

**SERVICE STANDARD
PREVENTION SERVICES
FAMILY EDUCATION/TRAINING TO PREVENT ABUSE/NEGLECT**

I. Prevention Definitions

a. Primary Prevention

The first level of prevention, primary prevention, focuses on strategies for the general public. Primary prevention strategies often seek to strengthen family functioning. The philosophy of primary prevention is that keeping children safe from abuse and neglect is the responsibility of the entire community. The long-term goal of such strategies is to educate the entire community to create social change that is intolerant of child maltreatment.

b. Secondary Prevention

This level of prevention services focuses on those who are at-risk for abuse and neglect of their children. These include high stress familial situations, lack of familial or community support and young maternal age. Possible goals of at-risk based (secondary) prevention services could be to: increase parents' parenting skills and strategies; enhance bonding and communication between at-risk parents and their children; increase the connection between at-risk parents and resources or services in the community; increase parents' skills in coping with stresses of caring for child with special needs; and to increase access to social and healthcare services for all community members. These goals ultimately seek to strengthen family functioning and keep children safe from abuse and neglect.

II. Service Description

Note: Services must meet the child abuse prevention definitions above. Please feel free to utilize the child abuse risk definitions attached to assist with this.

Parents and/or primary caregivers of children under the age of 18 who are not clients of the DCS or Probation will complete a recognized parent curriculum for the purpose of improving parenting skills and preventing abuse or neglect. Provision of educational or training services will result in the prevention of abuse and neglect. Approved trainings must provide information to parents on how to provide a safe and healthy environment that is free from abuse and neglect for their children. Topics that may be covered could include child development education, family roles and relationships, anger management, communication appropriate to child's developmental level, and discipline. The following components may be included in the program:

- Assessment of parenting strengths/deficits (individual)
 - Parenting classes (group)
 - Community resourcing:
Includes referrals to/for **healthcare, substance abuse information, mental health information, domestic violence information and others as necessary.**
- 1) Participants will be oriented to program and agree to guidelines. Program is voluntary.
 - 2) Staff responds appropriately to the individual needs of participants.
 - 3) Participants are trained utilizing parent curriculum aimed at improving parenting skills and preventing maltreatment.
 - 4) Participants will be assisted in identifying, learning about, and accessing community resources.
 - 5) The program has procedures for tracking enrollment/participation of all participants.
 - 6) Services will be conducted with behavior and language that demonstrates respect for sociocultural values, personal goals, lifestyle choices, and complex family interactions and be delivered in a neutral valued culturally competent manner.

- 7) Must have a method/plan for advertising and providing services to all five counties within the Region. Quarterly reports must demonstrate such efforts. Plan may include collaboration with other services providers to ensure service delivery is Regionwide.

III. **Target Population**

Services are available to parents and/or primary caregivers of children under the age of 18 who are not CHINS or clients of the DCS or Probation.

IV.

V. **Goals and Outcome Measures**

Goal #1

To prevent child maltreatment (abuse and neglect) by increasing knowledge of proper parenting skills and understanding of ages and stages of child development.

Outcome Measures:

- 1) 80% of participants who participate in eight or more sessions of group or four or more individual meetings will demonstrate an increased knowledge of parenting skills such as use of a pre/post measure.

Goal #2

To prevent the occurrence of child maltreatment by participants in program.

Outcome Measures:

- 1) 70% of participants will not be reported/substantiated for abuse or neglect during or 1 year following participation in program.

VI. **Qualifications**

- 1) All paid and volunteer staff are screened for criminal history review up to and including fingerprinting records and child protective services findings.
- 2) All paid and volunteer staff submits to pre-employment drug screen testing.
- 3) Staff (paid, volunteer, and substitute) are given an orientation to the job before working with these parents and children.
- 4) The training needs of the staff are assessed, and training is relevant to the responsibilities of each job.
- 5) Staff receives appropriate support to make their work experience positive. This is to include a minimum weekly staff meeting.

VII. **Billable Units**

Preference will be given to billable units of service. See last two pages of application.

***Reminder:** Not included is routine report writing and scheduling of appointments, collateral contacts, court time, travel time, and no shows. These activities need to be built into the cost of the unit rate and shall not be billed separately.*

VIII. **Case Record Documentation**

Necessary documentation shall include the following:

- 1) Case or contact notes that documents client contacts and participation in programming.
- 2) Sign-in sheets for program.
- 3) Documentation of assessment(s), goals, plans, pre/post test, demonstration of skills.

IX. **Service Access**

Services must be accessed through a self-referral or referral by Community Partners or other community agencies. (Updated 3/1/12)