

## POLICY MANUAL

### State Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

#### **POLICY 4038 (CSB) 94-1 Department and CSB Roles in Providing Services to Children Under the Children's Services Act for At-Risk Youth and Families**

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**Authority** Board Minutes Dated April 27, 1991  
Effective Date April 27, 1991  
Approved by Board Chairman /s/ Lindsay B. West

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**References** Children's Services Act for At-Risk Youth and Families, § 2.2-5200 through § 5214, Code of Virginia (1950), as amended  
*CSA Policy Manual*, July 2016  
Report of the Joint Subcommittee Studying the Comprehensive Services Act and Comprehensive Services for At-Risk Youth and Families Programs, SENATE DOCUMENT NO. 14, 2007  
Report to the Governor and Chairmen of the Senate Committees on Finance, Rehabilitation, and Social Services and the House Committees on Appropriations and Health, Welfare, and Institutions. *Role of the State Executive Council for Children's Services-December 7, 2015*. Document No. 493, 2015.

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**Background** In March 1993, the Governor signed the Comprehensive Services Act for At-Risk Youth and Families (Comprehensive Services Act), which creates a collaborative system of services and funding that is child-centered, family-focused, and community-based when addressing the strengths and needs of troubled and at-risk youth and their families across the Commonwealth. This legislation grew out of the extensive work of the Council on Community Services for Youth and Families established by the Secretaries of Health and Human Resources, Education, and Public Safety in 1990 with the charge of improving community service delivery systems for children and families and controlling the costs of residential care. The 2015 General Assembly passed legislation to change the name of the Comprehensive Services Act. Effective July 1, 2015, the Comprehensive Services Act for At-Risk Youth and Families became the Children's Services Act.

It is important to note that the Children's Services Act was preceded by a long history and active development of a system of care in Virginia. The Act represents formalization of the interagency approach that has been promoted by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, hereafter referred to as the Department, since 1985. Because many children with behavioral health service needs require coordinated services from more than one agency, the Department remains committed to the successful implementation of

the Children's Services Act.

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**Purpose**

To articulate policy for participation of the Department and community services boards and the behavioral health authority, hereafter referred to as CSBs, in full implementation of the Children's Services Act.

It is the policy of the Board that the Department shall:

- Participate in the full implementation of the Children's Services, working collaboratively with other child-serving agencies to achieve positive outcomes for children and their families;
- Participate on the State Executive Council and the State and Local Advisory Team, ensuring that the duties in the Children's Services Act, § 2.2-2648 and in §§ 2.2-5202 and 2.2-5203 of the Code of Virginia, are accomplished;
- Seek the resources necessary to support the involvement and participation required by CSB staff in the activities required by the Children's Services Act; and
- Support the coordinated effort of the Office of Children's Services to help develop partnerships among CSBs and private providers for services to children and their families.

It is also the policy of the Board that CSBs shall:

- Be represented on the State and Local Advisory Team, ensuring that the duties in the Children's Services Act, § 2.2-5202 of the Code of Virginia, are accomplished;
- Be full and active partners on community policy and management teams and family assessment and planning teams, ensuring that the duties in the Children's Services Act, §§ 2.2-5205, 2.2-5206, 2.2-5207, and 2.2-5208 of the Code of Virginia, are accomplished;
- Continue to be responsible for providing services identified in the individual family service plans that are within the agency's scope of responsibility and that are funded separately from the state pool, pursuant to the Children's Services Act, subsection E of § 2.2-5211 of the Code of Virginia;
- Ensure their local plans and proposed service initiatives for the current Department Comprehensive State Plan related to the development of local child behavioral health (mental health and substance abuse) services are coordinated and integrated with the long-range, community-wide planning of community policy and management teams, pursuant to the Children's Services Act, § 2.2-5206 of the Code of Virginia;
- Focus on children with behavioral health service needs who require coordinated services from more than one agency; and
- Play an active role in collaborative initiatives to increase the availability of and access to community services and reduce the need for group care placements.

- Recognize the rights of youth with disabilities to receive services and supports in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs and preferences consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act as interpreted by the Supreme Court in *Olmstead*.

Further, it is the policy of the Board that the Department and CSBs shall:

- Be guided by the statewide Children's Services Act practice model, valuing child and community safety, believing that children do best when raised in families, and striving to achieve permanent family connections for all children, and;
- Engage families in meaningful participation in all aspects of Children's Services Act operations, including the development of policies and programs.