



FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT

Implementation Overview

Friday, January 29, 2021

1:00 – 2:00 PM

RHENDA H. HODNETT, Ph.D., LCSW

Assistant Secretary, DCFS

Division of Child Welfare



FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT




WELCOME!


Vision:


Louisiana's children grow up safe and healthy, nurtured by family and community




FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT


 What is the Family First Prevention Services Act?

 Why is it important?

 What have other states done to transform their systems?

 What is Louisiana's vision for implementation?

 What has been done so far, and what opportunities lie ahead?

 How can I get involved?



FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT



POLL QUESTION

On a scale of 1 to 4, how familiar are you with the Family First Prevention Service Act?

1

JUST LEARNING

about FFPSA with this webinar invite

2

HAVE BEEN HEARING

about FFPSA and want to learn more

3

FAMILIAR WITH

FFPSA and often participate in discussions about the act

4

VERY FAMILIAR

with FFPSA and have been involved in planning/implementation activities

FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT



REFORM

Legislation passed in 2018, the Act **reforms federal child welfare financing streams** to provide services to families who are at risk of entering the child welfare system.

PREVENT

Aims to **prevent children from entering foster care** by allowing federal reimbursement for mental health services, substance use treatment, and in-home parenting skills training.

IMPROVE

Seeks to improve the well-being of children already in foster care by incentivizing states to **reduce placement of children in congregate care** (group homes).

FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT



Why is it important?

- DCFS Secretary
Marketa Garner Walters
- OJJ Deputy Secretary
Bill Sommers

FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT



What has been done nationally to transform child welfare systems in accordance with Family First legislation?

Paul DiLorenzo, ACSW, MLSP
Capacity Building Center for States

FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT

What has been done so far?

- **Began an analysis of FFPSA's potential impact to LA**
 - Who are the children and families currently being served? Trends?
 - Current continuum of services vs gaps in service
 - Provider capacity and interest in shifting focus
 - Potential financial impact
- **Organized a structure for plan development and implementation**
Steering Committee
 - Workgroup on Prevention
 - Workgroup on Residential Redesign
 - Workgroup on Administrative requirements
- **Created website for information/progress**
- **Stakeholder Webinar 1/29/21**

FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT



Prevention Services

Vision:

To ensure preventive services are available and accessible to families in order to reduce child maltreatment and entry into foster care.



FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT

Key takeaways: Prevention Activities Under Title IV-E

- Option for states to use **title IV-E funding (with 50% state match)** to provide up to 12 months of evidence-based **mental health services, substance abuse treatment, and in-home parenting training**
- **Eligible candidates:** children who can remain safely at home with receipt of services; youth in foster care who are parenting; parents or caregivers needing services to prevent the child's entry into foster care.
- States must maintain a **prevention plan** for the child to remain safely at home that lists the services or programs to be provided.
- **Services must be trauma-informed and pre-approved on the HHS Clearinghouse** as promising, supported, well-supported evidence-based practices (at least 50% of total expenditures must be for well-supported practices).

FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT

Prevention Workgroup Key Activities

- Assess who is most at risk of entering foster care and why; what would it take for youth to safely remain in home/community?
- Confirm Louisiana's candidacy definition
- Outline comprehensive continuum of prevention services/strategies
- Map existing relevant prevention services vs gaps
- Ensure accessibility to existing EBPs
- Implement EBP's to fill gaps
- Identify additional providers to implement EBP's
- Plan for reporting requirements; policy; training

FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT



Residential Redesign

Vision:

To develop and implement a continuum of services and placement options emphasizing family-based settings; and, when necessary, residential treatment settings that are time limited and trauma informed



FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT

Key Takeaways: Residential Changes

- Title IV-E reimbursement for NMGHs limited to **14 days**
- **Other IV-E payable settings:**
 - Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP);
 - Setting that specializes in prenatal or parenting support;
 - Provides high-quality services to youth at risk of or victims of sex trafficking;
 - Family-based treatment facility for substance abuse;
 - Supervised independent living for youth from 18-21
- A QRTP must include a trauma-informed treatment model designed to meet the emotional and behavioral needs of children as identified by an assessment within 30 days of the child's placement (must be court approved within 60 days of placement) and must include robust after care services for 6 months

FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT

Residential Redesign Workgroup Key Activities

- Assess least restrictive opportunities for youth currently being served in any form of congregate care
- Develop provider partnerships for intensive family search, engagement, and support activities to shorten foster care length of stay while ensuring safety and well-being
- Engage with providers interested in becoming a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)
- Establish therapeutic model for QRTP
- Establish robust after care expectations

FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT



Administrative/Data

Vision:

To function as proactive, results-oriented partners who work in collaboration with the Prevention and Residential Redesign workgroups to offer guidance and support in operational planning, financial and data analysis, and federal reporting to support achievement of our statewide vision



FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT

Administrative/Data Workgroup Key Activities

- Coordinate, develop and submit Louisiana's Title IV-E Implementation Plan
- Ensure data systems have the capacity to produce required data elements
- Ensure federal reporting requirements are met (child specific data)
- Monitor compliance of FFPSA law and policy
- Support Fiscal and Budget implications and needs

FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT

What opportunities lie ahead?

- Stakeholder input; community forums
- Provide evidence-based prevention services
- Expand family foster care; therapeutic foster care
- Administer assessment to qualify for QRTP
- Implement a Qualified Residential Treatment program
- Partner to provide after care
- Evaluation

FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT



How can I get more involved?

FamilyFirst.DCFS@LA.GOV

Where can I get more information?

DCFS.la.gov/FamilyFirst

