

**Family First
Prevention
Services Act and
Implementation
Updates**

Carl Ayers
Virginia Commission on Youth
November 20, 2018



**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES**

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.

- Family First is the **largest investment** in the child welfare system **in nearly 40 years** and is an **extraordinary opportunity** to be **innovative** and **responsive** to children's and families' individual needs.
- Family First supports VDSS's Children's Services Practice Model and overarching mission that kids should grow up in a **safe, stable and secure family** that supports their **long-term well-being**.
- Family First recognizes that kids do best in families, and families do best in strong, supportive communities. Family First ensures **a family first for children and teens** with prevention services to **keep kids safe** and **families together**. Children and teens who cannot safely stay at home should **live with relatives or close friends**. When that is not possible, Family First advocates that kids should live with a **loving, and supportive foster family**
- **Beneficiaries** of Family First are **families with children at imminent risk** of entering foster care.

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

Congregate Care

Safely reduce the inappropriate use of congregate care; when congregate care is needed, ensure children are placed in the least restrictive, highest-quality setting appropriate to their individual needs

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

Resources and Financial Accountability

Build capacity and leverage resources to provide effective services to prevent foster care placement while ensuring financial accountability

IV-E

\$210 million

50/50 match rate
(federal/state)

Children's Services Act

\$370 million

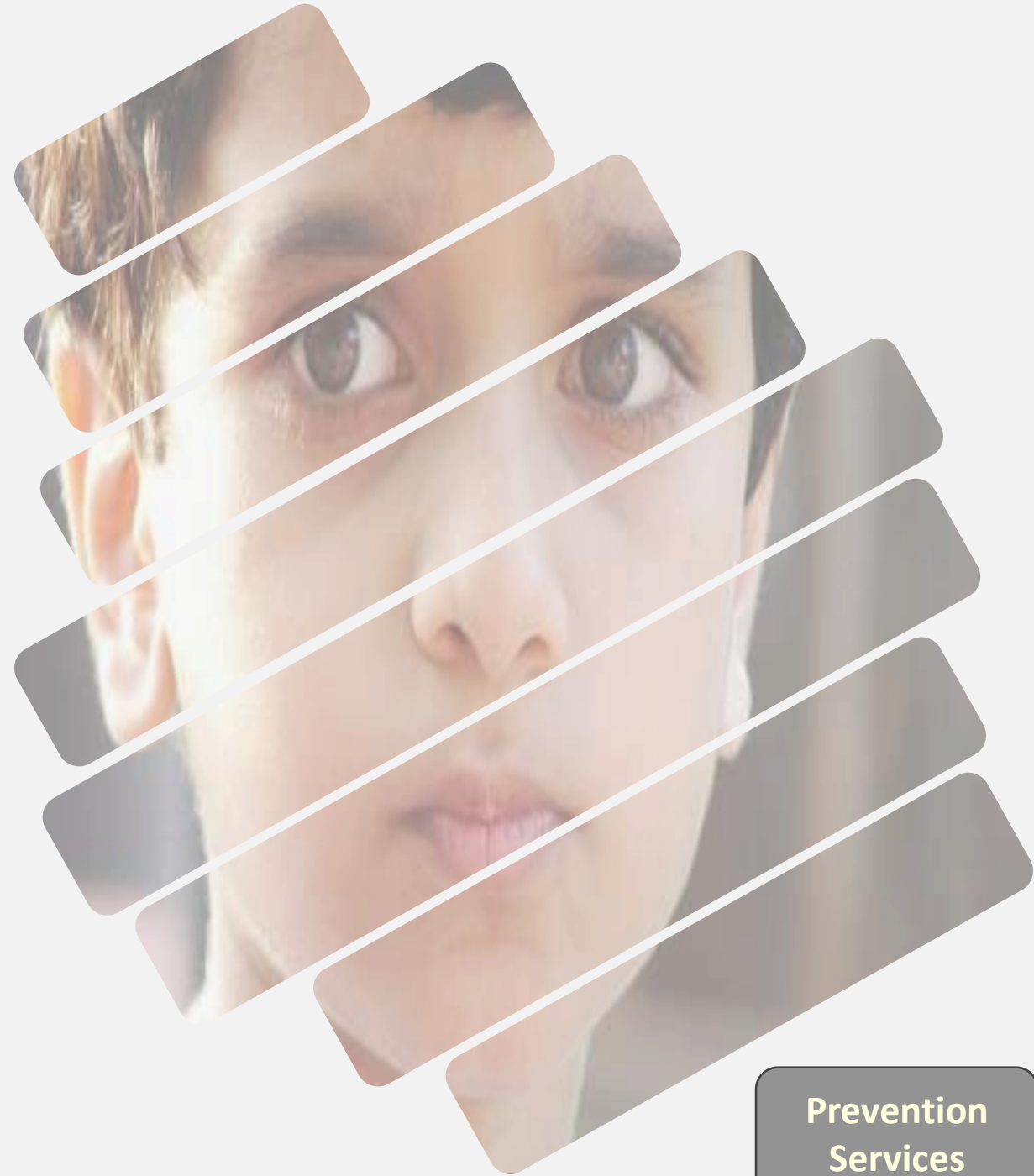
65/35 average match rate
(state/local)



A photograph of four young children, two girls and two boys, sitting around a table. They are all looking down at something on the table, possibly a book or a craft project. The children are diverse in ethnicity. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The image is slightly blurred, giving it a soft, candid feel.

New federal funds for prevention services are intended to increase, not replace, state funding for Prevention Services.

- ❖ A child (and 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



IV-E Reimbursable Services

Mental Health
Prevention
Treatment
Services

Substance Abuse
Prevention
Treatment
Services

In-Home Parent
Skill-Based
Programs

Trauma Informed

Prevention
Services

Why are Evidence-Based Services Important?

Slide adapted from Dr. Alyssa Ward, DMAS



Well Supported

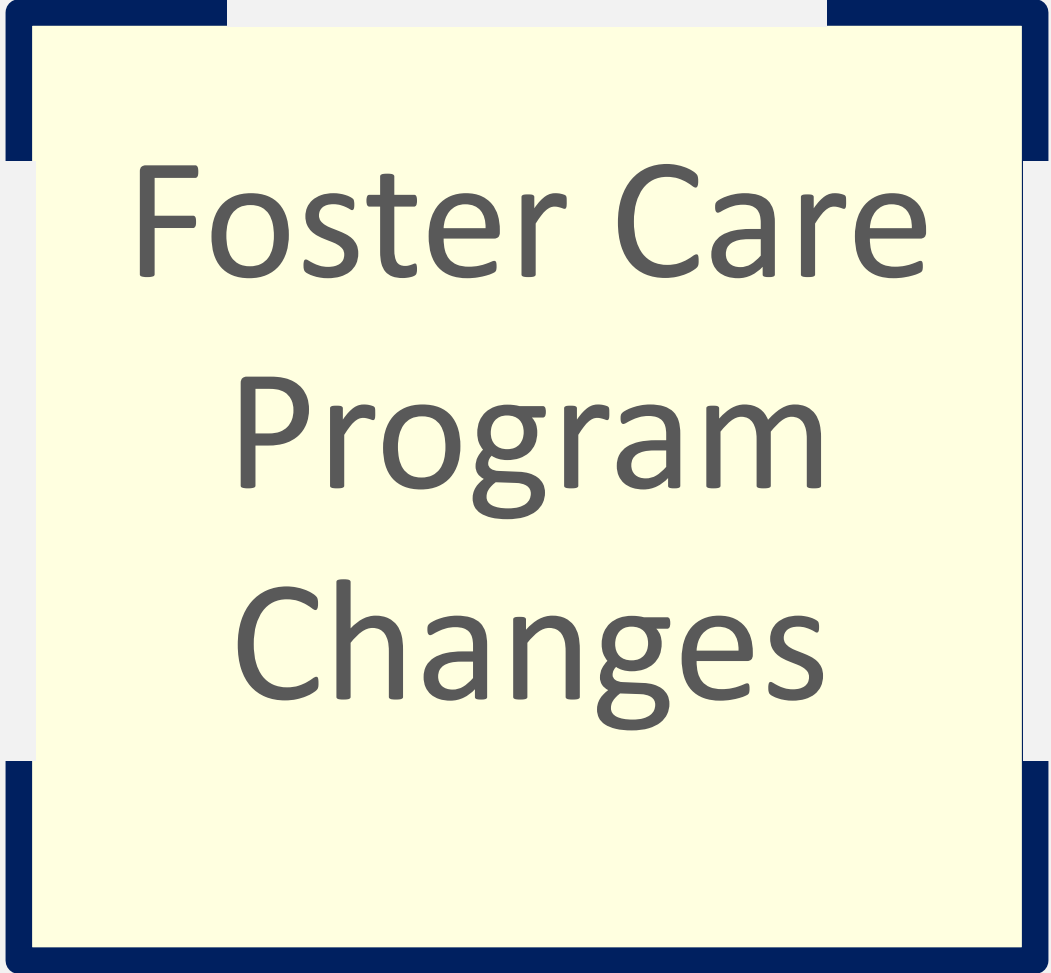
- Improved outcome must be based on the results of at least 2 studies that used a random control or quasi-experimental trial
- Carried out in a usual care or practice setting
- Sustained effect for at least one year beyond the end of treatment

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



Foster Care
Program
Changes

We believe that children do best when raised in families.



- ❖ 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)

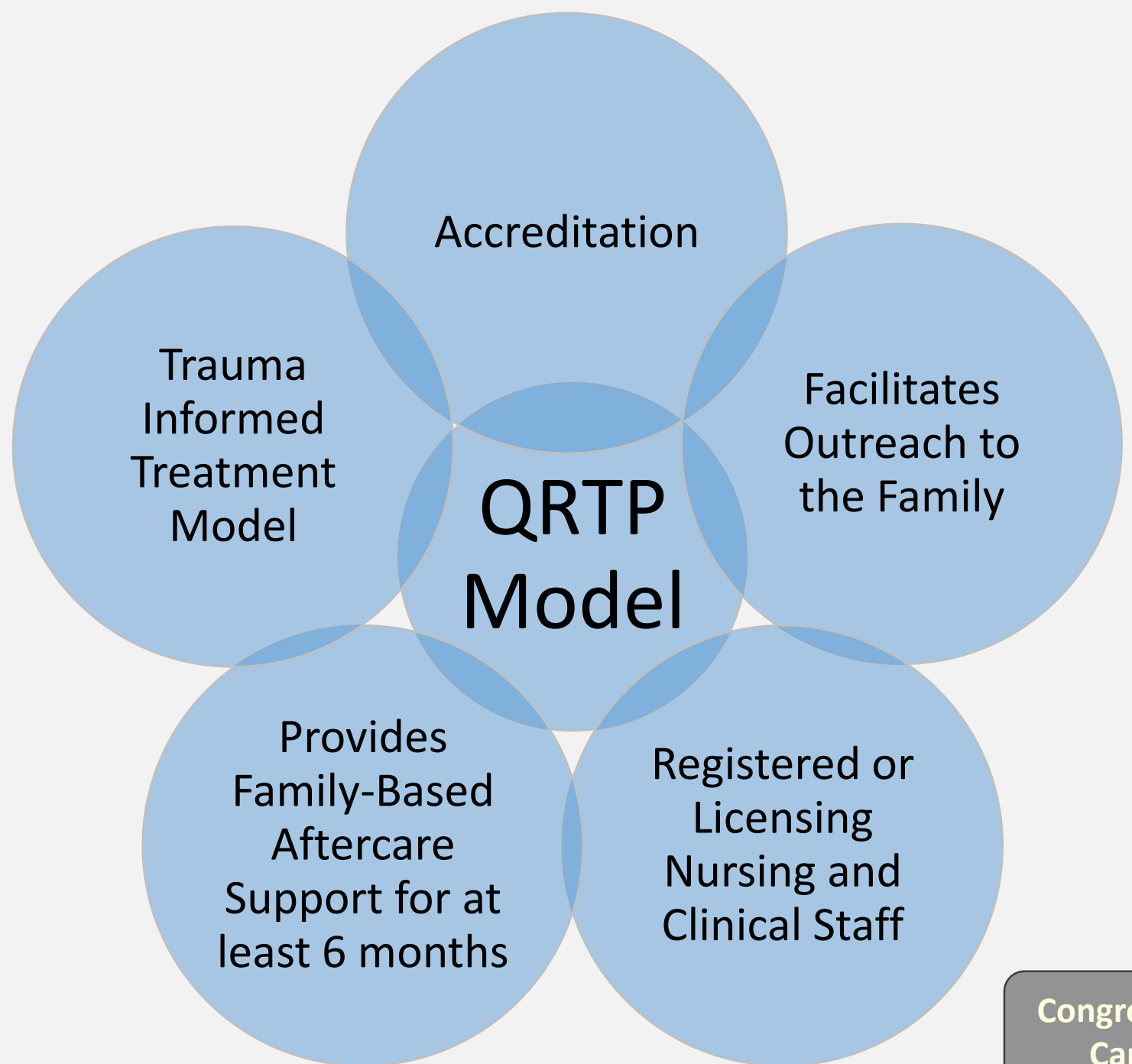
**Family Based
Placements**



National Model Licensing Standards for Foster Families
\$8,000,000 in grants for foster home recruitment

Family Based
Placements

Qualified Residential Treatment Program(QRTP)



Congregate Care

30-day
Assessment


60-day Court
Review

12-month
review by
Commissioner

Family and
Permanency
Team

QRTP Requirements





Miscellaneous Changes

Kinship Navigator Programs



Promote Family-Based Placements

A group of five diverse young adults (three women and two men) are smiling and talking outdoors. They are dressed in casual attire like hoodies and jackets. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting.

John H. Chafee Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (CPSTA).

CPSTA/ILP services are available for young adults up until their 23rd birthday

ETV Services available for young adults up until their 26th birthday

Family Reunification Services



- ❖ Removes the time limit on providing reunification services
- ❖ Now allows service provision for a period of up to 15 months after reunification

Additional Provisions

Family Reunification Services and Activities Include:

- ❖ Individual, group, and family counseling.
- ❖ Inpatient, residential, or outpatient substance abuse treatment services.
- ❖ Mental health services.
- ❖ Assistance to address domestic violence.
- ❖ Services designed to provide temporary childcare and therapeutic services for families, including crisis nurseries.
- ❖ Peer-to-peer mentoring and support groups for parents and primary caregivers.
- ❖ Services and activities designed to facilitate access to and visitation of children by parents and siblings.
- ❖ Transportation to and from any of the services and activities described.



Implementation



We are committed to **using data to improve decision making** and ensure **services provided are informed by outcomes**



We will promote **reliable, accurate, transparent and timely two-way communication** among stakeholders throughout the implementation of Family First.



True transformation will take time, and implementation will **continually be monitored and updated** to meet emerging needs.



Collaboration and partnerships with systems across the state are the key to successful implementation of Family First. Every person and every organization, provider and system have an important role to play.

*Planning for implementation is currently underway, with **initial implementation starting October 1, 2019.***

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

Public Law 115-123
DIVISION E—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES EXTENDERS TITLE VII—FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT

Virginia Department of Social Services
(IV-E Funding Entity)

Virginia Office of Children’s Services
(State Foster Care Funding Sources)



Three Branch Leadership Team
(Judicial, Executive and Legislative Branches of Government)

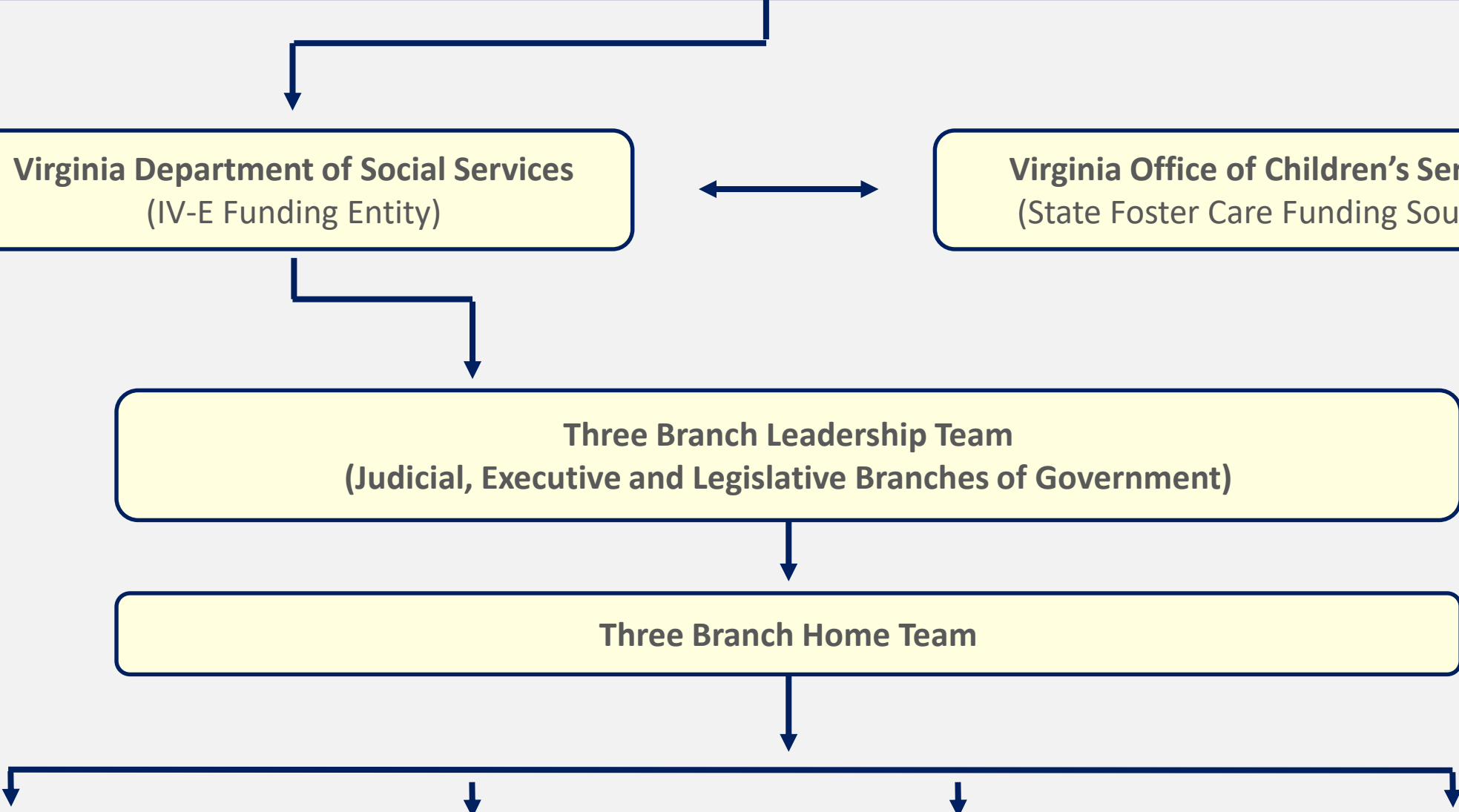
Three Branch Home Team

Finance

Prevention Services

**Appropriate Foster
Care Placements**

**Evidence-Based
Services**



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

Finance Workgroup

- Maintenance of Effort
- Budget Implications

Evidence-Based Services Workgroup

- Survey for EBS in Virginia
- Collaborate with DMAS and DJJ

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

Finance Workgroup

- Recommend budgets/use of funds to support implementation
- Understand the financial costs of supporting the start up of evidence-based services

Evidence-Based Services Workgroup

- Analyze results of EBS Survey (service gaps)
- Perform CANS data analysis
- Provide recommendations for fidelity monitoring and CQI process

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

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



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

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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES