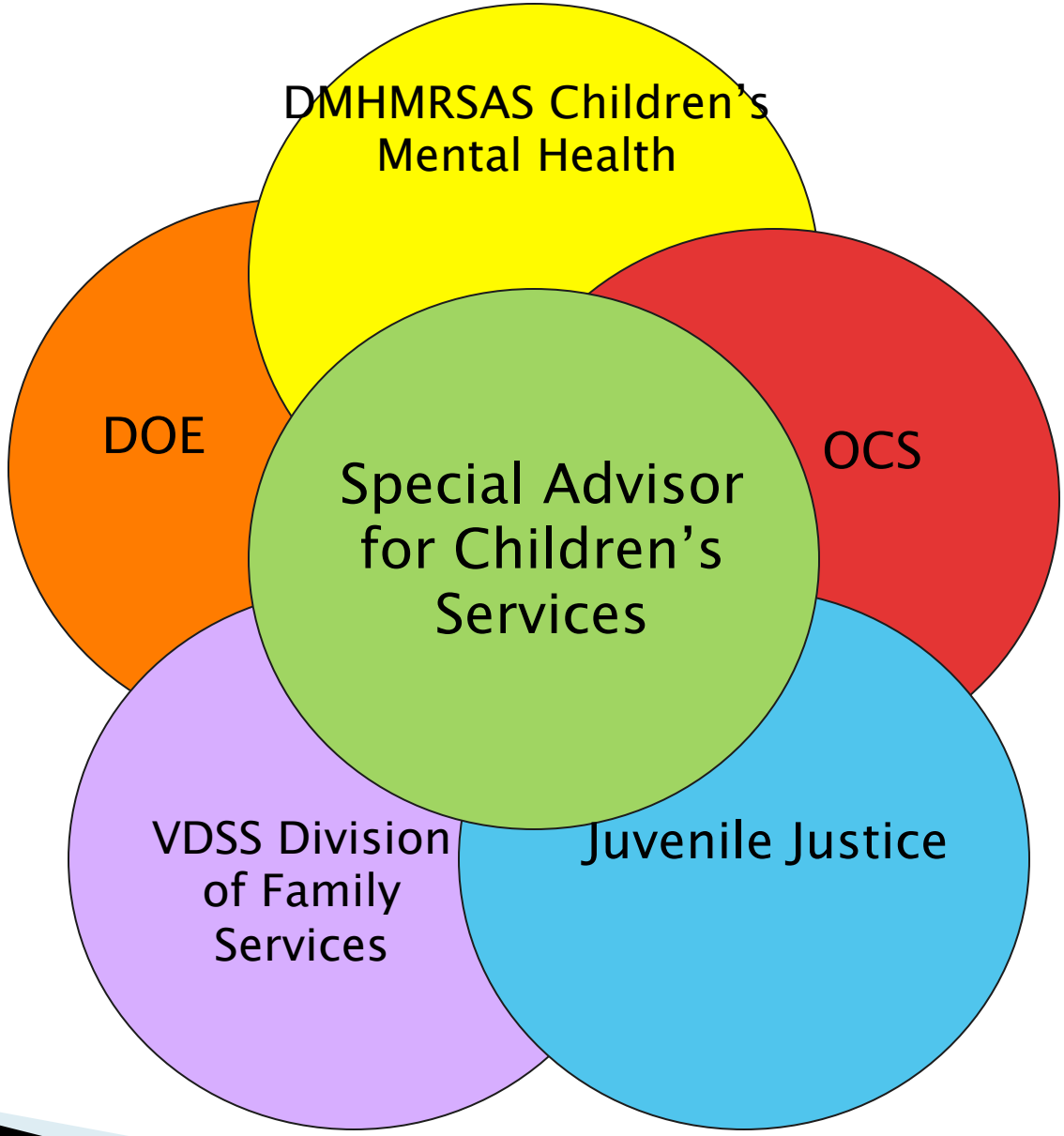
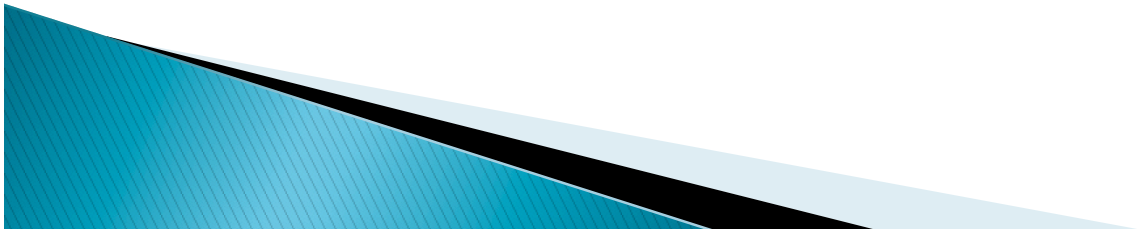
Children's Services: Learning from the Past and Planning for the Future

Presented to the VCOPPA Critical Issues Symposium
By Karin T. Addison
Special Advisor for Children's Services
October 11, 2012


DMHMRSAS Children's Mental Health
DOE
OCS
Special Advisor for Children's Services
VDSS Division of Family Services
Juvenile Justice

Children's Services Transformation

- **Statewide Training System**
  A comprehensive, competency based training system built on the practice model and accessible across Virginia
- **Resource Family Recruitment, Development and Support**
  Finding, training and supporting resource and adoptive families to provide permanent connections for youth in foster care
- **Managing by Data**
  Using data to guide decision making and using desired outcomes to drive practice
- **Family Engagement Model**
  Engaging families in a deliberate way by giving them a voice in what happens to their families and their children.
- **Community-Based Continuum**
  Developing, funding and sustaining a continuum of services that will meet the needs of every child and ensure that, when at all possible, children receive the services that they need within their own home and community.



Initial Measures of Success

Permanency:

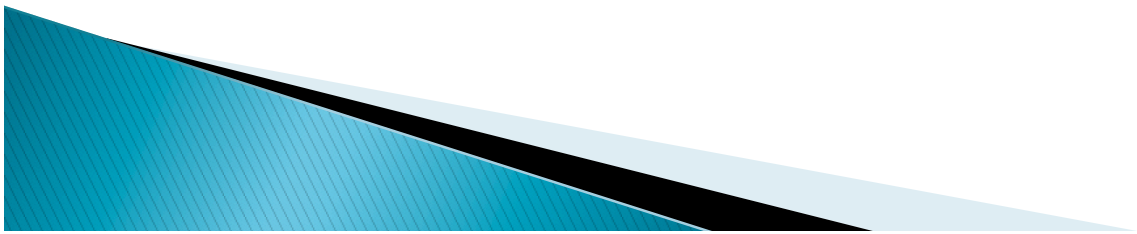
- Increasing the number of youth who exit foster care to permanency
- Decreasing the amount of time it takes those youth to exit the foster care system to permanency

Family-Based Care:

- Increasing the number of youth entering family-based care
- Increasing the number of youth entering kinship care placements

Group Care Reduction:

- Decreasing the number of youth in group care
- Decreasing the length of time youth spend in group care

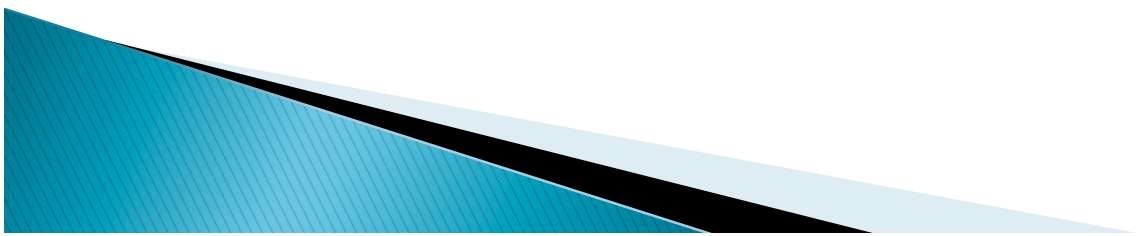


Understanding where we are now

DFS Critical Outcome Measure	Dec 2007	Jun 2012	Percent Change	Difference	Status
Safely Reduce Foster Care Caseload	7,557	5,324	**-29.55%**	**2,233**	
Re-Entries within 12 Months of Reunification	9.59%	1.30%	**-86.44%**	**-8.29%**	
State Target < 9.6%	9.60%	9.60%			
Increase Percentage of Discharges to Permanency	64.29%	73.30%	**14.01%**	**9.01%**	
State Target > 86.00%	86.00%	86.00%			
Increase the Percentage of Family-based Placements	71.43%	79.40%	**11.16%**	**7.97%**	
State Target > 80.00%	80.00%	80.00%			
Decrease the Number of Children in Congregate Care	1,984	746	**-62.40%**	**1,238**	
Decrease the Percentage of Children in Congregate Care	25.51%	14.76%	**-42.14%**	**-10.75%**	
State Target < 16.00%	16.00%	16.00%			
Increase the Percentage of Children in Kinship Placements	5.62%	6.20%	**10.32%**	**0.58%**	
State Target > 24.00%	24.00%	24.00%			

Children's Services Transformation

- Continue the legacy of shared decision making, family involvement, community based placement, and data driven decision making.
- Improve permanency rates.
- Positive trend of diversion and reducing the number of children in the foster care system.
- Share these values with other child serving agencies.

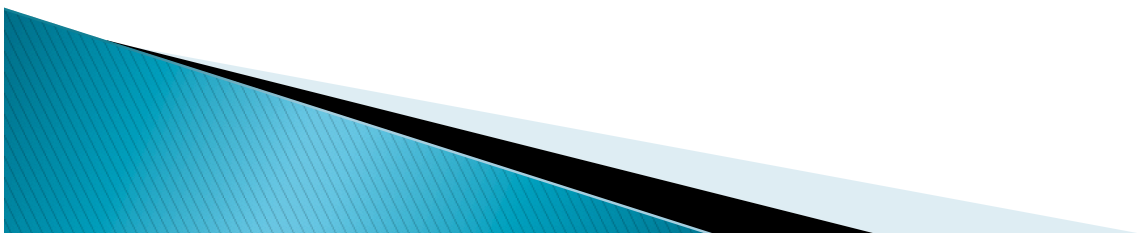


Current Initiatives

- Systems of Care Grant
- Data Analysis and Integration
- Comprehensive Array of Children's Mental Health Services – Regional Crisis Stabilization and Psychiatric Services
- eHHR and System Modernization

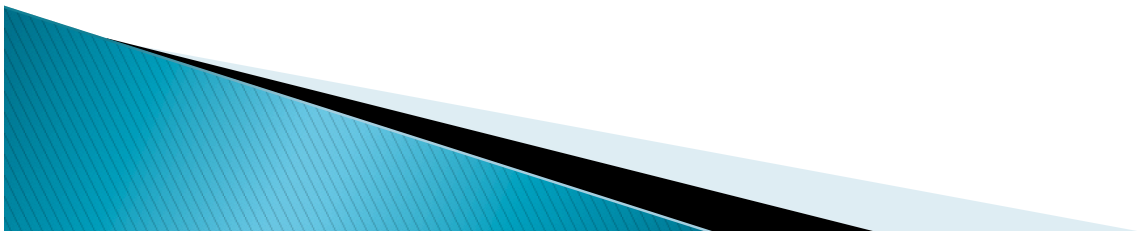
Systems of Care

- “A spectrum of effective, community-based services and supports for children and youth with or at risk for mental health or other challenges and their families, that is organized into a coordinated network, builds meaningful partnerships with families and youth, and addresses their cultural and linguistic needs, in order to help them to function better at home, in school, in the community, and throughout life.”



Systems of Care

- Policies, organizational arrangements, service delivery approaches, and treatments change based on changing needs, opportunities, environmental circumstances, and populations.
- Need for a public health approach to mental health.
- Concept should recognize potential for SOCs to incorporate or link with promotion, prevention, and early intervention, in addition to services and supports for high-need youth and their families.

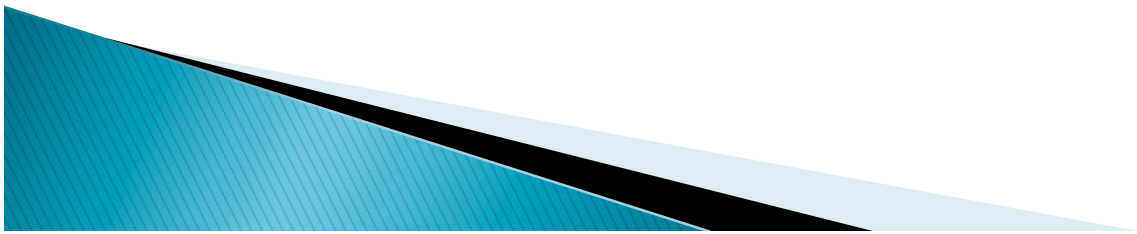


Systems of Care

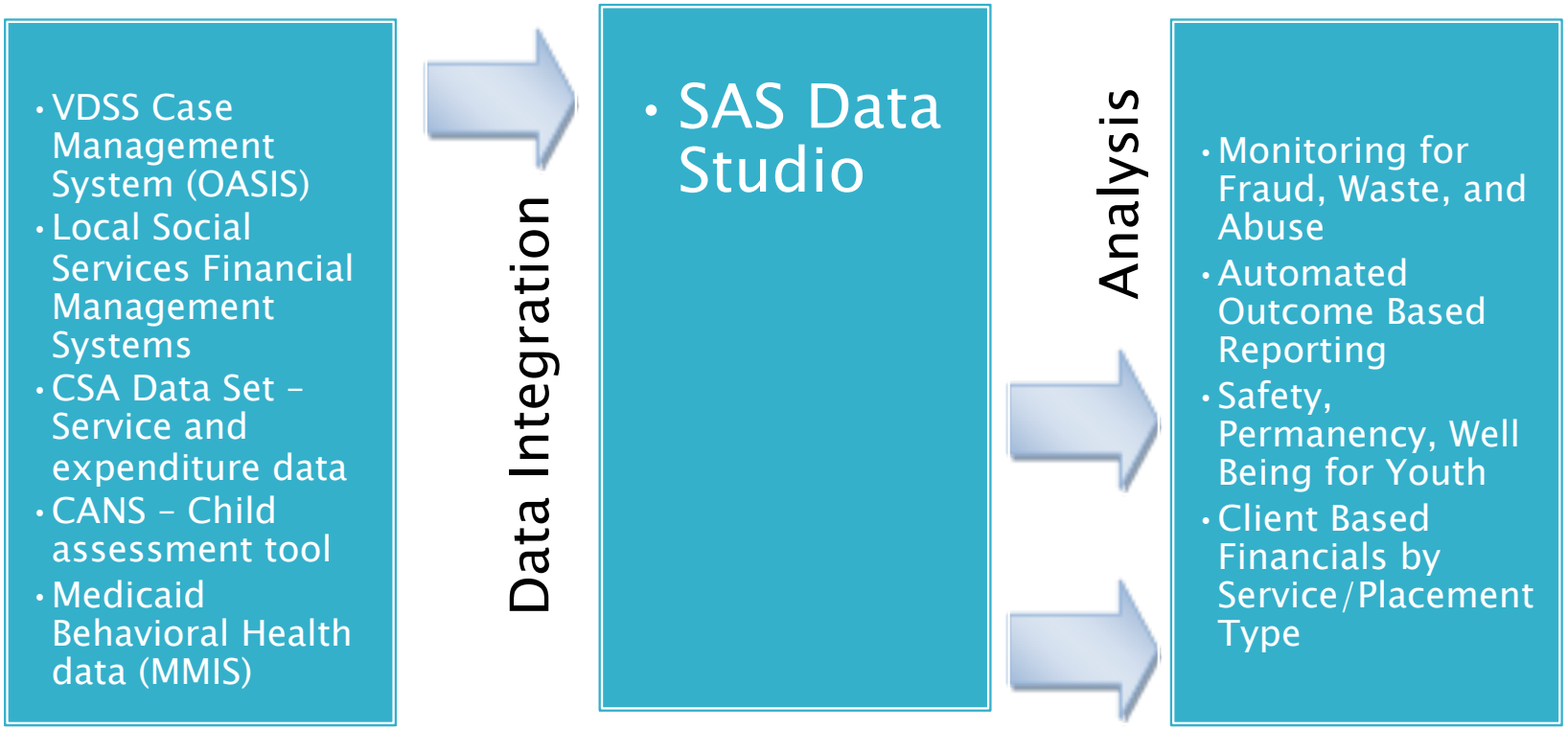
- SOC creates the framework for reform, and Virginia was awarded a 4-year implementation grant.
- Mini-grants will be awarded on a competitive basis to those communities that can demonstrate readiness to implement innovative services that fill gaps in the statewide service array and those identified as gaps through the CSA Service Gap Analysis.
- Focusing on intensive coordination of services for youth in state custody or at risk of being in foster care.

Center of Excellence

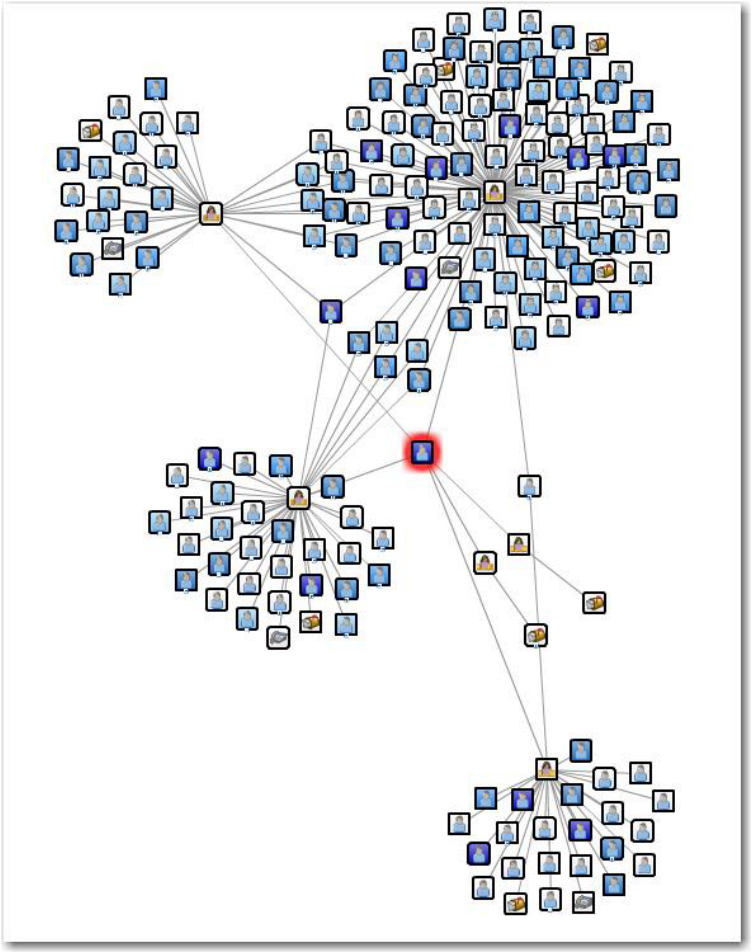
- The Office of Comprehensive Services will serve as the center of excellence for wraparound training and service development to enhance our system of care.
- OCS data integration and analysis will enhance the state's ability to assist localities. This will result in better service planning, delivery and outcomes.



Solution for Financial Reconciliation



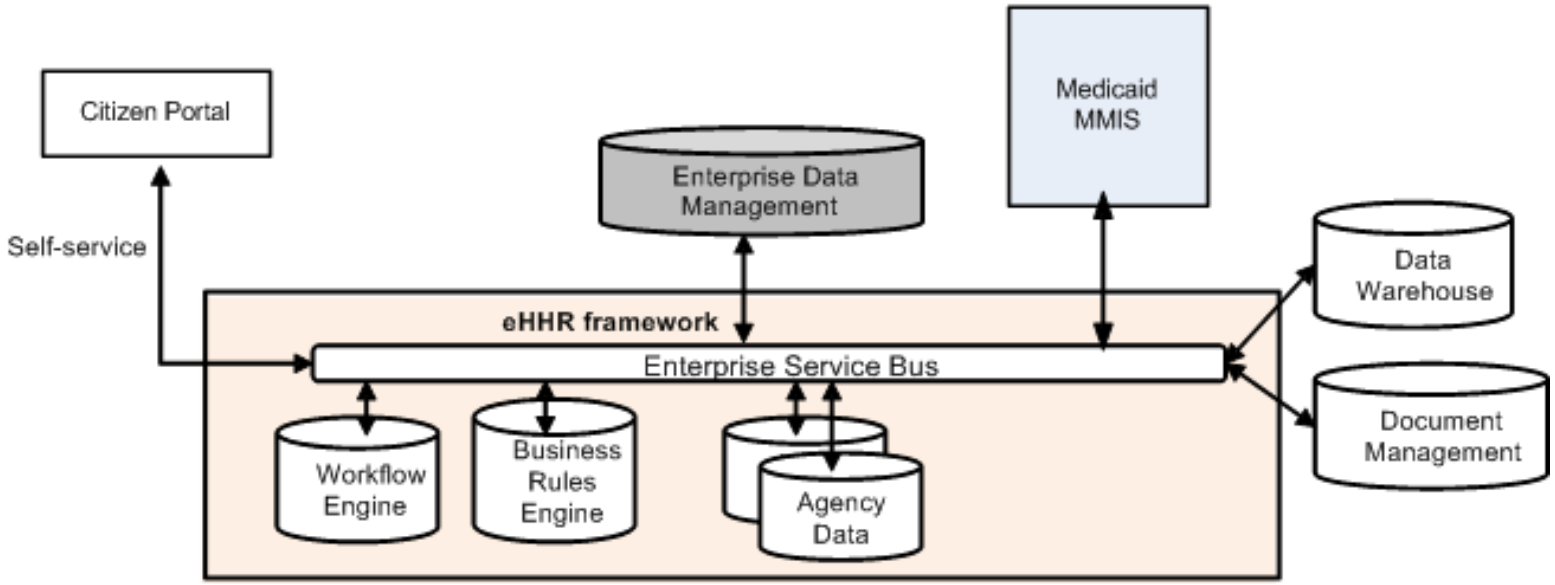
Even With CSA to Coordinate payments, Services for Children Remain Fragmented



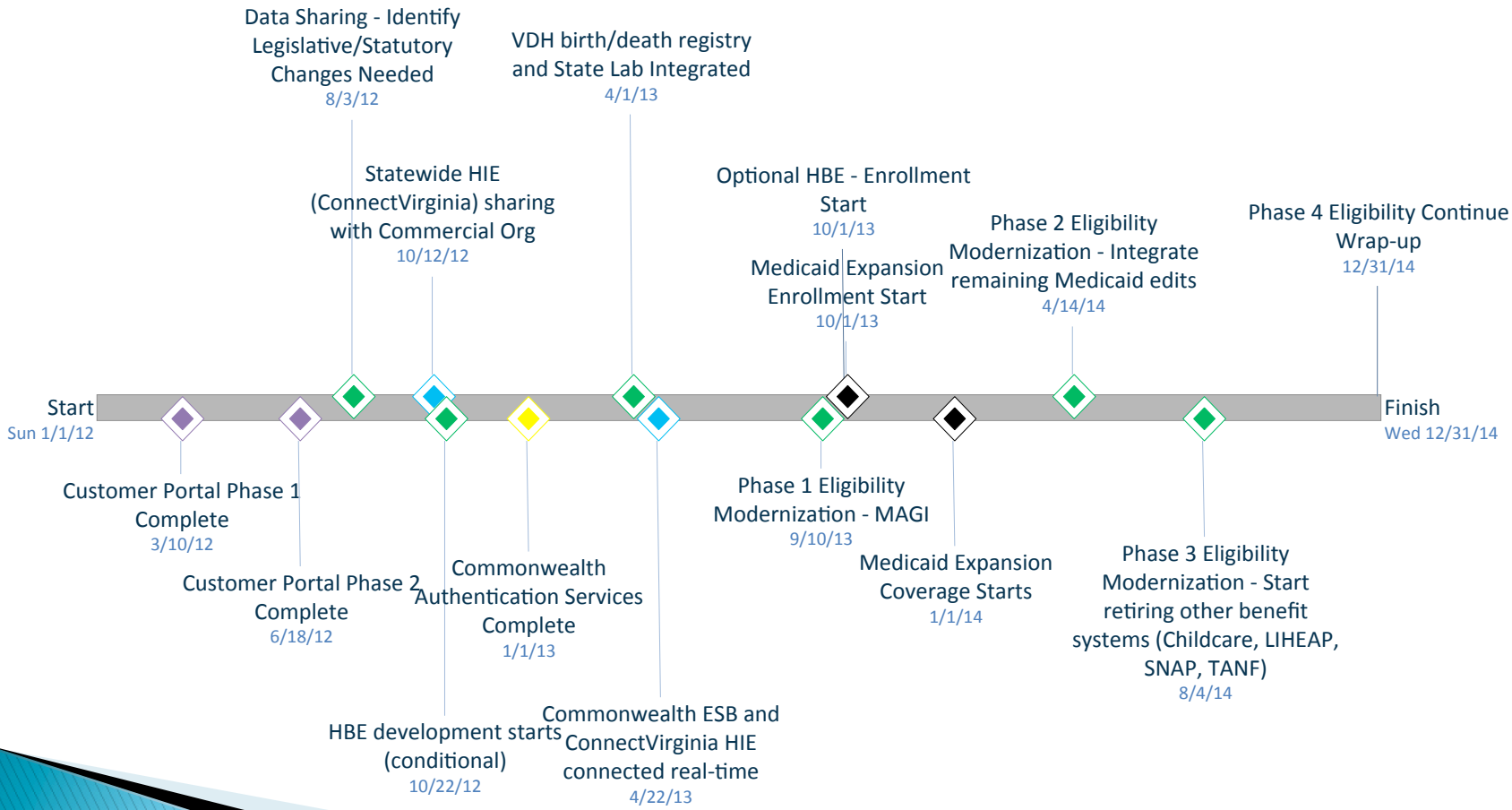
Mental Health Services for Children in Every Region

- The budget included$1.5 Million for the development of children's crisis stabilization and psychiatric services across the state.
- The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services has made the following awards:
  - Region 1 (Central VA CSB) – $525,000
  - Region III (Mount Rogers CSB) – $318, 385
  - Region IV (Richmond Behavioral Health) – $700,000

eHHR Technology Vision

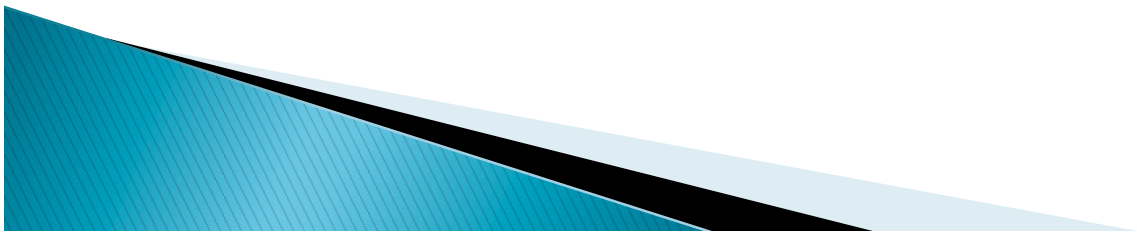


eHHR Timeline

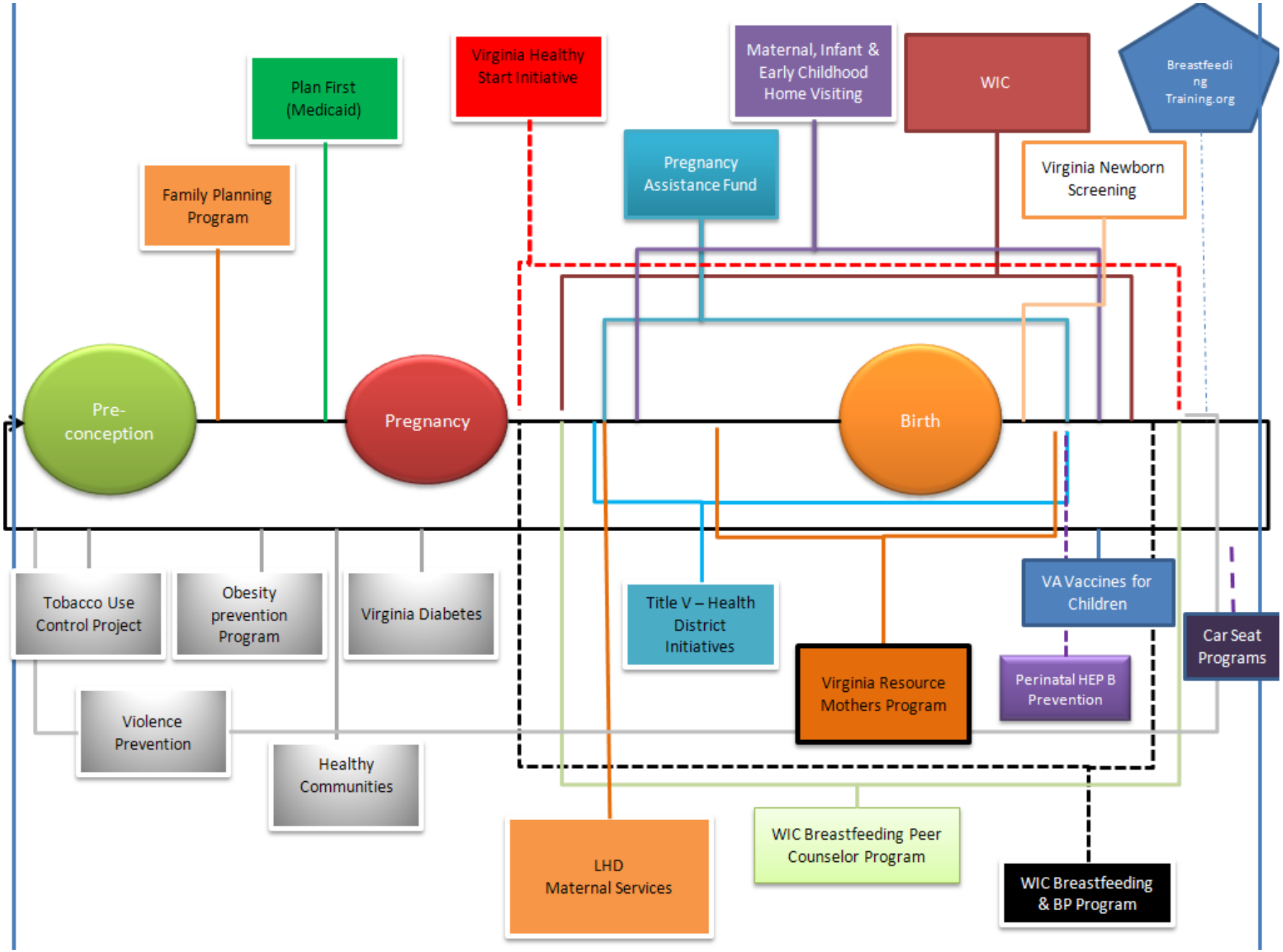


Future Activities

- Aligning services
- Proving value of services
- Making data-driven decisions
- Encouraging and supporting innovation/ delivery reform

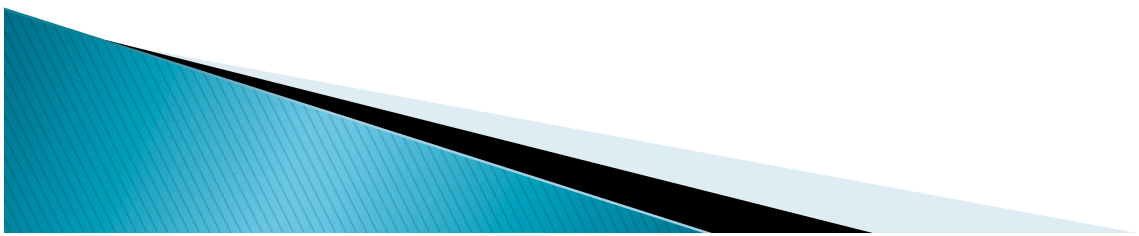


Perinatal Continuum



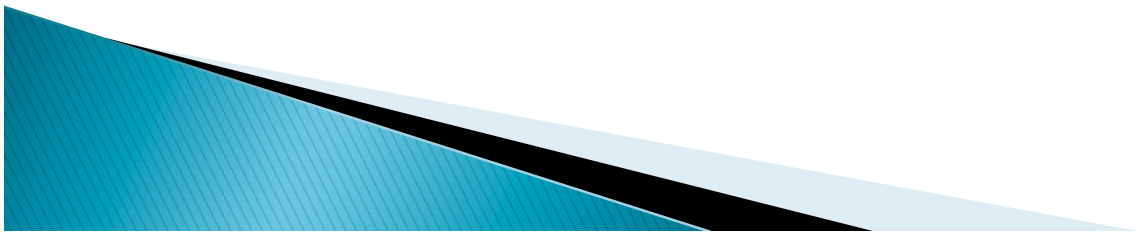
A new approach

- OSHHR will spend the next 12 months coordinating a new approach to the delivery of services to children in the early childhood arena. "Pre-conception to Pre-K"
- Our goal is to align and coordinate services with the idea that our efforts will support success in third grade.
- Discussions will begin soon, and we hope to have a 3-year plan by end of next summer.



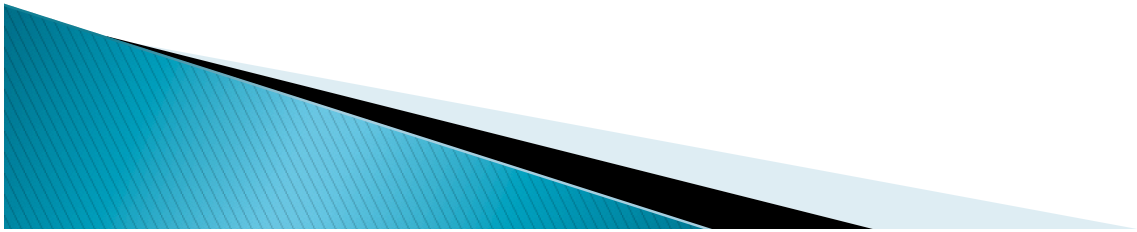
Benchmarks

- Increase the number of babies born healthy
- Increase the number of 2 year olds who are fully immunized and meet developmental milestones.
- Increase the number of Kindergarteners who are ready to learn as evidenced by student assessments



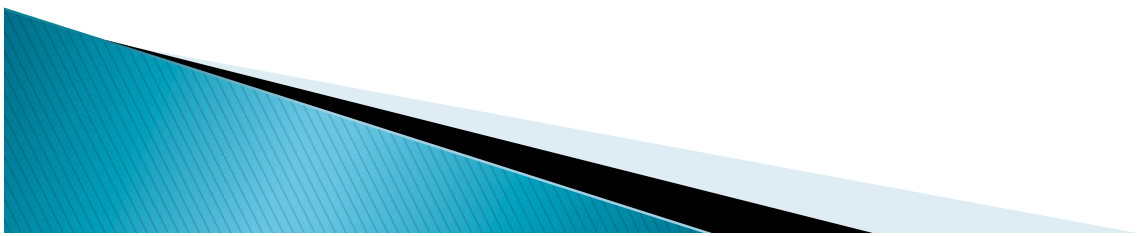
Strategies

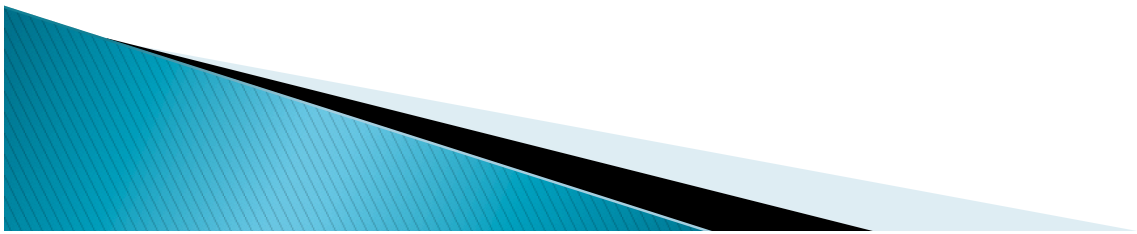
- Create statewide map of indicators/markers including but not limited to teen pregnancies, infant mortality, prematurity, CPS cases, TANF/SNAP, etc.
- Look for “hot spots” and target interventions.
- Use a series of pilot projects to test hypothesis.
- Identify “bright spots” and replicate successful models.



Opportunities

- The goal will be to collect and analyze interventions with demographic and assessment data to answer critical questions such as:
  - Are services available to the children who need them?
  - Are services being provided in accordance with each child's needs?
  - Are funds for services being spent wisely?
  - To what extent is each program meeting the measurable goals for that program based on the availability of services, each child's needs, and the funds for those services?



Questions?

Karin.Addison@governor.virginia.gov