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| TITLE | POLICY NUMBER | |
| DCS Office of Prevention | DCS 17-01 | |
| RESPONSIBLE AREA | EFFECTIVE DATE | REVISION |
| Office of Prevention | June 9, 2021 | 1 |

I. POLICY STATEMENT

The DCS Office of Prevention was established to prevent child abuse/neglect. To support the needs of children and strengthen families, the Office of Prevention collaborates with the community, service providers, stakeholders and the DCS field staff. Through these collaborations, the Office of Prevention leverages resources, education, training and programs based on best practices to serve Arizona’s children and families. The purpose of this policy is to provide an overview of the programs that the Office of Prevention provides.

II. APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all DCS employees.

III. AUTHORITY

[A.R.S. § 8-550.01](#) Child abuse prevention fund; purpose; definition

[42 U.S.C. § 5104](#) National clearinghouse of information relating to child abuse

[A.R.S. § 8-457](#) Service coordination function

[A.R.S. § 8-459](#) Community advisory committee; duties; membership

[A.R.S. § 28-907](#)

Child restraint system; civil penalty; exemptions; notice; child restraint fund; definitions

IV. DEFINITIONS

Department or DCS: The Arizona Department of Child Safety.

Director: The Director of the Arizona Department of Child Safety.

V. POLICY

- A. Funding for the Office of Prevention comes from a Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) grant and 20% or higher matching state funds. CBCAP grant funds are used for prevention activities and programs throughout the state.
- B. The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) expands prevention and educational efforts - particularly aimed at teens, parents, and caregivers - to prevent the use of methamphetamines, opioids, and heroin, and to promote treatment and recovery. CARA also requires states to develop plans of safe care for infants prenatally exposed to substances and their caregivers.

VI. PROCEDURE

Available Services from the Office of Prevention

- A. Regional Child Abuse Prevention Councils

Voluntary groups who organize public engagement campaigns to heighten public awareness of child abuse and neglect, and communicate strategies to help communities assist in prevention. Councils also advocate for effective prevention programs and policies that ensure the safety and well-being of children.

- B. Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP)

The purpose of the program is to:

- 1. to support community-based efforts to develop, operate, expand, enhance, and coordinate initiatives, programs, and activities to prevent child abuse

and neglect and to support the coordination of resources and activities to better strengthen and support families to reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect; and

2. foster understanding, appreciation and knowledge of diverse populations in order to effectively prevent child abuse and neglect.

C. Parent Voice

DCS, through the Parent Advisory Collaborative (PAC), engages with parents in the community and parents previously involved with DCS to share ideas, strategies and services that strengthen families. The PAC focuses on primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention and intervention strategies that are strength-based and family-centered. The PAC meets quarterly and its subcommittees meet more frequently.

D. Community Voice

DCS, through the Community Advisory Committee established in June 2015 by A.R.S. § 8-459, provides a community forum with the following purposes:

1. to inform the Department, analyze current law and policy and make recommendations to improve the ability of the Department to increase the safety of children, respond to child maltreatment and ensure the well-being of and timely permanency for children who are referred to and involved in the child welfare system;
2. for collaboration among state, local, community, tribal, public and private stakeholders in child welfare programs and services that are administered by the Department;
3. to improve communication between mandatory reporters and the Department;
4. additionally, the Community Advisory Committee serves as one of several Citizen Review Panels for the Department, as required by the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). The full list of Citizen Review Panels can be found at <https://dcs.az.gov/about/community-advisory-committee>. The Community Advisory Committee includes one representative from fourteen stakeholder groups, as referenced in [The Department of Child Safety Community Advisory Committee Report of Activities and Recommendations](#), which is published by the committee.

The committee meets bimonthly.

E. Early Childhood Education

DCS Office of Prevention works with state and local agencies to bring awareness to and advocate for programs that promote early childhood learning opportunities for the most vulnerable children ages 0 to 5. Early childhood education includes parenting skills, childhood literacy, kindergarten readiness, oral health, and increasing protective factors.

F. Care Portal

The Care Portal connects families served by DCS to local churches to address a large range of needs to reduce risk and assist with children remaining in their homes.

G. Family Unification Program (FUP) and Foster Youth to Independence (FYI)

1. FUP housing vouchers are provided by the Federal Housing and Urban Development Administration to local housing authorities to prevent removal and remove housing barriers to reunification for birth families.
2. The Office of Prevention manages the FUP and FYI voucher programs administered through HUD and local housing authorities to serve birth families and youth that are exiting, or have already exited, foster care.

H. Infant Care Plans

The Infant Care Plan was developed by the State of Arizona in response to the Comprehensive Abuse and Recovery Act (CARA) and Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). The Infant Care Plan describes the services and supports provided to address the health and well-being of a substance exposed newborn and their parents/caregivers, including:

1. substance abuse treatment needs of the parents/caregivers;
2. medical care for the infant;
3. safe sleep practices;
4. knowledge of parenting and infant development;
5. living arrangements in the infant's home;

6. child care; and
7. social connections.

Additional information regarding the development of the Infant Care Plan can be found in [Chapter 2 Section 11.1, Investigations Involving Substance Exposed Newborns](#).

I. Safe Sleep

The DCS Safe Sleep Playard Program provides safe sleep education and resources for families. Parents are given a playard with baby essentials after the completion of safe sleep training.

J. Community Car Seat Program

1. The Department of Child Safety Office of Prevention shall administer the funding from the Child Restraint Fund by purchasing car seats and distributing them to responsible agencies (licensed hospital, a public or private agency providing shelter services to victims of domestic violence, a public or private agency providing shelter services to homeless families or a health clinic).
2. The responsible community agencies will provide car seats at no cost to a person who is indigent, subject to availability, as long as the applicant has a need to transport a child.
3. The amount in the Child Restraint Fund shall not exceed twenty thousand dollars. Anything over the twenty-thousand-dollar limit shall be deposited in the Arizona Highway User Revenue Fund.

K. The Office of Prevention has memberships in:

1. the Interagency Leadership Team;
2. professional development for home visitor programs;
3. Safe Sleep Task Force;
4. Children's Trust Fund Alliance;
5. State Lead for CBCAP;
6. Together for Arizona;

7. Safe and Healthy Infants and Families Thrive (SHIFT);
8. Maricopa Family Support Alliance.

L. Youth Projects

1. The DCS Office of Prevention uses CBCAP grant funds to support pregnant and parenting youth by offering Young Parent University that provides:
 - a. pregnancy and parenting workshops;
 - b. exhibitor tables; and
 - c. parenting necessities such as strollers, baby monitors, and books.