

Plan for Substance Exposed Infants

FAQs for HB1157/SB389 Legislation

What is the intent of HB1157/SB389 legislation passed in 2018?

HB1157/SB389 directs the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to serve as the lead agency with responsibility for the development, coordination, and implementation of a plan for services for substance-exposed infants (SEI) in the Commonwealth.

The SEI plan shall support a trauma-informed approach for the identification and treatment of substance-exposed infants and their caregivers and include:

- a. options for improving screening and identification of substance-using pregnant women;
- b. use of multidisciplinary approaches to intervention and service delivery during the prenatal period and following the birth of the substance-exposed child; and
- c. referral among providers serving substance-exposed infants and their families and caregivers.

What is the role of the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Family Health Services, Division of Child and Family Health (OFHS-DCFH)?

The Virginia Department of Health, OFHS-DCFH, is the lead agency charged with carrying out the responsibilities described above. VDH OFHS-DCFH is responsible for leading the efforts of the SEI plan while working cooperatively with other stakeholder organizations.



Visit <http://dss.virginia.gov/family/cps/index.cgi> for more information

What is the role of local departments of health?

Local health departments should work cooperatively with VDH OFHS-DCFH in developing and implementing the SEI plan.

Who is the primary point of contact at VDH regarding SEI plan?

The VDH primary point of contact for the SEI plan initiative is:

Shannon Pursell, MPH
Maternal and Infant Health Coordinator
Division of Child and Family Health
Virginia Department of Health
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What other organizations are required to be involved?

HB1157/SB389 identifies the following stakeholder organizations to work cooperatively with the VDH in developing and implementing the Commonwealth's SEI plan:

- Department of Social Services
- Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
- Community Services Boards
- Behavioral Health Authorities
- Local departments of health
- Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Virginia Section

Participation is open to other stakeholders, such as the Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative, March of Dimes, or Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Associations. Stakeholders interested in contributing to SEI plan should contact Shannon Pursell (see item #4).

What is the role of the other organizations?

Work cooperatively with the Virginia Department of Health, share expertise and contribute to the development and implementation of the Commonwealth's SEI plan, which is described above.

What work is currently being done related to the plan for substance exposed infants?

VDH staff have been engaged in the following activities:

- conducting an environmental scan to assess the current availability of services for maternal substance use disorder/opioid use disorder and substance exposed infants;
- identifying additional stakeholders to engage in the process and serve on the SEI workgroup; and
- establishing a timeline for convening the first meeting of the SEI workgroup; the first meeting will be held in early 2019.

How does this legislation impact current case management practices for child protective services caseloads?

The intent of HB1157/SB389 is not to disrupt the current provision of services or care coordination that is currently taking place in localities. The VDH, as the lead agency working cooperatively with other stakeholder organizations, is responsible for coordinating, developing and implementing the Commonwealth's SEI plan.

Questions regarding child protective services caseload management protocols should be directed to the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS). Contact VDSS at: <http://dss.virginia.gov/family/cps/index.cgi>.

How will stakeholders be informed about the progress of the SEI plan?

VDH will communicate the SEI process through ongoing engagement with stakeholder organizations. VDH will also share progress reports at future SEI workgroup meetings. Per the requirements of HB1157/SB389, VDH will submit an annual report on the progress of SEI plan implementation to the General Assembly.