Collection of Evidence-based Practices for Children and Adolescents with Mental Health Treatment Needs

The Commission on Youth has compiled the *Collection* to assist educators, service providers, parents, caregivers and others seeking information on those mental health treatments proven to be effective in treating children and adolescents. The Collection is:

- **A nationally recognized publication that is Virginia's first and only resource on best practices in children's mental health**
- **Compiled and updated biannually by the Commission on youth at the request of the General Assembly**
- **Provides the community at large with information about evidence-based and promising practices for treating youth mental health disorders**
- **Designed to encourage use of treatments by professions and inform parents, caregivers and other stakeholders**
- **Focuses on a data-driven decision making based on consistent scientific evidence which permits assessment of outcomes**

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Commission on Youth

The Virginia Commission on Youth is a standing bipartisan legislative commission of the General Assembly, which, by mandate, provides a legislative forum for exploring and resolving complex issues related to youth and their families.

Children matter to policymakers in Virginia. Almost 2 million young people age 0-18 live in our state. This number represents almost 25% of our state's population. Correspondingly, a significant percentage of our state budget goes directly to services for these youth and their families. Given the size of this population and the breadth of special needs associated with young people and their families, Virginia is fortunate to have the Commission on Youth to provide guidance and leadership on youth policy issues.

The Commission on Youth provides a forum for the review and study of youth policies and services. Whether you are a member or staff of the General Assembly, a government official, service provider, educator, parent or caregiver, or interested member of the public, you will find the Commission to be a wonderful resource. The Commission has worked on a variety of issues, from child welfare to juvenile justice, or from mental health to education. I encourage you to familiarize yourself with our work and to let us know whenever we can be of assistance to your child, family or community.

The Honorable Barbara A. Favola, Chair

Proudly Supporting the General Assembly

- Provides a bipartisan forum for complex issues related to youth and their families
- Studies and provides recommendations to the General Assembly on matters related to youth and families in the areas of child mental health, comprehensive services, child welfare, kinship care, adoption & foster care, child care, public safety, juvenile justice, substance abuse, education, health and human services
- Contributes to the General Assembly's ability to make sound policy decisions based on well-studied, reasoned recommendations and best practices
- Performs research on youth-related topics at the request of members
- Assists members in developing bills on study issues which reflect consensus among key agencies, organizations and special interests
- Analyzes youth-related legislation (proposed or existing) for members
- Serves as a resource for members' constituent concerns
- Monitors developments in federal, state and local government

Commission on Youth Legislative Highlights

- Successfully introduced Restoration of Parental Rights legislation
- Hosted 6 Family Impact Seminars, in partnership with Virginia Commonwealth University, at the Virginia State Capitol
- Offered research and guidance on foster care and kinship issues, including support of legislation expanding foster care to age 21
- Formulated recommendations to encourage the least restrictive placements for students with disabilities
- Supported additional funding to expand Public Guardian and Conservator Program services to certain individuals with disability or mental illness
- Successfully introduced legislation requiring the promulgation of regulations for the use of seclusion and restraint in public schools

Virginia Commission on Youth