

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

STUDY OVERVIEW

Study Mandate

- ❖ The Commission on Youth shall monitor efforts taking place in the Commonwealth regarding efforts to strengthen families and update the Commission on Youth on such developments prior to the 2006 General Assembly.
- ❖ The Commission on Youth shall monitor 2005 legislative and budget recommendations and update the Commission on Youth on developments prior to the 2006 General Assembly.

Study Activities

- ❖ Monitor and study proposed solutions offered by 2005 Focus Groups and Statewide Advisory Group.
- ❖ Design, distribute, collect, and compile survey data, in corporation with the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) and the Virginia Municipal League (VML) to identify existing best practice programs that strengthen Virginia's families. The survey will ask localities to identify programs in their community that strengthen and support families and further, identify model programs offered to their citizens to address identified service gaps or barriers.
- ❖ Coordinate with various agencies to ascertain effectiveness of services/programs for children and families including services identified in the survey, as well as other identified programs.
- ❖ Monitor recommendations that emerged from the 2005 General Assembly and report progress of such activities to Commission
 - SB 1111 – VDH Compilation of Marriage, Divorce, and Annulment Data
 - Item 362 #1 C – DSS Promotion of Information & Referral System
 - Item 362 #2 C – DSS Expand Activities of Information & Referral System
 - Item 360 #1 C – DSS Healthy Marriage and Stable Families Initiatives
 - COY Survey on Local and Regional Best Practices (in conjunction with VML and VACO)
 - Implementation of a 2-1-1 System in Virginia
 - DSS Family to Family Mentoring – Adults
 - Virginia's Involvement in the National Governor's Association Prisoner Reentry Policy Academy
 - OSHHR Update Family Advocacy Network Formation
- ❖ Present findings to Commission prior to 2006 General Assembly Session.

**STRENGTHENING FAMILIES TENTATIVE TIMELINE
2005**

	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Draft Survey for VML and VACO	➡									
Test Survey for effectiveness with test group	➡	➡								
Send Survey to Affected Parties			➡							
Receive Survey data, review, and compile				➡	➡					
Compile information on model programs				➡	➡					
Visit model programs sites				➡	➡	➡				
Receive reports from affected agencies from 2005 legislative recommendations								➡	➡	
Develop findings						➡	➡			
Draft Presentation								➡		
Present findings to COY								➡	➡	