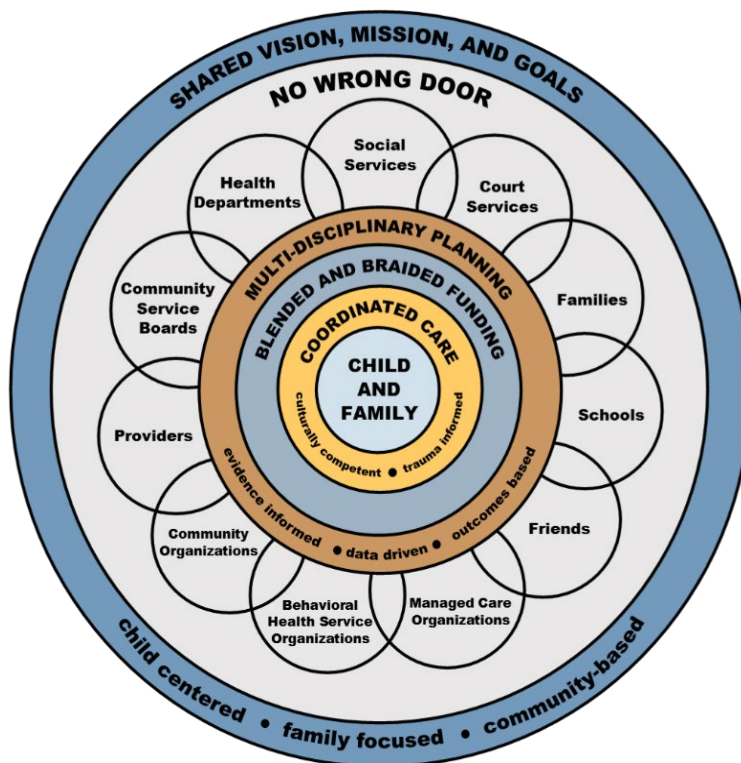


Begin with the End in Mind . . .

By 2026, Virginia's Children's Services Act (CSA) will have worked with its state and local government partners, the provider community, and families to successfully expand and support access to effective services that meet the needs of children and families. The State Executive Council for Children's Services (SEC) and the Office of Children's Services are vital participants in this effort, providing leadership and resources to improve outcomes and operate a program that best utilizes public funds. This 2024-2026 Strategic Plan includes continued support for executing evidence-based approaches for serving youth and families by championing statewide, cross-agency initiatives. In this biennial plan, there is an increased focus on aligning policy and practice with an emphasis on creating a process by which stakeholders can provide input into the CSA policies. The empowerment of families and communities remains a focal point, with significant attention given to creating resources that build capacity and create clarity in navigating Virginia's system of care.

These goals will be realized through a collaborative system of care grounded in the CSA's founding principles, where practice reflects policy, and stakeholders at all levels embrace leadership and accountability. Strong partnerships are foundational to implementing the CSA and are the mechanism by which improved practices and outcomes are achieved.



STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES



STRATEGIC PLAN: 2024 – 2025

Empowering Communities to Serve Youth



POLICY & OVERSIGHT

Policy can either help or hinder alignment of shared efforts.

- 1. With input from the SLAT and other stakeholders, the SEC will complete a comprehensive review of the current CSA Policy Manual to allow for improved uniformity, flexibility, and alignment (internally and across partners).**

Two-Year Metric: The SEC will systematically review the existing policy manual to ensure policies are uniform in format and aligned internally and with the policies and practices of CSA agency partners.

Two-Year Metric: The SEC will review current practices to ensure alignment with relevant policies.

- 2. The SEC will establish a process for soliciting/generating ideas for new/ revised CSA policies and practices to enhance program effectiveness and efficiency.**

Two-Year Metric: The SEC will work with stakeholders, including the SLAT, CSA Coordinator Network-Policy Committee, VACO, and VML, to develop a process for promoting policy revisions to enhance local CSA programs.

- 3. The SEC will provide oversight of local CSA programs through the receipt of regular reports on local CSA program audits and technical assistance activities, highlighting both problematic (specific localities and activities) and positive aspects (areas of excellence and innovation).**

Two-Year Metric: The SEC will receive electronic notification of the publication of audits and review quarterly and annual audit summary reports prepared by the Office of Children’s Services and recommend actions as appropriate.

Two-Year Metric: The SEC will receive quarterly updates on technical assistance activities.

Two-Year Metric: The SEC will develop a process to acknowledge areas of local excellence and best practices.



LEADERSHIP & COLLECTIVE ACTION

Promote alignment, leading by example, and collaborating on a shared vision and key outcomes.

- 1. The SEC, SLAT, and member entities will enhance the availability of and access to services for youth and families by supporting and championing statewide, cross-agency initiatives.**

Two-Year Metric: The SEC and SLAT will support enhanced community capacity by supporting outcome-driven practices in localities.

Two-Year Metric: With SLAT and OCS, the SEC will develop resources/tools to assist localities in implementing outcome-driven practices and decision-making.

Two-Year Metric: The SEC will receive updates from lead agencies to determine the most appropriate supportive actions from the SEC, the SLAT, and OCS.

Two-Year Metric: The SEC will receive annual updates on service needs assessments completed by participating agencies.

Two-Year Metric: The SEC and SLAT members should educate their respective agencies, highlighting policy issues and best practices.



EMPOWERING FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES

We honor the voices and choices of families and youth and build the capacity of the communities serving them.

- 1. The SEC will support family engagement and a child-centered, family-focused, trauma-informed, and community-based system of care through:**
 - Training and coaching by OCS and SEC member agencies on youth and family engagement for local CSA teams and other system partners.
 - Continuing OCS’ role as a key training partner for evidence-based and outcomes-driven practices.

Two-Year Metric: The SEC, in collaboration with the SLAT, OCS, and other stakeholders, will develop tools for youth and families, such as a family guide brochure, model intake form, and family experience video, to build understanding about access to needed services.

- 2. In collaboration with the SLAT and other partners, the SEC will work to increase parent participation at the state and local levels.**

Two-Year Metric: The SEC and SLAT will explore the barriers and challenges to eliciting parent representation at the state and local levels and brainstorm ways to overcome these barriers.

Two-Year Metric: In collaboration with the SLAT and OCS, the SEC will support parent representative empowerment by developing focused training opportunities for parent representatives on the CPMT and FAPT.

Two-Year Metric: The SEC, in collaboration with the SLAT, OCS, and other stakeholders, will survey local CSA programs to determine how they evaluate family perceptions of and satisfaction with the CSA process.

Two-Year Metric: The SEC, in collaboration with the SLAT, OCS, and other stakeholders, will develop and disseminate a model “Youth and Family Engagement Survey” and recommend practices for gathering youth and family input from local CSA programs.