

STATE PREVENTION SYSTEM

Structure and Organization

The Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services (DMHMRSAS) is the lead agency for alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) prevention and treatment services. The Department has a State Board and is one of the agencies directed by the Secretary of Health and Human Resources. In addition to the Office of the Commissioner, the Department has three Divisions:

- Division of Planning and Development
- Division of Finance and Administration
- Division of Community and Facility Services

The Division of Community and Facility Services includes Prevention and Children's Services within the Office of Mental Health Services. Prevention and Children's Services manages the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant's 20% prevention set-aside, as well as a portion of the Mental Health Block Grant designated for children's mental health services. Office personnel participate in State level interagency and council workgroups focusing on service planning and policy issues and monitor and provide guidance to local prevention and child mental health service providers within the system. The Prevention and Promotion Advisory Council, that reports to the State Board, advises the Office on prevention issues.

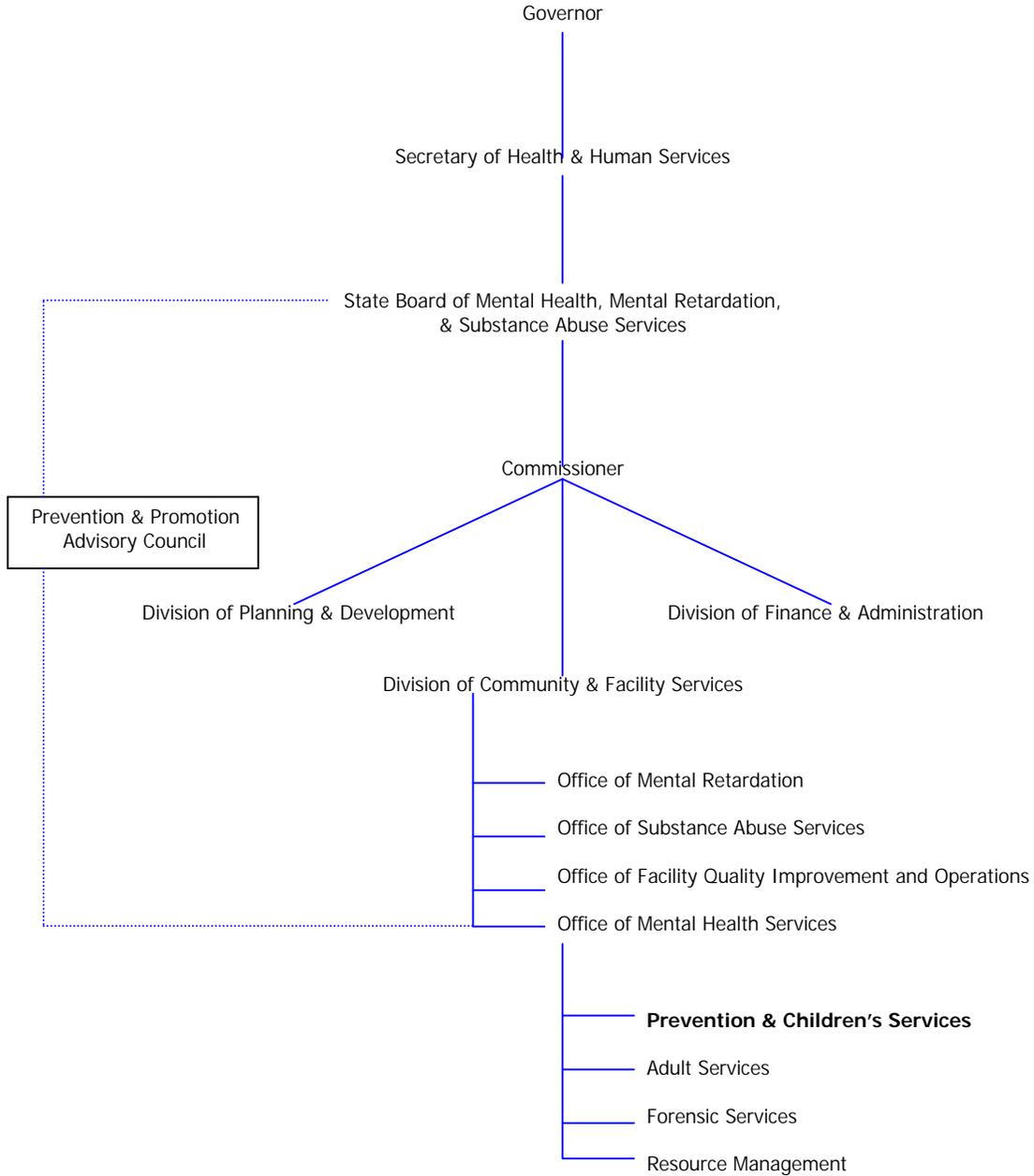
Direct mental health, mental retardation, substance abuse, and prevention services are provided by 40 Community Services Boards (CSBs) that serve one or more of the 135 local jurisdictions within the Commonwealth. Local prevention efforts are supported by the SAPT 20% prevention set-aside funds that are allocated to the boards in a formula-based process. Additional funding support comes from State and local funds, grants, and other resources.

Local substance abuse prevention efforts are planned and implemented by the CSBs. CSB personnel work with other human service providers, education, courts, law enforcement, the faith community, organizations, parents, and youth in prevention planning groups to assess needs and resources, prioritize problem areas and risk indicators, and to plan and implement prevention services. CSB prevention directors submit an annual plan that may also be submitted to other State agencies to meet planning requirements. This plan outlines the planning process and lists prevention objectives, activities, and evaluation efforts. The CSB prevention services listed on the community prevention plan fall within the six service categories identified by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP).

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STATE PREVENTION INVENTORY - VIRGINIA PROFILE

Organizational Chart



STATE PREVENTION INVENTORY - VIRGINIA PROFILE

FUNDING AND RESOURCES

Year (FFY)	State Funding	SAPT Funding	20% Set-aside
1993	\$2,413,537	\$24,233,472	\$4,858,451
1994	5,762,033	25,632,420	5,178,144
1995	6,196,651	28,854,552	5,835,702

Allocation of Funds

CSAP Strategy	FFY 1993	FFY 1994	FFY 1995
Information Dissemination	\$437,260	\$471,636	\$513,542
Education	1,977,390	2,132,844	2,375,131
Alternatives	626,740	676,011	764,477
Problem Identification and Referral	791,928	791,928	951,219
Environmental	131,178	141,491	157,564
Community-based Process	893,955	964,234	1,073,769
Other	0	0	0

Resource Spending*	FFY 1993	FFY 1994	FFY 1995
Planning, Coordination, and Needs Assessment	\$57,150	\$57,150	\$57,150
Quality Assurance	0	0	0
Training (post-employment)	26,129	26,129	26,129
Education (pre-employment)	0	0	0
Program Development	89,801	39,694	96,201
Research and Evaluation	33,065	54,815	33,065
Information Systems	34,844	28,353	34,844

* These expenditures fell outside the set-aside.

Substate entities receiving set-aside funds for prevention service delivery

- 40 Community Services Boards (CSBs)

Average amount of grant/contract:

- FFY 1993 - \$118,501
- FFY 1994 - \$127,815
- FFY 1995 - \$137,059

Per-capita 20% set-aside spending (population):

- FFY 1993 - \$0.75
- FFY 1994 - \$0.80
- FFY 1995 - \$0.87

Staff/Volunteers designated and supported by set-aside funding and level:

- FFY 1993 -
 - State 5 FTE/0 Volunteers
 - Regional: N/A*
 - Local: 185 FTE/0 Volunteers
- FFY 1994 -
 - State: 5 FTE/0 Volunteers
 - Regional: N/A
 - Local: 192
- FFY 1995 -
 - State: 2 FTE**
 - Regional: N/A
 - Local: 206 FTE/0 Volunteers

*Data not available from State.

**Four FTEs are supported by State funds.

STATE CONTACT

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PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Definition of Prevention:

The DMHMRSAS State Board defines prevention as “activities that involve people, families, and communities systems working together to promote their strengths and potentials. Prevention is aimed at substantially reducing the incidence of mental illness, mental retardation, and other disabilities, and alcohol and other drug dependency and abuse. The emphasis is on the enhancement of protective factors and the reduction of risk factors.”

Does the State have prevention plan?

Yes. The Plan supports the development of community-based prevention plans that address local needs and services gaps. CSB prevention services included in the local plans fall within the six categories defined by CSAP.

- Individuals who do not yet meet DSM-IV criteria for substance abuse/dependence but who display early indications of substance use and who participate in specific prevention strategies

Target populations for prevention services:*

Persons not in need of treatment services, including:

- General populations that participate in universal prevention strategies
- Subsets of general populations that are deemed to be at risk by virtue of their membership in a specific demographic group (e.g., children of alcoholics)

*See Endnotes.

Total Number served:**

- FFY 1993 – 226,476
- FFY 1994 – 221,315
- FFY 1995 – 337,372

**Number of hours of prevention services provided by the CSBs. Virginia did not collect data on the numbers of individuals served in FFY 1993-1995. The Commonwealth's prevention data base will begin reporting these data in 1998.

Programs funded:

Type	Number of Programs/Number Served			Programs
	FFY 1993	FFY 1994	FFY 1995	
Information dissemination	*	*	*/50,000♦	RADAR Center**; statewide clearinghouse
Education	*	*	*	Social skill development; ATOD educational programs for children, youth, parents, service providers, and educators
Alternative activities	*	*	*	After-school programs for children and youth; family activities; community AOD-free events
Problem identification and referral	*	*	*	Student assistance programs; employee assistance programs

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Type	Number of Programs/Number Served			Programs
	FFY 1993	FFY 1994	FFY 1995	
Community-based processes	*	*	*	Community prevention planning groups (including representatives of other human service systems, education systems, organizations, the faith and business communities, local government, parents, youth); Project LINK♦♦; identification/prioritization of risk factors
Environmental activities	*	*	*	Implementation of a statewide system to educate, monitor, and enforce the prohibition of the sale of tobacco products to minors; retailer compliance checks

* The Commonwealth estimates that approximately 400 prevention activities were conducted by the 40 CSBs and other service providers among the six CSAP strategy areas. During FFY 1993-1995, the prevention data collection system was unable to distinguish between activities supported by SAPT 20% set-aside funds and other funds.

** The RADAR Center, located in the State office, serves as a statewide clearinghouse for prevention information and dissemination of prevention materials. Virginia intends to utilize the Internet as a means of responding to requests for information. The clearinghouse contains such materials as books, tapes, videos, and posters for lending.

♦Number of pieces of prevention information distributed by the statewide clearinghouse in the first two months of FFY 1995.

♦♦Prevention and Children's Services directs Project LINK, a program in five localities that coordinates services for pregnant women, and women of child-bearing age at high-risk of abusing alcohol, and for their infants. This project is funded with SAPT treatment and prevention funding. Project LINK is a community-based, interagency model that coordinates the provision of direct services to women and their infants, offers technical assistance and training to service providers, and sponsors prevention activities (which include general and specific community education and parent nurturing and infant massage classes and training of trainers).

DATA COLLECTION ACTIVITIES

Results currently available on prevention programs funded by the 20% set-aside (including needs assessment and data collection):

The Commonwealth maintains a prevention database. This computer-based information system collects data on all prevention programs in the 40 Community Services Boards (CSB) system. The Office will replace this database with a modified version of the CSAP Minimum Data Set, when it becomes available. The new database will be aligned more closely with the prevention planning process instituted in FFY 1995 and the DMHMRSAS Performance Outcome Measurement System (POMS – described below).

In terms of data evaluation, a statewide outcome evaluation project was instituted with the Community Services Boards (CSBs) in 1993. This project, Evaluation of Community-Based Client Outcomes (ECCO), was designed to enhance the capacity of providers to conduct outcome

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evaluations in mental health, mental retardation, and substance abuse treatment and prevention programs. Nine CSBs chose to conduct a prevention study. The studies had the following objectives:

- Improve the capacity of each CSB to evaluate services.
- Examine the outcomes of the participants in the prevention programs under study.

More recently (1997), an evaluation system known as Prevention Performance Outcome Measurement System (POMS), was implemented. Prevention POMS is a pilot project designed to evaluate local substance abuse prevention programs for youth aged 12 through 18. This pilot project is being conducted at two separate sites. One component of this model will include evaluation of the following parameters:

- Access to services
- Quality and appropriateness of programs
- Immediate and intermediate outcomes
- Community impact

In September 1998, DMHMRSAS was awarded a needs assessment contract from the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), which will allow for the further enhancement of data collection activities. Simultaneously, the Governor's Office has initiated a prevention inventory of resources at the State and local levels, and initial results from this inventory will be due in January 1999.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Training and Technical Assistance:

Prevention and Children's Services program consultants provide technical assistance and training to CSB prevention directors, personnel, and State/local prevention personnel in other systems. Statewide training programs funded by SAPT prevention set-aside funds include:

- Quarterly regional meetings for prevention coordinators
- Sponsorship of a prevention track for the annual Virginia Alcohol and Drug Abuse Providers Conference
- An annual summer school for prevention coordinators
- Ongoing training and technical assistance with a special emphasis on comprehensive community-based prevention planning, cultural competency, evaluation and performance outcomes, managed care, and grantsmanship.

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Certification Activities:

Certification for prevention professionals in Virginia is not funded by the SAPT 20% set-aside, and is not required by the Commonwealth for prevention personnel. Certification is offered by an independent State certification board, the Substance Abuse Certification Alliance of Virginia (SACAVA). A member of the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (ICRC), SACAVA offers two levels of certification:

- Certified Prevention Professional – ATOD
- Certified Prevention Professional – Generalist

Endnotes

Target populations for prevention services in Virginia are determined by community-based prevention planning groups based on local needs assessments, prioritized risk indicators, identified service gaps, and plan objectives. A profile of local prevention programs was developed using information from a FFY 1994 survey of Community Services Boards (CSB) Directors. Among the information contained within the profile:

- 60% of the prevention programs were conducted for youth ages 6-18.
- 31% of the programs were for individuals over the age of 18.
- Percentages for programs located in urban, rural, suburban, and combined locations were nearly equal.
- Almost 35% of all local prevention programs focused on skill-building and health promotion.
- Specific substance abuse prevention was the focus for 31% of all prevention programs.
- 18% of all prevention programs contained parent and child development as their primary focus.
- In programs funded specifically with SAPT Block Grant funds and listed by CSAP prevention strategy categories, 77% of the programs were classified as "Education." "Alternative" programs comprised the next most-frequent category (7%).