

# Family First Leadership Advisory Council

September 2, 2021



# Agenda

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- Overview of Title IV-E Prevention Plan
- Process for review



# Desired results

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- Shared understanding of requirements and content of Title IV-E Prevention Plan
- Clear next steps for Leadership Advisory Council review



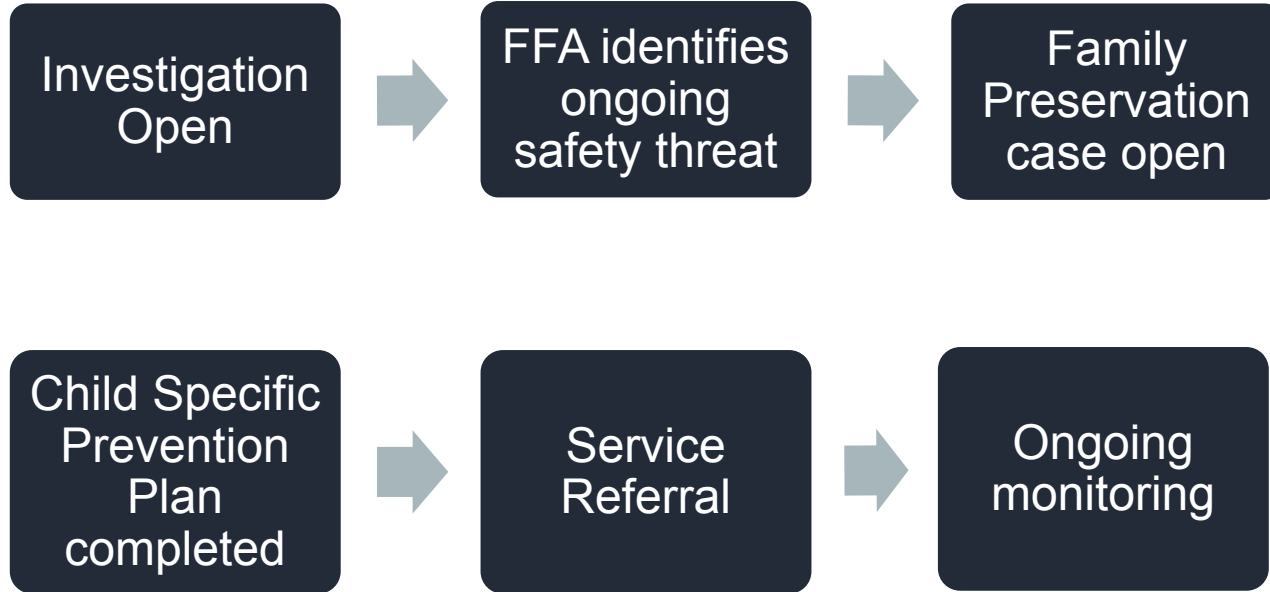


# Family First Governance Structure



## Family First case flow

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## Section III Service Description and Oversight: Overview

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**Participants:** Prevention Services Workgroup, Leadership Advisory Council, Steering Committee

**Requirements:** Evidence-based practice and associated information; description of implementation approach; description of trauma-informed framework

### **Plan Contents:**

- **Service Selection process**
- **Service description**
  - Target population & reason for inclusion
  - Type of service
  - Clearinghouse rating
  - EBP manual
  - Expected outcomes (from Clearinghouse)



## Section III Overview Continued

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### **Proposed Services:**

- Brief Strategic Family Therapy
- Functional Family Therapy
- Healthy Families America
- Multisystemic Therapy
- Parents as Teachers



## Section III Overview Continued

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- **Trauma Informed Framework**

- State's overall commitment to trauma informed practice

- Models are trauma informed

- Contracts will require trauma-informed service delivery

- **Implementation Approach**

- Phased - both services and geography

- Use of an implementation team

- Coordination with existing capacity





## Section II Eligibility and Candidacy: Overview

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**Participants:** Candidacy Workgroup, Practice & Policy Workgroup, Leadership Advisory Council, Steering Committee

**Requirements:** Description of the plan to assess children and their parents or kin caregivers to identify children at imminent risk of foster care and determine eligibility for Family First prevention services



## Section II Overview

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### Definition:

Two child populations will be eligible for Family First prevention services in Georgia: 1) children who are determined to be candidates for foster care; and 2) expectant and parenting youth who are in foster care. When a child is determined eligible, the child, parent, and/or kin caregiver of the child may receive services identified in the child's prevention plan.

A child meets the criteria for foster care candidacy when they are determined to be at imminent risk of removal but can safely remain in the home or kinship placement with the provision of preventative services to mitigate the identified present or impending danger safety threat. Children identified as candidates will meet one of the following criteria:

1. Children receiving family preservation services
2. Children recently reunified with their families following an out of home placement are at risk of re-entry into foster care
3. Children whose adoption or guardianship arrangement is at risk of disruption



## Section II Overview cont'd

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### Imminent risk criteria:

**Family Preservation:** *current policy requirements*

**Post –reunification:** *court ordered services due to risk of re-entry*

**Adoption or guardianship at risk of disruption:** *meet criteria for family preservation; future, will serve through adoption unit*



## Section IV Child Specific Prevention Plan

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**Participants:** Practice and Policy Workgroup, Policy and Regulations, SHINES, DFCS leadership

**Requirements:** How the child prevention plan will be developed, implemented, and incorporated in SHINES, policy, and practice.

**Content:**

- Process for developing child-specific prevention plans for candidates and prevention plans for pregnant and parenting youth
- Process for assessing service need
- Description of processes to ensure appropriate service referral, linkage, and oversight for prevention candidates, including redeterminations of candidacy and revisions to the prevention plan
- Integrating the child-specific prevention plans within SHINES
- How prevention services will be coordinated with other services provided to the child/family



## Section IV Overview Cont'd

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### Child Prevention Plan:

#### Practice Implications

The child prevention plan will be completed during the joint visit between the INV, Family Preservation workers and the family. The document will later be added to the Family Plan.

The process for assessing service need will remain according to current policy and practice. Field staff will be asked to prioritize EBPs when selecting services however if another service is more appropriate then that service will be linked, and a rationale will be documented.

The Family First Team is recommending a “Gatekeeper” position for regions that would be responsible for approving EBP referrals and providing consultation as needed to workers and supervisors to determine the most appropriate program for a family.



## Section V Monitoring Child Safety

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**Participants:** Safety Services Section, FFPSA team

**Requirements:** Georgia's plan for assessing, monitoring, and overseeing the safety of all candidates and identifying risk.

**Content:**

- Description of state's approach to monitoring and overseeing the safety of candidates being served in Family Preservation
- Staff roles and responsibilities for assessing and monitoring risk throughout service delivery
- Description investigative processes, completion of FFA, case transfer, and Family Preservation processes



## Section V Overview Cont'd

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- Current practice and policy regarding assessing and monitoring child safety will be followed.
- Current practice for referencing GA Safety Threats to determine impending danger will be sited as GA's assessment of risk.
- Current case re-evaluation process will be followed for 12-month redetermination of eligibility.



## Section VII Child Welfare Workforce Training and Support

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**Participants:** Education and Training, Readiness Workgroup, Policy and Regulations, FFPSA team

**Requirements:** Plan to ensure that EBP providers and DFCS staff are trained to implement FFPSA, assure effective service delivery and oversight, monitor child risk/safety, engage family in assessment of service need.

**Content:**

- Contracts will require providers to be appropriately trained and certified in evidence-based programs they administer
- Current training plan for DFCS staff
- Plan for adding required trainings





## Section VII Overview Cont'd

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### **Readiness Workgroup:**

The Readiness workgroup has been engaging with regions to support and prepare the field for FFPSA implementation. One main task of the group is to identify necessary practice improvements to strengthen the Family Preservation program area and integrate Family First requirements.

A field practice survey was disseminated in May to allow staff to report what practice supports and learning opportunities were needed to strengthen practice and prepare for Family First implementation. In June, the workgroup facilitated regional focus groups as a follow up to the survey and to provide a forum for workers and supervisors to discuss current practice gaps.

The Readiness group is now working to incorporate that input into a recommendation for practice supports and trainings for field staff and supervisors.



## Section VII Overview Cont'd

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**The following trainings will be added:**

- Family First Overview that explains the Act, FFPSA requirements, Georgia's plan for implementation, and changes to policy and practice.
- Identifying candidates and developing child-specific prevention plans
- Identification and linkage of appropriate trauma-informed, evidence-based services and review of Georgia's selected EBPs
- Oversight and evaluation of the continuing appropriateness of the services



# Section VIII Prevention Caseloads: Overview

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**Participants:** DFCS leadership, Policy and Regulations, FFPSA team

**Requirements:** How prevention caseloads size will be determined and overseen

**Content:**

- Cases will be managed in Family Preservation
- Current processes for tracking and monitoring caseloads at state and regional level will be followed





# Next Steps

# Leadership Advisory Review

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We need your input in the final stages of shaping the Prevention Plan

## You will receive:

- a copy of the draft Prevention Plan
- a review template



# Leadership Advisory Review

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## Focused Questions:

- What aspects of the plan do you find most exciting or promising? What aspects do you think other statewide stakeholders (e.g., community members, providers, partners, families, DFCS staff) would find most exciting or promising?
- The plan is not designed to provide a comprehensive blueprint but rather a high level overview of the state's approach to Family First. That said, are any aspects of the plan unclear or confusing to you? Do you have significant unanswered questions about Georgia's approach to Family First after reading the plan?
- Do any aspects of the plan feel misaligned with the planning process to date or Georgia's over-arching strategic direction?
- To what extent do you think our stakeholders (e.g., community members, providers, partners, families, DFCS staff) will see their role in advancing Family First in Georgia based on reading this plan? What communications or actions may be needed to help stakeholders understand their role?



# Leadership Advisory Review

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**Please submit feedback to Shelby Zimmer ([shelby.zimmer@dhs.ga.gov](mailto:shelby.zimmer@dhs.ga.gov))  
by noon on Thursday, September 9th**

