</p>	<p>The federal CFSR is designed to help states improve child protective services, foster care, adoption, family preservation, family support and independent living services, as well as measure outcomes for families and children, by identifying strengths and needs within state programs. The CFSR will enable Virginia to: (1) ensure conformity with federal child welfare requirements; (2) determine what is actually happening to children and families as they are engaged in child welfare services; and (3) assist local departments of social services (LDSS) in enhancing their capacity to help children and families achieve positive outcomes.</p> <p>The CFSR process gathers information from case files and interviews with children and families who are receiving services through their local agency. What is learned from the CFSR will be used to improve the system and to help children and their families receive better services in Virginia. VCOY staff is participating on the Central Region review scheduled the week of May 8 through May 12 at Richmond LDSS.</p>
<p>Pilot Program for the Temporary Placements Of Children for Children and Families In Crisis</p>	<p>VDSS is the lead agency. VCOY will monitor this effort and receive a presentation during the 2017 study year.</p>	<p>This recommendation was adopted by VCOY from the study – Temporary Placements of Children and Families in Crisis (2015). Budget language was subsequently adopted during the 2016 General Assembly for VDSS and Patrick Henry Family Services to establish a pilot program for the temporary placements of children for families in crisis. VDSS will then evaluate the pilot program and determine if this model of prevention is effective. A report of the evaluation findings and recommendations is to be submitted to VCOY, the Governor, the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees by December 1, 2017.</p>

<p>Studying the Feasibility of Removing the Right of Appeal from Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court to Circuit Court In Certain Termination of Parental Rights Cases</p>	<p>Virginia Bar Association's Commission on the Needs of Children is the lead entity. VCOY will monitor this effort and receive a presentation during the 2017 study year.</p>	<p>This recommendation was adopted by VCOY from the study – Virginia's Home Study Adoption Process Study (2016). A letter was sent to the Virginia Bar Association's Commission on the Needs of Children requesting that the Commission study the implications of the removal of the right to appeal, to Circuit Court from Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, certain cases involving termination of parental rights. As part of this study, the concept of Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Courts becoming courts of record for matters involving child custody and termination of parental rights would be explored. VCOY staff will participate in this study effort.</p>
<p>Monitor the Department of Juvenile Justice's (VDJJ) review of the residential requirements for juvenile correctional centers and secure juvenile detention centers</p>	<p>VDJJ is the lead agency. VCOY will monitor this effort and receive a presentation during the 2017 study year.</p>	<p>This recommendation was adopted by VCOY from the study – The Use of Segregation In Virginia's Juvenile Detention Homes (2016). A letter was sent to VDJJ requesting the Board of Juvenile Justice, in consultation with experts in the fields of mental health and juvenile justice and child-rights advocates, to promulgate regulations on the use of room segregation in juvenile correctional facilities and detention homes. During the summer of 2016, VDJJ commenced a review of the residential requirements for juvenile correctional centers and secure juvenile detention centers. The use of segregation and isolation is included in this review. VCOY also requested staff to continue monitoring VDJJ's review of the residential requirements for juvenile correctional centers and secure juvenile detention centers.</p>
<p>Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) study of Regional Tuition Programs (RTRPs) for students with disabilities</p>	<p>VDOE is the lead agency. VCOY will monitor this effort and receive a presentation during the 2017 study year.</p>	<p>This recommendation was adopted by VCOY from the study – The Use of Federal, State, and Local Funds for Private Educational Placements of Students with Disabilities (2014 & 2015). VCOY had requested VDOE to analyze Virginia's Regional Special Education Programs and provide VCOY with an update of their findings and recommendations during the 2016 study year. After receiving a presentation at the VCOY October 20, 2016 meeting, a letter was sent to VDOE in support of VDOE's recommendation Option 1: Equity Model to phase out and replace the current 11 RTRP models over 2-3 years. VCOY will monitor this effort and receive a presentation during the 2017 study year.</p>