

CPS Administrative Policy

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Prevention Services pursuant to the Family First Prevention Services Act

Policy

Service Description and Oversight

- (1) Services provided pursuant to the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) shall be for a child and the parents or kin caregivers of the child when the need of the child, such a parent, or such a caregiver for the services or programs is directly related to the safety, permanence, or well-being of the child or the prevention of the child from entering foster care. Services will be limited to:
 - (A) MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT SERVICES. Mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services provided by a qualified clinician for not more than a 12-month period that begins on any date described in paragraph (3) of Section 471(e) with respect to the child.
 - (B) IN-HOME PARENT SKILL-BASED PROGRAMS. In-home parent skill-based programs for not more than a 12-month period that begins on any date described in paragraph (3) of Section 471(e) with respect to the child and that includes parenting skills training, parent education, and individual and family counseling.
- (2) The state will provide preventive services pursuant to FFPSA intended to improve specific outcomes for children and families.
 - (A) The services [evidence-based programs (EBPs)] initially selected to be provided together with their ratings on the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse are:
 - (i) Homebuilders, well-supported
 - (ii) Parents as Teachers, well-supported
 - (iii) Multi-systemic therapy, well-supported
 - (iv) Triple P Standard Level 4, promising
 - (v) Methadone Maintenance Therapy, promising
 - (B) The services will be implemented through a regional contracting model and implementation support and continuous monitoring of the services will be enhanced by adding new positions that will be regionally deployed. All contracted providers of EBPs shall report and adhere to North Carolina's CQI and fidelity monitoring processes which will include regular contact and communication in addition to standardized, monthly reporting on measures of reach, fidelity, capacity and outcomes.
 - (C) Services (EBPs) shall be selected based on evidence that they produced outcomes that directly address reasons that children in North Carolina enter foster care.

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- (D) The initial target population for EBPs provided pursuant to FFPSA will include:
- (i) pregnant and parenting youth who are in foster care
 - (ii) children who meet the definition of candidates for foster care as outlined in section 471(e)(4)(A)(i) and (ii) of the Family First Act. North Carolina understands these children must be at imminent or serious risk of foster care and whose candidacy for foster care is documented in a written case plan developed together with the family.
- (E) The services provided will meet the requirements at section 471(e)(4)(B) of the Act related to trauma-informed service-delivery. Compliance with the requirements will be part of contract selection and requirements and the readiness assessment process for EBP service delivery.

Policy

Evaluation strategy and waiver request.

- (1) Evaluation waivers shall be requested for EBPs that are rated well supported by evidence on the FFPSA Prevention Services Clearing House using Attachment II in ACYF-CB-PI-18-09. If waiver requests are approved, NC DHHS will develop a plan to monitor continuously to assure fidelity and determine outcomes and gather information to be used to refine and improve practices. For services that are rated supported or promising on the clearinghouse, DHHS shall identify an appropriate evaluation partner to conduct a rigorous process and outcome evaluation and submit details of the evaluation plan to the Administration of Children and Families.

Policy

Monitoring and Safety.

- (1) Children referred to EBPs pursuant to FFPSA will be open to child welfare services at the time that services are being provided and the safety and risk of those children will be assessed and monitored according to state policy requirements for the program to which the children are open (CPS assessments or CPS in-home services for candidates for foster care; foster care for pregnant or parenting

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youth); children receiving these programs are required to have face-to-face contacts with their child welfare caseworker at least monthly and to have their safety and risk assessed at specified intervals through Structured Decision Making (SDM) tools.

Policy

Consultation and Coordination.

(1) NC DSS shall:

- (A) Foster a continuum of care for candidates for foster care (as described in paragraph 471(e)(2) of the Social Security Act), their parents, or kin caregivers, by consulting with other state agencies responsible for administering health program programming (including mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services) and with other public and private agencies and community-based organizations that administer or provide child and family services.
- (B) Describe how the preventive services funded under FFPSA will be coordinated with other child and family services provided under the state's plans in effect for IV-B1 and IV-B2.

Policy

Child welfare workforce support.

(1) NC DHHS shall support and enhance a competent, skilled, and professional child welfare workforce to deliver trauma informed and evidence-based services by:

- (A) Ensuring that the agencies who receive contracts to provide FFPSA prevention services have staff who are qualified to provide the services selected.
- (B) Assuring that county child welfare staff have the skill and competence to develop appropriate prevention plans and conduct structured risk assessments described in (c) above.

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Child welfare workforce training.

- (1) DHHS shall provide training and support for caseworkers to assess the needs of children and their families, engage and connect to the families served, know how to access and deliver needed trauma informed and evidence-based services, and oversee and evaluate the continuing appropriateness of the services.

Policy

Prevention caseloads.

- (1) DHHS shall describe how caseload size for caseworkers for selected prevention services will be determined, managed, and overseen.

Policy

Assurance on prevention programming.

- (1) NC DHHS will report to the US DHHS Secretary such information and data as the Secretary may require with respect to the provision of services and programs specified in paragraph 471(e)(1), including information and data necessary to determine the performance measures for the state under paragraph 471(e)(6) and compliance with paragraph 471(e)(7) of the social security act.

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Child and family eligibility for the title IV-E prevention program.

- (1) Children who are eligible for FFPSA funded prevention services in North Carolina are described in the social security act as:
 - (A) A child in foster care who is a pregnant or parenting foster youth.
 - (B) A candidate for foster care who is identified in a prevention plan under section 471(e)(4)(A) as being at imminent risk of entering foster care (without regard to whether the child would be eligible for foster care maintenance payments under section 472 or is or would be eligible for adoption assistance or kinship guardianship assistance payments under section 473) but who can remain safely in the child's home or in a kinship placement as long as services or programs specified in section 471(e)(1) that are necessary to prevent the entry of the child into foster care are provided. The term includes a child whose adoption or guardianship arrangement is at risk of a disruption or dissolution that would result in a foster care placement.