

Updated 5/87
Updated 5/24/89
Revised 5/27/92
Updated 5/10/95
Updated 4/3/07
Revised 7/23/14

POLICY MANUAL

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

POLICY1004 (SYS) 83-7 Prevention Services

Authority Board Minutes Dated: July 27, 1983
Effective Date: August 24, 1983
Approved by Board Chair: /s/ James C. Windsor

References § 37.2-312.1, §37.2-500, and §37.2-601 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended
Plan for Prevention Services, Phase I (1988), *Phase II*, (1994) and *Phase III*, (2002), Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
Core Services Taxonomy 7.2
Comprehensive State Plan 2014 - 2020
Institute of Medicine. *Preventing Mental, Emotional and Behavioral Disorders Among Young People*, Washington, D.C., National Academy Press, 2010
Woodward, Albert. (1998). *Overview of Methods: Cost-effectiveness, Cost- benefits, and Cost-offsets of Prevention*. In National Institute of Drug Abuse. *Cost Benefit/Cost Effectiveness Research of Drug Abuse*.
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. *Identifying and Selecting Evidence-Based Interventions Revised Guidance Document for the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant Program*. Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), 2009.
Suicide Prevention Across the Lifespan for the Commonwealth of Virginia, 2013.

Background Prevention services are identified in §37.2-500 and §37.2-601 of the Code of Virginia as part of the array of core services that may be provided by community services boards or the behavioral health authorities, hereafter referred to as CSBs. Core Services Taxonomy 7.2 defines prevention services. Prevention services are designed to prevent mental health or substance use disorders. Services promote mental health through individual and population-level change strategies. Prevention services are identified as a result of data-driven planning and the utilization of evidenced-based programs, practices, and strategies.

Background
(continued)

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The following principles are the basis for prevention strategies in the public mental health, developmental, and substance abuse services system:

- Healthy lifestyles and practices reduce the risks of future problems and mental health or substance use disorders;
- There are effective prevention services substantiated and proven through rigorous research that support substance abuse prevention and mental health promotion outcomes; and
- These prevention efforts are economically beneficial to the Commonwealth because they reduce the need of individuals for mental health or substance abuse treatment services in the future and increase their productivity.

Evidence from research studies reviewed in the Institute of Medicine studies 2010), and the Department's Plan for Prevention Services Phase I (1988), Phase II (1994), and Phase III (2002), and from cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness studies, indicates that some preventive measures reduce the incidence of disease and the related cost of treatment, and the impact of mental health or substance use disorders on families and the economy (Woodward, 1998).

Purpose

To articulate policy and identify priorities for prevention services in the public mental health-and substance abuse services system.

Policy

It is the policy of the Board to promote and support effective prevention services in the public mental health and substance abuse services system. The Department shall provide leadership for technical assistance to, consultation about, and monitoring and evaluation of community prevention services. CSBs shall develop and implement evidenced-based planning and prevention services to address needs identified by state and community data to the greatest extent.

It is also the policy of the Board that planning for prevention services shall incorporate the Strategic Prevention Framework, an evidenced-based and community focused planning model. This model involves data driven needs assessment, planning and evaluation, capacity building, and implementation of evidenced-based programs, strategies, and practices. Overlaying all these components are cultural competence and sustainability of effective outcomes. Interagency, constituency, and public-private partnerships shall be emphasized and serve as a means of gaining the widest possible commitment, understanding, and support for prevention activities services.

Further, it is the policy of the Board that prevention services shall be considered in policy development and the allocation of resources for community mental health and substance abuse services.

It also is the policy of the Board that statewide efforts shall continue to target

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prevention service priorities identified in the current Comprehensive State Plan, including the following:

1. Substance abuse prevention services aimed at substantially reducing the incidence of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse.

Based on statewide prevention planning efforts and community-based needs assessments, CSBs shall identify the most significant risk factors for substance use disorders. This data shall be utilized to develop comprehensive strategic plans that are inclusive of individual and population-level strategies.

2. Suicide prevention efforts across the life span.

In 2005, the General Assembly designated the Department as the Commonwealth's lead agency for suicide prevention efforts across the life span pursuant to § 37.2-312.1 of the Code of Virginia. In collaboration with other state agencies, the Department developed a plan titled *Suicide Prevention Across the Lifespan for the Commonwealth of Virginia* that identified several broad statewide objectives including prevention of death from suicide, reduction of the occurrence of other self-harmful acts, increased risk recognition, and improved access to care. This plan was updated in 2013, and it still designates the Department as the lead agency for these efforts.

3. Prevention of youth access to tobacco products.

The Synar Amendment to the federal Substance Abuse, and Mental Health Services Administration Reorganization Act required that states conduct annual inspections of randomly selected tobacco retail outlets to determine how likely it is that underage youth are able to purchase tobacco products. The rate of vendor noncompliance must not exceed a previously agreed upon target rate as a condition for the receipt of federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant funds that support community substance abuse treatment and prevention services.

Finally, it is the policy of the Board that the Department shall establish a Prevention Advisory Council to advise it about the formulation and review of prevention goals and policies. One Board member shall serve on the Council.
