



Activities in State Government Related to Youth and Families 2006

Prepared by the Virginia Commission on Youth
November 28, 2006

Topic	Lead Agency	Description	Status
Comprehensive Services	Legislative Services	SJR 96 (Hanger, 2006) establishes a joint subcommittee to study the cost effectiveness of the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) and to collaborate with the Joint Legislative and Audit Review Commission (JLARC) regarding its evaluation of the administration of the Act. The study is being conducted in two phases. In the first phase of the study, the joint subcommittee shall review the administration of the CSA by state and local governments, including projections of caseloads, service needs and costs, quality of services provided, and make recommendations for improvement of program services and strategies for cost containment. The Commission shall also: ▪ Evaluate the costs, quality, and reimbursement of children's residential services, ▪ Examine interdepartmental regulations of these facilities, determine whether CSA children receive appropriate care, and ▪ Apprise the joint subcommittee of the status of its study and findings. In the second phase of the study, the joint subcommittee and JLARC shall continue their respective studies and collaboration and report their final findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 2008 Session of the General Assembly. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The joint subcommittee is limited to four meetings for the 2006 interim and four meetings for the 2007 interim. JLARC is required by HJR 60 to report its findings annually to the joint subcommittee. Legislative Services is staffing the study cooperatively with JLARC. If a companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both Clerks shall be required. No recommendation of the joint subcommittee shall be adopted if a majority of the Senate members or a majority of the House members appointed to the joint subcommittee (i) vote against the recommendation and (ii) vote for the recommendation to fail notwithstanding the majority vote of the joint subcommittee. The joint subcommittee and JLARC shall complete their respective meetings by November 30, 2007 for each study year. The chairmen of the joint subcommittee and JLARC shall individually submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of their findings and recommendations by the start of the General Assembly Session in each study year. The joint subcommittee met initially in October and on November 22 to conclude its first year of study.

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Comprehensive Services	Joint Legislative Review and Audit Commission	HJR 60 (Nixon, 2006) directs JLARC to evaluate the administration of the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA). In conducting this two-year study, the Commission shall, among other things: ▪ Evaluate the costs, quality, and reimbursement of children's residential services; ▪ Examine the interdepartmental regulation of these facilities; ▪ Assess the administration of the CSA by state and local governments; ▪ Evaluate the quality and capacity of services available to and provided for CSA children; and ▪ Determine whether CSA children receive appropriate care, case management, education, and supervision. This study is a recommendation of the Joint Subcommittee Studying Private Youth and Single Family Group Homes in the Commonwealth pursuant to HJR 685 (Nixon, 2005). Commission's involvement: Tracking	JLARC approved its study plan on May 8. The stated overall goal of the final study report is to recommend steps to control costs and ensure that at-risk children are receiving effective services in a safe and healthy environment. HJR 60 directs JLARC to complete its meetings by November 30 in each study year. Also, in each year, the chairman shall brief the joint subcommittee to study the cost effectiveness of CSA (SJR 96, 2006) no later than November 1, and submit to the money committees, Senate Education and Health Committee, House Health, Welfare and Institutions Committee, as well as the Division of Legislative Automated Systems, an executive summary of its findings and recommendations by the 2008 General Assembly Session. JLARC staff will provide a year-end update of its first year's study to members at its December 11th meeting.
Comprehensive Services	Office of Comprehensive Services	The State Executive Council (SEC) oversees the activities of the Office of Comprehensive Services (OCS) and establishes collaborative program policy development, fiscal policy development, and administrative oversight for the provision of child-centered, family-focused and community-based services to eligible emotionally and behaviorally troubled children/youth and their families in the least restrictive, appropriate environment. Commission's involvement: Tracking	SEC meetings are scheduled by the Secretary of Health and Human Resources. Pursuant to § 2.1-746 of the <i>Code of Virginia</i>, the SEC is required to meet at least quarterly. 2006 Scheduled Meetings: - March 31 - May 5 - June 27 - September 27 - December 13
Comprehensive Services	Office of Comprehensive Services	The State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT) is responsible for making recommendations to the State Executive Council on interagency programs and fiscal policies. It also offers training and technical assistance to state agencies and localities. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The SLAT, which generally meets the first Thursday of each month, receives many presentations regarding state and local activities for children's services. The SLAT has formed many task groups to accomplish its purposes including: ▪ Training, Technical Assistance and Best Practices ▪ Providing Consistent Guidance on Policy/Program Implementation ▪ Involving Families Proactively

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Child Welfare	Social Services	The Kinship Care Task Force – co-chaired by Senator Miller and Commissioner Anthony Conyers, Jr. – continues its work addressing the needs of grand-parents and others caring for minor children in their families, as well as the needs of the those children. The Task Force, which meets quarterly, was created to examine the feasibility of establishing a Kinship Care program in Virginia. Commission's involvement: Task Force Member	The Task Force was supportive of SB 48 (Miller, 2006) that requires a local board of social services, before making a foster care placement, to first seek out kinship foster care. The Board of Social Services is to adopt regulations for determining whether the child has a relative who is eligible to become a kinship foster parent. Kinship foster care placements are subject to the requirements, and receive the benefits, of other foster care placements, including payments for the care of the child.
Child Welfare	Aging	The Kinship Care Initiative Statewide Task Force and Information Network focuses on inter-generational activities, as well as communication issues among the kinship care community. Commission's involvement: Task Force Member	In addition to the on-going work of the Task Force and Information Network, special attention is being given to bi-partisan federal legislation (S. 985) pending in Congress. The Kinship Caregiver Support Act proposes to help children who are raised by relatives by providing: ▪ A Kinship Navigator Program to link relative caregivers to support services needed to care for children; ▪ A Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program to help ensure permanent homes with relatives for some children in foster care; ▪ A requirement that state child welfare agencies provide notice, within 60 days of the removal of a child from the custody of the child's parents, to all adult grandparents and other relatives of the child; and ▪ States establishing separate licensing standards for relative foster parents and non-relative foster parents provided both standards protect children and include criminal records checks. A national call-in day, May 10, 2006 was designated to rally calls to Congress in support of the legislation.
Child Welfare	Social Services	The newly-formed Virginia Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Parents Association is intended to establish a grassroots effort for kinship parents, foster and adoptive parents in Virginia. The Association will support recruitment and retention of foster, kinship and adoptive parents, provide training and support, and provide information to the state about what families need in terms of support and training. The Association will also advocate for the needs of youth and families. DSS has contracted with the Puckett Institute to launch the Association. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Association will host regional kick-off events to start the conversation about how the Association can support foster and adoptive parents in Virginia. Events for the Association: ▪ Fredericksburg (May 6) ▪ Portsmouth (May 18) ▪ Lynchburg (May 20) ▪ Abingdon (June 17) ▪ Richmond (June 20) A stand-alone website for parents and interested persons is available at www.fosteradoptiveparents.org.

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Child Welfare	Social Services	The Virginia Information and Referral (I&R) System has existed for almost a quarter of a century. Section 63.2-222 of the <i>Code of Virginia</i> established a statewide I&R system which is designed to collect and maintain accurate and complete resource data on a statewide basis. The I&R system: ▪ Collects and maintains accurate and complete resource data on a statewide basis; ▪ Links citizens needing human services with appropriate community resources to satisfy those needs; ▪ Assists in planning for human services delivery at the local, regional and state levels; and ▪ Provides information to assist decision-makers in allocating financial and other resources to respond to state and local human service priorities. Commission's involvement: Commission Initiative	In Fall 2004, the Commission on Youth, as part of its two-year legislative initiative on Strengthening Families, acted on study recommendations to support the statewide Information & Referral System for 2-1-1. Following the 2005 General Assembly Session, the Commission adopted 2-1-1 as a stand-alone initiative for the 2005 study year. For the 2006-2008 biennial budget, the Commission initiated budget requests for \$1.4 in the DSS budget specifically to expand 2-1-1 hours of operation to include 8:30 a.m. to midnight, 7 days a week. On February 10, 2006, 2-1-1 was launched in five of the state's six coverage areas: Roanoke, Staunton, Norfolk, Lynchburg, and Richmond. The number will launch in Northern Virginia in 2007. The 2006 General Assembly, at the recommendation of the Commission on Youth, appropriated additional funding (\$723,844 General Funds and \$531,791 Nongeneral Funds) to assist with the statewide implementation of 2-1-1. In November, Virginia Department of Health Professions (VDHP) activated an information line available through 2-1-1 VIRGINIA for patients to locate a health professional for themselves, a child or an aging parent. Callers can now determine: • Status of a healthcare provider's license; • Actions taken on an individual's license by any of the 13 health regulatory boards; and • Doctors' office hours and locations, languages spoken, hospital affiliation. Since February 2006, 2-1-1 VIRGINIA has received nearly 20,000 calls. In addition, the 2-1-1 VIRGINIA Web site, www.211virginia.org, has recorded 37,500 visits.
Child Welfare	Social Services	In 2003, through the Healthy Marriage and Stable Families Initiative, DSS awarded grants that provide community-based family preservation and supportive services that strengthen marriages and stabilize families. This project is continuing in FY06 (\$250,000 through the Safe and Stable Families grant to Virginia). In the 2006 project, fatherhood programs have been added as a focus area and four pilot prisoner reentry programs which include family-to-family mentoring are being developed. Commission's involvement: Tracking	Item 360-G of the 2004-2006 biennial budget stated that, contingent upon the availability of federal funding, DSS may continue funding for the Healthy Marriage and Stable Families Initiative grants that provide community-based family preservation and supportive services to strengthen marriages and stabilize families. On November 30, 2005, DSS reported (<i>House Document 97</i>, 2005) on these activities to the money committees, as well as to the chairman of the Virginia Commission on Youth.

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Child Welfare	Social Services	Since 2003, Virginia has been one of seven states participating in the National Governors Association Prisoner Re-entry Policy Academy. One part of this multi-faceted strategy is the Virginia Reentry Pilot Projects group which, for 20 months, has identified relevant issues and developed strategies for successful reentry. One component is strengthening parenting skills and supporting families/strengthening marriages, including communication, conflict resolution and problem-solving skills. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Reentry Policy Academy sponsored a Family Support Forum in Richmond on September 28 th involving the faith community and government resources. Other events and initiatives are planned as part of the three-phase pilots.
Child Welfare/Public Safety	Legislative Services	SJR 126 (Puller, 2006) continues the joint subcommittee to study the Commonwealth's program for prisoner reentry to society. The joint subcommittee shall continue to identify and develop strategies to address key needs and overcome barriers for offenders, prior to and upon leaving prison, to reduce the incidence of reincarceration and to increase successful social adaptation and integration. The joint subcommittee will monitor any budget provisions and changes in the law recommended over the past year to ensure maximum effectiveness. This bill also increases the membership of the joint subcommittee by adding the Attorney General, or his designee, to serve ex officio with nonvoting privileges. Commission's Involvement: Tracking	The Commission on Youth continues to monitor activities of this subcommittee. The subcommittee met on November 15, 2006.
Child Welfare/Public Safety	Secretary of Health and Human Resources	SB 188 (Puller, 2006) directs the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, in consultation with the Secretary of Public Safety, to establish an integrated system for coordinating the planning and delivery of services for children with incarcerated parents among state, local, nonprofit and faith-based organizations in order to provide children with services to continue parental relationships with the incarcerated parent, when appropriate, and encourage healthy relationships in the family and community. This bill was a recommendation of the Joint Subcommittee Studying the Commonwealth's Program for Prisoner Reentry to Society (SJR 273, Puller, 2005). Commission's involvement: Tracking	In 2004, the Commission on Youth sent a letter to the Secretary of Health and Human Resources supporting Virginia's participation in the National Governor's Association Prisoner Reentry Policy Academy. In addition, the Commission on Youth has conducted two studies on children of incarcerated parents: <i>Needs of Children Whose Parents are Incarcerated</i>, (House Document 32, 1992) and <i>Children of Incarcerated Parents</i> (Unnumbered report document, 2003). The Secretariats of Health and Human Resources and Public Safety are currently working to implement this legislation.

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Child Welfare	Joint Commission on Health Care	SJR 106 (Devolites Davis, 2006) directs the Joint Commission on Health Care (JCHC) to conduct a two-year study on the impact of barrier crimes laws on social service and health care employers, prospective employees, consumers, residents, patients and clients. Specifically, JCHC will: ▪ Determine the effectiveness of barrier crimes laws in protecting consumers, residents, patients, and clients; examine the difficulty experienced by employers in service delivery agencies in finding qualified applicants and employees, as well as the difficulty prospective employees have in finding jobs; compare Virginia's barrier crimes laws with laws related to criminal convictions and employment elsewhere; and ▪ Gather data on employment discrimination based on an individual's criminal conviction record from state agencies, institutions, boards, bureaus, commissions, councils or any instrumentality of the Commonwealth. Commission's involvement: Tracking	SJR 106 directs the JCHC to complete meetings by November 30 of each year and to apprise the Virginia State Crime Commission of its findings and recommendations each year. JCHC approved SJR 106 study plan at its April 27, 2006 meeting. JCHC received the Staff Interim Report at its November 14 meeting. Findings and Options will be presented to its members in Spring 2007.
Child Welfare	Social Services	HB 730 (McQuigg, 2006) creates a mutual consent adoption registry that allows birth parents and adoptees to exchange identifying information after the adoptee has reached age 21. The bill requires the Department of Social Services to establish the registry and assess a fee for registrants. The fee is to be the lowest that will cover the costs required to establish the registry, but not to exceed \$50 per registrant. The bill includes a sunset of July 1, 2009 and is subject to appropriation of funds. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Department of Social Services is currently working to implement this legislation.
Child Welfare	Social Services	The Child Welfare Advisory Committee (CWAC) is responsible for assessing child and family service needs and improvements. Committee membership includes advocacy groups, private providers, local and state public agencies and foster/adoptive parents. There are also various subcommittees that pertain to child protection, permanency and training. Commission's involvement: Committee Member	CWAC assisted the Department of Social Services with the development of Virginia's Program Improvement Plan (PIP) for the federal Child and Family Services Review, which went into effect February 1, 2005. DSS reports quarterly to the federal government on the progress of implementing the PIP and will be reviewed again in two years. Item 338-M #1&2 of the introduced 2006-2008 State Budget requires DSS to report on the implementation of the PIP to the chairmen of the money committees by Jan. 1 of each year.

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Child Welfare	Social Services	The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) was directed by the 2006 Appropriations Act to continue its Task Force reviewing current policies on Adoptions and Foster Care and to recommend mechanisms to expedite the adoption of children from foster care, as well as children not in the state's care. The Task Force includes the VDSS, a national expert on child adoptions recruited by the Commissioner to co-chair the Task Force, local department of social services staff, adoptive parents and other interested stakeholders. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Task Force is directed to report its findings and policy recommendations to the Commission on Youth and the Chairmen of the money committees no later than June 30, 2007. The first meeting of the group will be December 8, 2006.
Child Welfare	Social Services	The Department of Social Services, in collaboration with the League of Social Services Executives and the director of the Office of Comprehensive Services, is directed by the 2006 Appropriations Act to study the Adoptions Subsidy Program. The study is to examine the relationship of the special needs adoption program to the federal Child and Family Services review Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) requirements, focusing on causes of recent expenditure growth. The Task Force is to make recommendations on changes to moderate expenditure growth, while continuing to meet the needs of the affected children. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Department is directed to report to the Governor, the money committees, and the Department of Planning and Budget on or before June 1, 2007.
Child Day-Care	Social Services	The Child Day-Care Council (CDCC) is authorized by the <i>Code of Virginia</i> to adopt regulatory standards for licensure and operation of child day care centers in Virginia. CDCC is comprised of a minimum of 28 members, appointed by the Governor and representing a variety of interests from around the state. Commission's involvement: Tracking	Following studies by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission and the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules in 2004, new regulations were approved by CDCC on January 11, 2005. Those regulations include the following: qualifications for program leaders; staff-to-child ratios; general staff training; medication administration training; qualifications for program directors; and activity space. Many of these had a delayed effective date. CDCC held a planning retreat on May 11, 2006. As required by the <i>Code</i>, CDCC continues to review and adopt day regulations for licensure and operation of child day centers in accordance with the regulations referred to in § 63.2-1734.

Topic	Lead Agency	Description	Status
Health	Legislative Services	SJR 103 (Lambert, 2006) continues the Joint Subcommittee Studying Lead-Poisoning Prevention for two years to: ▪ Monitor the development of the reference database of statewide health-related data to determine its usefulness in containing health care costs and improving health care outcomes, including among children who may be exposed to lead risks or have elevated blood lead levels; ▪ Seek to enact the two essential lead program elements needed by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to be competitive in the 2006 federal grant process; ▪ Continue to assist state agencies to obtain funding for activities that protect children from lead risks; ▪ Monitor the evolution of the data-sharing partnership established in § 32.1-127.1:04; ▪ Monitor the completion of the reference database of statewide health-related data elements required by SB 565 (2004); ▪ Examine issues relating to lead poisoning among immigrant and adopted children; and ▪ Seek to assist VDH and the Department of Housing and Community Development in every appropriate way in maintaining federal funding. Commission's involvement: Tracking	SJR 103 limits the joint subcommittee to two meetings for the 2006 interim and two meetings for the 2007 interim. SJR 103 directs the joint subcommittee to complete meetings by November 30 in each year. The chairman of the joint subcommittee is directed to submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the next regular Session of the General Assembly for each year. Each executive summary shall state whether the joint subcommittee intends to submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document.

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Health	Medical Assistance Services	The Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Advisory Committee was established by the 2005 General Assembly. It works to improve outreach and enrollment of FAMIS and to have input on policies, operations, utilization of services and the health outcomes of children in FAMIS and FAMIS Plus. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The CHIP Advisory Committee, which meets quarterly, spent much of 2005 on structuring the committee and educating its members on FAMIS and FAMIS Plus. Three subcommittees have been formed: Retention; Utilization and Access. The committee is looking at various ways to utilize data to improve program design and outcomes, as well as working on ways to promote FAMIS Select, the program that gives families the choice of receiving coverage through FAMIS or through their private or employer-sponsored health plan.
Health	Medical Assistance Services	The feasibility of a FAMIS Buy-in Program in Virginia is being studied by the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) as a directive in the 2006 Appropriations Act. The Act directed DMAS to review and evaluate State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in light of Buy-in Programs operating in other states. Commission's involvement: Tracking	This review, including recommendations regarding the development of a CHIP Buy-in Program in Virginia, shall be presented to the chairmen of the General Assembly money committees and the JCHC by October 1, 2006. DMAS presented to the JCHC at its November 14 meeting. The JCHC approved delaying the decision on FAMIS Buy-In Program until after 2007, when the future level of CHIP funding available to Virginia is known.
Health	Health	The Virginia Department of Health's (VDH) Commonwealth's Healthy Approach and Mobilization Plan for Inactivity, Obesity and Nutrition (CHAMPION) is working towards a comprehensive statewide plan to reduce obesity in Virginia. Commission's involvement: Tracking	VDH has compiled a summary of the 4,500 barriers and solutions to the obesity problem generated during nine meetings held across the state in 2005 to solicit citizen input. These were divided into four main themes that will form the basis of a comprehensive plan to fight obesity in the state. CHAMPION staff is reviewing private and public programs that relate to these themes in order to identify proven efforts that can be implemented in communities throughout Virginia. The programs will be judged on their cost effectiveness, ease of implementation, cultural sensitivity, scientifically proven results. Once identified, VDH staff will train communities to implement them.
Health	Medical Assistance	The Managed Care Advisory Committee was established to improve communications with providers, recipients and partner agencies regarding Medicaid managed care. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Advisory Committee meets approximately every quarter to discuss Medicaid managed care. The Committee recently celebrated ten years in Medicaid managed health care. Future activities include examining new initiatives affecting Medicaid managed care.

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Health	Health	Virginia Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems functions as a statewide strategic planning workgroup with the purpose of supporting state maternal and child health agencies and their partner organizations in collaborative efforts to strengthen early childhood system of services for young children and their families. Its work concluded with the official planning phase, although plan implementation is 2006-2009. Commission's involvement: Workgroup Member	The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) received the initial planning grant on July 1, 2003 for a two-year period with a budget of \$100,000 per year. The implementation phase will span about three years, with a budget of approximately \$150,000 per year. There are five focus areas addressed in the initiative: ▪ Access to medical homes; ▪ Mental health and social-emotional development; ▪ Early care and education services; ▪ Parent education; and ▪ Family support services. Implementation of the VDH plan began in 2006. VDH held a strategic planning meeting on June 13, 2006.
Health	Legislative Services	HJR 48 (Marshall, R., 2006) continues the Joint Subcommittee to study Medical, Ethical, and Scientific Issues Relating to Stem Cell Research Conducted in the Commonwealth for another year. The subcommittee recommended to the 2006 General Assembly establishment of an umbilical cord blood bank. Commission's involvement: Tracking	HJR 48 directs the joint subcommittee to complete its meetings by November 30, 2006, and to submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the 2007 regular Session of the General Assembly.
Health	Joint Commission on Health Care	Preterm Infants: Follow-up Care and Tracking Systems is being studied in an effort to ascertain the extent to which there is a potential need for follow-up services for and tracking of preterm infants. Study Plan documents note that preterm and low-birth infants, who are at an increased risk of developmental delay, benefit from services provided early in life, when the development of the brain and central nervous system may be influenced. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The JCHC convened a workgroup comprised of representatives from public and private entities to address the ability to access services, funding, tracking of low birth weight babies, and increasing awareness of the importance of identifying and addressing developmental delays as early as possible. The JCHC, at its November 14th meeting, approved a year-end study recommendation that the chairman request that applicable agencies participate in a workgroup which continues the examination of existing data and tracking systems. The workgroup will report to the JCHC no later than October 1, 2007.
Health/Education	Senate Education & Health	Senate Education & Health Subcommittee on SB 206 (Edwards, 2006) was established to study prevention and reduction of childhood obesity in the schools. The original legislation assigned the Board of Education and the State Health Department to study this issue. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The subcommittee, comprised of Senators Whipple, Edwards, Lucas, and Rerras, is meeting to discuss current state initiatives to combat childhood obesity.

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Health	Health	The Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation (VTSF) has established Regional Advisory Boards to provide a local connection between VTSF and communities throughout the state. Nine boards oversee the review process to select grantees that will receive funding to implement youth tobacco use prevention programs. Commission's involvement: Regional Advisory Board Member	This year, the VTSF is providing over \$3.5 million in funding to over 70 grant programs throughout the Commonwealth. Regional Advisory Boards consisting of community representatives reviewed the grant renewal applications and made funding recommendations to the VTSF Board of Trustees members, who voted unanimously to fund these organizations.
Health	Health	ESCAPE: Enhancing State Capacity to Address Child and Adolescent Health through Violence Prevention is federally funded through CDC to address violence toward or among youth, including suicide, child maltreatment, dating violence, sexual violence, bullying, and violence in the school and community. ESCAPE's planning and implementation phases focus on shared risk and protective factors for these forms of violence. Commission's involvement: Committee Member	Continuing its work from 2005, ESCAPE is developing a Strategic Plan in 2006. A Committee Planning Session was held on June 13 in Richmond. Since then, the Committee has met August 31 and September 8 to refine its planning document. Draft Recommendations were presented at its September 29, 2006 meeting.
Health/Mental Health	Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services	Virginia Integrated Network of Family Organizations (VA INFO) is a coalition led by a Steering Committee of Family Voices of Virginia, Parent to Parent of Virginia, the Arc of Virginia's Family Involvement Project, Va. Federation of Families and the Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC). Its primary purpose is to ensure that families of children and young adults with special needs obtain the optimal and most current knowledge, supports, and services. Commission's involvement: Committee Member	Meetings are held bi-monthly. VA INFO inaugurated its first annual conference in July 2006, and has begun its planning for 2007.
Health/Mental Health	Health	The Interagency Suicide Prevention Coordinating Committee is comprised of representatives from the Departments of Health, Education, Mental Health, Aging, Corrections Education, Office of Chief Medical Examiner, Local CSBs, private and public agencies with an interest in suicide prevention, as well as the Commission on Youth. Its purpose is to advise the Department of Health on its suicide prevention activities. Commission's involvement: Committee Member	Suicide prevention efforts in Virginia are a collaborative effort headed by the Department of Health, but involving participants from many disciplines. The Department of Health's program was a recommendation of the Commission on Youth's Youth Suicide Prevention Plan, <i>House Document 29</i> (2001).

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Mental Health	Virginia Association of Community Services Boards	Virginia Child and Family Services Council (through the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards) addresses issues pertaining to service delivery to children and their families. It also provides a forum for information sharing and networking among the respective task force members. The Task Force collaborates with the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, & Substance Abuses Services, and other relevant state agencies, to assure consistent policies, protocols, procedures and data collection methods in service delivery and reporting. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Task Force is discussing the utilization of inpatient acute psychiatric beds for children and reviewing how to meet the needs of their various regions. The Task Force is also discussing the Governor's proposed System Transformation Initiative Supports for new children's services. There is \$17.4 million provided in the Governors' proposed budget for FY07 and FY08. A breakdown of the funding is as follows: Part C Early Intervention Services (\$8 million); two additional demonstration projects (\$2 million); expanded CSB services in juvenile detention centers (\$2 million); and 110 new waiver slots for children (\$54. million). The Task Force met in June and September.
Mental Health	Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services	The Child and Family Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee for Children's Services – Item 330-F of the 2004-2006 biennial budget - is the continuing workgroup designated in budget language to develop a comprehensive plan for children's services across disabilities. Commission's involvement: Committee Member	The report from this workgroup is due to the money committees by June 30 each year. This committee is currently drafting this report, compiling a strategic plan, and prioritizing findings and recommendations for 2006-2007. The chair has presented on budget recommendations to the Behavioral Health Subcommittee or the Joint Health Care Commission.
Mental Health	Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission	SJR 185 (Norment, 2006) directs the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) to study the use and financing of licensed inpatient psychiatric facilities in the Commonwealth. Study is to: ▪ Examine utilization trends, including sources of payment; ▪ Evaluate the Medicaid rate-setting process for psychiatric services, services provided under temporary detention orders, and services provided by psychiatrists; ▪ Evaluate the manner in which Community Services Boards contract with licensed psychiatric facilities; ▪ Examine the adequacy of and funding for licensed psychiatric beds, including child and adolescent mental health services; and ▪ Determine any steps that can be taken to maintain appropriate and necessary licensed psychiatric services in Virginia. Commission's involvement: Tracking	JLARC approved its study plan on May 8, 2006. SJR 185 directs JLARC to complete its meetings for the first year by November 30, 2006, and for the second year by November 30, 2007. SJR 185 also directs the chairman to submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the next regular Session of the General Assembly for each year.

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Mental Health	Joint Commission on Health Care	SJR 25 (Marsh, 2004)/HJR 155 (Baskerville, 2004) directed the Joint Commission on Health Care (JCHC) to conduct a two-year study of the mental health needs and treatment of young minority adults in the Commonwealth and to present its findings and recommendations by the 2006 General Assembly Session. JCHC concluded that further study is needed and continues this study in 2006 and 2007. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The JCHC approved continuing the study plan at its April 27, 2006 meeting. The JCHC Behavioral Health Subcommittee provides oversight on the study.
Mental Health/ Education	Education and Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services	HJR 96 (Hamilton, 2006) encourages the Board of Education (BOE), the Department of Education (DOE), and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services (DMHMRSAS) and other relevant entities to take certain actions to improve the education and treatment of individuals with autism spectrum disorders. HJR 96 was a recommendation of the Joint Commission on Health Care's Behavioral Health Care Subcommittee (November 10, 2005). Bill similar to SJR 125 (Martin, 2006). Commission's involvement: Member of Workgroup Addressing Training Opportunities for Children with Autism who are Served by CSBs	Through HJR 96, BOE and DOE are urged to continue to implement initiatives designed to strengthen teacher qualifications, to include preservice and inservice professional development opportunities relating to the effective treatment of autism spectrum disorders, and to consider the treatment of autism spectrum disorders. DMHMRSAS is urged to continue to expand training opportunities that include approaches specifically addressing the needs of children with autism spectrum disorders. BOE and DMHMRSAS are requested to disseminate copies of the resolution to their respective constituents so that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter. The newly-formed workgroup established by DMHMRSAS held its first meeting on October 11, 2006 and continues its schedule of meetings this Fall.
Mental Health	Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services	Training and Resources for Effective Adolescent Treatment (Project TREAT) Interagency Adolescent Workgroup goal is to develop and improve coordination of substance abuse and/or co-occurring treatment services for adolescents across Virginia. The workgroup, determined to be a critical component of a three-year federally-funded project of the DMHMRSAS, will be tasked with linking relevant agencies and organizations to assess the current status of service delivery and to develop strategies to enhance these services. Commission's involvement: Workgroup Member	Project TREAT has met September 20 and October 25, and plans additional meetings on November 29, January 17, February 7 and February 21. Project TREAT is developing a workplan, which will be submitted to the Child and Family Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee for Children's Services (CFBHPP) by March 2007.

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Mental Health	Supreme Court	A Commission on Mental Health Reform has been formed to develop an omnibus mental health reform package to present to the 2008 General Assembly. Included in the issues being address is a study of how to direct individuals with mental illnesses out of the criminal justice system and into the mental health system. The Supreme Court has expressed the intent of showing that costs of commitment can be reduced if gaps in service are filled. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Commission has named five task forces that will develop recommendations for "reform legislation": Access to Services, Children and Adolescents, Commitment, Criminal Justice, and Empowerment and Self-Determination. Of six goals, Goal V. speaks specifically to youth: <i>Facilitate access to services for children and adolescents with significant mental health needs.</i> The Commission's second meeting this Fall is December 8, 2006 in Charlottesville.
Child Safety	State Crime Commission	HB 585 (Watts, 2005) which addresses Sex Offenses against Children was left in House Courts Committee, but undertaken as an initiative of the Crime Commission. The proposed bill would merge two sex offense sections into one and would create the crime of indecent liberties against a child under the age of 13, punishable by a Class 4 felony and a Class 3 felony for a second or subsequent offense. Commission's involvement: Tracking	Crime Commission staff, after researching the impact of proposed changes to existing legislation, outlined policy decisions to the Commission at its November 8, 2006 meeting. These addressed changes in the existing indecent liberties statute, age ranges for both the custodian and for the child, as well as penalties for repeat offenses committed by family members.
Child Safety	Attorney General	Youth Internet Safety Task Force - established on June 20, 2006 by the Attorney General - aims to keep children safe on the Internet. The Youth Internet Safety Task Force is comprised of law enforcement, the U.S. Attorneys in the commonwealth, as well as Commonwealth's Attorneys, legislators, representatives of the technology industry, parents and educators. Commission's Involvement: Tracking	The Committee convened July 14, 2006 at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in Alexandria and has since met three times. The Task Force will release a report later this year with suggestions on what different groups can do to help keep children safe online. Although the Task Force recommendations could take many forms, it is anticipated that there will be legislation introduced in the 2007 Session. At the October meeting, two drafts were approved which address online solicitation and the establishment of a specialized unit within the Attorney General's Office specifically to ensure child sexual predator compliance with the Sex Offender Registry. The Committee met most recently on November 16, 2006.
Child Safety	State Crime Commission	HJR 115 (Kilgore, 2006) directs the State Crime Commission to study the need for additional institutional programming at the Department of Corrections to treat sex offenders and to report by the first day of the 2007 Session. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Crime Commission met on June 13, 2006 to review the study plan and receive a briefing on planning for this study. Staff presented its findings at the Summer 2006 meeting. No legislative action is planned for the 2007 Session.

Topic	Lead Agency	Description	Status
Juvenile Justice	State Crime Commission	HJR 136 (Moran, 2006) directs the State Crime Commission to conduct a two-year study of Virginia's juvenile justice system, focusing on recidivism, disproportionate minority contact with the justice system, improving the quality of and access to legal counsel, accountability in the courts, and diversion. In addition, Title 16.1 of the Code of Virginia will be analyzed to determine the adequacy and effectiveness of Virginia's statutes and procedures relating to juvenile delinquency. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The State Crime Commission met June 13, 2006 to review the study plan and receive a briefing on the study plan. The plan calls for staff research in 2006 and the convening of a workgroup in 2007 to review the research products and participate in the development of recommendations to the Commission, leading up to legislative recommendations for the 2008 General Assembly Session.
Juvenile Justice	State Crime Commission	The Interrogation of Minors study initiative resulted from two 2006 bills not passed by the House Courts of Justice Committee, but undertaken as an initiative of the State Crime Commission. HB 712 (McQuigg) relates to the duty of the person taking a child under age 14 into custody and HB 1169 (Eisenberg) stipulates that statements made by a juvenile criminal defendant are presumed inadmissible in a court unless reliably recorded. Commission's involvement: Tracking	A subcommittee comprised of Delegate Sherwood and Senator Howell, and chaired by the Arlington Commonwealth's Attorney was convened to address the constitutional requirements for custodial interrogations and other relevant state laws concerning interrogation of juveniles. The subcommittee made its recommendations to the Crime Commission in November. HB 1169 was revised and recommended with minor modifications by the Crime Commission. The subcommittee did not recommend HB 712 as written, but offered recommendations for Code language and affirmed the concept that law enforcement notify parents as soon as practical after arresting a juvenile.
Juvenile Justice/ Mental Health/ Education	State and Local Agencies Representatives	Virginia Association for Local Human Services Officials (VALHSO) is comprised of state and local government officials. Full membership is limited to the single most senior official in a locality who has broad responsibilities for multiple agencies delivering human services. Most members have direct oversight or liaison responsibilities for health, mental health and social services with considerably broader responsibilities. VALHSO advises state agency heads or members of the General Assembly on these various topics. Commission's involvement: Tracking	VALHSO met May 8-9, 2006, with a focus on child welfare issues. VALHSO's fall meeting took place September 25-26 in Virginia Beach, with a focus on early learning and a panel discussion on best practices in systems of care for children and families. VALHSO generally holds meetings quarterly; however, additional meetings are added as needed for specific areas of interest.
Education	Legislative Services	HJR 25 (Cosgrove, 2006) establishes a joint subcommittee to conduct a two-year study of science, math and technology education at the elementary, secondary and undergraduate levels. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The joint subcommittee is limited to four meetings in each year of the two-year study. HJR 25 directs the joint subcommittee to complete its meetings by November 30 in each study year and to submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations before the start of each General Assembly Session.

Topic	Lead Agency	Description	Status
Education	Board of Education	SJR 171 (Whipple, 2006) requests the Board of Education (BOE) to survey family life education programs in public schools. This reflects a recommendation of the two-year study by the Joint Subcommittee Studying Teenage Pregnancy Prevention in the Commonwealth. Commission's involvement: Tracking	SJR 171 directs BOE to submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary and a report of its progress in meeting the requests of this resolution by the start of the 2007 General Assembly Session.
Education	Education	The Commission on Civics Education was created in 2005 as an advisory committee in the executive branch. It is comprised to 23 members including the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, legislators, executive branch officials and citizens (expires July 1, 2008). The three main purposes of the advisory commission are to: ▪ Further the education of students on the importance of citizen involvement in a representative democracy; ▪ Promote the study of state and local government among the citizens; and ▪ Enhance communication and collaboration among organizations that conduct civic education programs. Commission's involvement: Tracking	Meetings of the Commission on Civics Education are held at the call of the chair or whenever the majority of the members request. The chairman of the Commission on Civics Education is directed to submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual executive summary of the interim activity and work of the Commission no later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly.
Education	Board of Education	HB 19 (Fralin, 2006) requires the Board of Education to collect, analyze and report high school graduation and dropout data using a formula prescribed by the Board of Education. In developing the formula, the Board of Education shall consider the 2005 Report of the National Governors Association Task Force on State High School Graduation Data. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Board of Education shall report to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health by December 1, 2006, on the formula to be used for the uniform assessment of high school graduation rates.

Topic	Lead Agency	Description	Status
Education	Education	HJR 130 (Hall, 2006) encourages the Department of Education (DOE) to monitor and collect data and information on the state's high school dropout and graduation rates. DOE is requested to: ▪ Determine the relevancy of the current process and procedures for defining, counting and reporting school dropout statistics and consider the need for revisions in such process and procedures and compliance by school divisions; ▪ Compile data concerning the number of students who dropped out of school before the seventh grade and the reasons why, and the number of students who graduate annually, for school years 2002-2005; ▪ Ascertain whether, by whom, and the manner in which students who are at-risk of dropping out are counseled to remain in school; and ▪ Identify local initiatives and efforts to retain and retrieve students at risk of dropping out, particularly populations with low high school graduation rates. Commission's involvement: Tracking	HJR 130 requests DOE to apprise policymakers fully regarding Virginia's dropout and high school graduation rates, and of any statutory, fiscal or regulatory changes that may be necessary to avoid an increase in the school dropout rate.
Education	Board of Education	HB 1427 (Landes, 2006) Directs the Board of Education to develop a plan to identify initiatives or conditions that are currently being funded by No Child Left Behind, that are not integral or a necessary component of the Commonwealth's own Standards of Quality, Standards of Accreditation or Standards of Learning. This bill is identical to SB 410 (Hanger, 2006). Upon the development of the plan, the Office of the Attorney General must provide the Board and the General Assembly an estimate of the costs for providing legal services in the event that the elimination of any initiatives or conditions results in withholding of Title I funds. Commission's involvement: Tracking	HB 1427 stipulates that the Board of Education must report its plan to the Senate Committee on Education and Health, the House Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Finance and the House Committee on Appropriations by October 1, 2006.

Topic	Lead Agency	Description	Status
Education	Office of the Governor	Smart Beginnings is a statewide collaboration to share information and efforts to directing new and improved resources to families with children from birth to age five. The program is comprised of an array of health, education, and parental involvement initiatives. A key component of this initiative is a public education component which delivers messages regarding the correlation between high quality, early childhood education and a competitive workforce and ultimately a vital economy for the Commonwealth. As part of the Pre-K campaign, the Governor has established a Start Strong Council to focus on developing an affordable, effective, and efficient blueprint for expanding access to high-quality, pre-kindergarten education to every child in Virginia. Commission's involvement: Tracking	As an offshoot of the governmental initiative, an Early Childhood Foundation has been formed and is advertising for staff as of late September. A website hosted by the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation - www.SmartBeginnings.org - has been launched to provide information to parents and others about the learning potential of preschoolers. More than 50 activities were held across Virginia between Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day, highlighting the important role and responsibility of parents as their child's first teacher. The Start Strong Pre-K Council meets quarterly to oversee the development of infrastructure for the Start Strong programs and to make decisions necessary to implement the program. The Governor also hosted an Early Childhood Summit in Summer 2006, a series of conferences designed to inform business and community leaders, elected officials, and other stakeholders about the benefits of investing in early childhood education.
Education	Board of Education	HB 1428 (Landes, 2006) encourages the President of the Board of Education, in calendar year 2006, to request certain waivers and exemptions from regulatory and statutory requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act from the U.S. Department of Education. If the response is unfavorable, the President of the Board of Education must make recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly regarding additional actions that could be taken by the Commonwealth regarding No Child Left Behind requirements. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The President of the Board of Education is directed to submit a report on the status of all such requests for waivers and exemptions to the chairmen of the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Education and the chairmen of the Senate Committee on Finance and the House Committee on Appropriations. This will be done prior to the first day of the 2007 General Assembly Session.
Education	Department of Education	SB 75 (Houck, 2006) requires each school to implement a "medical emergency response plan" as part of their school crisis and emergency management plan. The Department of Education must provide assistance in the development of the plan by referring to the scientific statements prepared by the American Heart Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics and other various national emergency response organizations, regarding the components of an emergency medical response plan. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Department must also prepare a model plan. The model plan is to address the equipment required for emergency response.

Topic	Lead Agency	Description	Status
Juvenile Justice	Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention	The Virginia Interagency Anti-Gang Workgroup was established in June 2006 to promote collaboration among relevant state agencies involved in gang reduction and prevention. The Workgroup is headed by the Secretary of Public Safety, in cooperation with the Secretaries of Education and Health & Human Resources. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Workgroup will report annually (by October 30) through the Secretary of Public Safety, regarding the Commonwealth's progress and achievements statewide in the area of gang prevention. The "Prevention Comes First" Conference is scheduled for December 2006. This one-day conference will provide cutting-edge information and highlight gang prevention model programs. The Virginia Mentoring Partnership, in collaboration with the Governor's Office of Substance Abuse Prevention (GOSAP), will include a youth violence, gang involvement and substance abuse component in training mentors across Virginia. Through a DCJS grant, the Department of Education and the Governor's Office of Substance Abuse Prevention, are providing no-cost workshops to school personnel, law enforcement, juvenile justice workers, social services personnel, and others to address research and strategies for combating factors which place youth at risk for gang activity and other problem behaviors. Prevention Through Information Data Collection and Data Use Workshops (PTI-VA) offers one-day workshops sponsored by Virginia Commonwealth University and the Department of Education on collection and use of data related to incidents of discipline, crime and violence in schools to improve the capacity of schools to collect and use school crime and safety data for prevention planning. The initiative also provides a community profile database and an interactive web-based tool designed to assist state and local prevention planners, service providers, and the faith community in combating gang activity. The Executive Order is in effect until June 2, 2007, unless amended.

Topic	Lead Agency	Description	Status
Juvenile Justice/Early Intervention	Office of the Governor	Established in the <i>Code</i> in 2006, effective July 1, 2006, the Urban Policy Task Force to address a myriad of issues, including economic development, human services, education, public safety, and transportation. The Task Force is directed to craft a comprehensive urban policy for the Commonwealth which more nearly ensures the health and vitality of local jurisdictions or metropolitan areas. The Secretary of Commerce and Trade chairs the Task Force. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Task Force will report annually to the Governor (by December 1) and include in each report the performance of each agency in meeting established benchmarks.
Juvenile Justice	State and Local Juvenile Justice Agencies	Virginia Council on Juvenile Detention (VCJD) assists the Department of Juvenile Justice in the development of standards, certification and evaluation related to detention programs and facilities. VCJD provides information and input to the Department of Juvenile Justice as an aid in the formulation of detention policies and offers suggestions for improvements and/or modifications. VCJD also facilitates the collection and dissemination of information related to juvenile detention. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Council meets quarterly.

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