

# Prevention Services Overview

## Family First Prevention Services Legislation

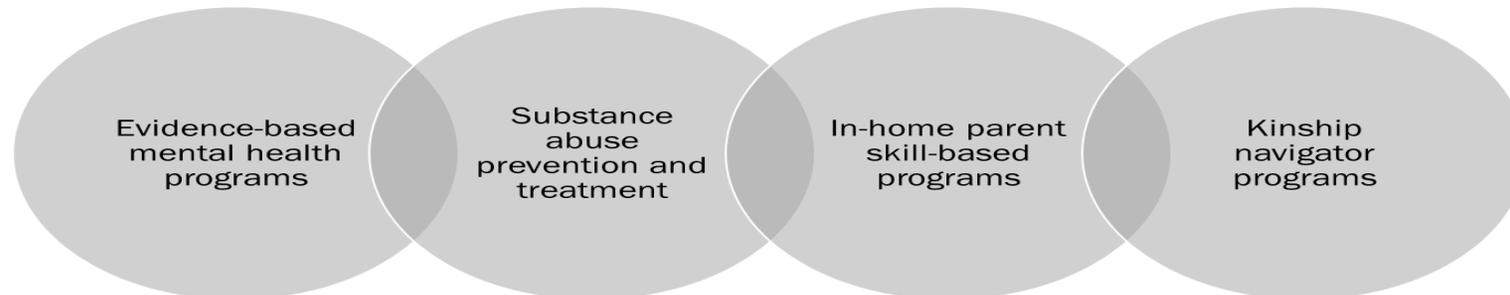
The landmark bipartisan Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018 represented the most significant reform to federal child welfare policy in decades. Family First includes long-overdue historic reforms to help keep children safely with their families and avoid the traumatic experience of entering foster care, emphasizes the importance of children growing up in families, and helps ensure children are placed in the least restrictive, most family-like setting appropriate to their special needs when foster care is needed. Family First calls on states to rethink their approach to child protection and family support, and full implementation of the law is scheduled to take two years or more.

The goals of the Family First Prevention Services Act are as follows:

- prevent children from coming into the foster care system by remaining at home or with kin;
- reduce the unnecessary use of congregate care (group home and residential care) settings;
- ensure children can stay/reside with their mothers/families while receiving substance abuse treatment when it is safe;
- extend Chafee grants and educational opportunities for former foster youth who wish to attend technical training or college;
- and build the capacity of communities to support children and families.

*Ohio based research showed that over a 4-year study 34% of cases that were closed and referred at the end of the assessment/ investigation phase had a recurrence of maltreatment within six months.*

The law enables states and territories to use funds for prevention services, such as:



# The Big Picture

FFPSA ensures all states are taking measures to keep children from entering foster care or being placed un-necessarily in congregate care. Many counties in Ohio, already utilize ideas such as in-home supportive services, voluntary family case plans, alternative response, and court ordered protective supervision. Not everywhere in the country uses these practices.

Over the next 3-5 years Ohio hopes to increase statewide capacity of evidence based programs and improve children services maltreatment outcomes. In time, this should reduce the number of cases returning to the system.

From there, over the next 5+ years the goal would be to reduce the number of referrals or reports being made/accepted into children services through the use of public education and global awareness campaigns.

## Types of Prevention

### Tertiary (Legally required)

Prevent children from coming into foster care, group homes, or residential treatment settings. Use only as the least restrictive placement option. Utilize specific evidence-based services to increase safety, reduce risk of serious harm, and promote well-being. Prevent recurrence of maltreatment.

### Secondary

Prevent or limit children services length and type of involvement through the use of targeted community resources/services

### Primary (Goal)

Reduce the need for children services referrals through education/awareness/universal services.

## Case Category Considerations For Prevention Services

The idea of prevention services are not new to many PCSAs throughout Ohio. Serving the needs of families and children through voluntary service plans, in-home and supportive services, alternative response, family preservation, utilizing relatives and kin, and using removal as a last resort has been a central focus of children services best practice for a decade or more. What is new are trauma informed, evidence-based practices being offered on a larger scale statewide and the ability to be reimbursed for these services using Title IV-E funds. Prevention services is another tool in the PCSA toolkit to assist the children and families we serve.

### Things to Remember

- \* Prevention services were designed to be flexible.
- \* Any intake type can be served through prevention services;
- \* Children & families can be served regardless of the assigned pathway (Alternative Response or Traditional Response); and
- \* Through either the Ongoing or Prevention Services case category in SACWIS.
- \* If an evidence-based practice is present on a family case plan or prevention services plan, the service will be reimbursed for an eligible candidate.

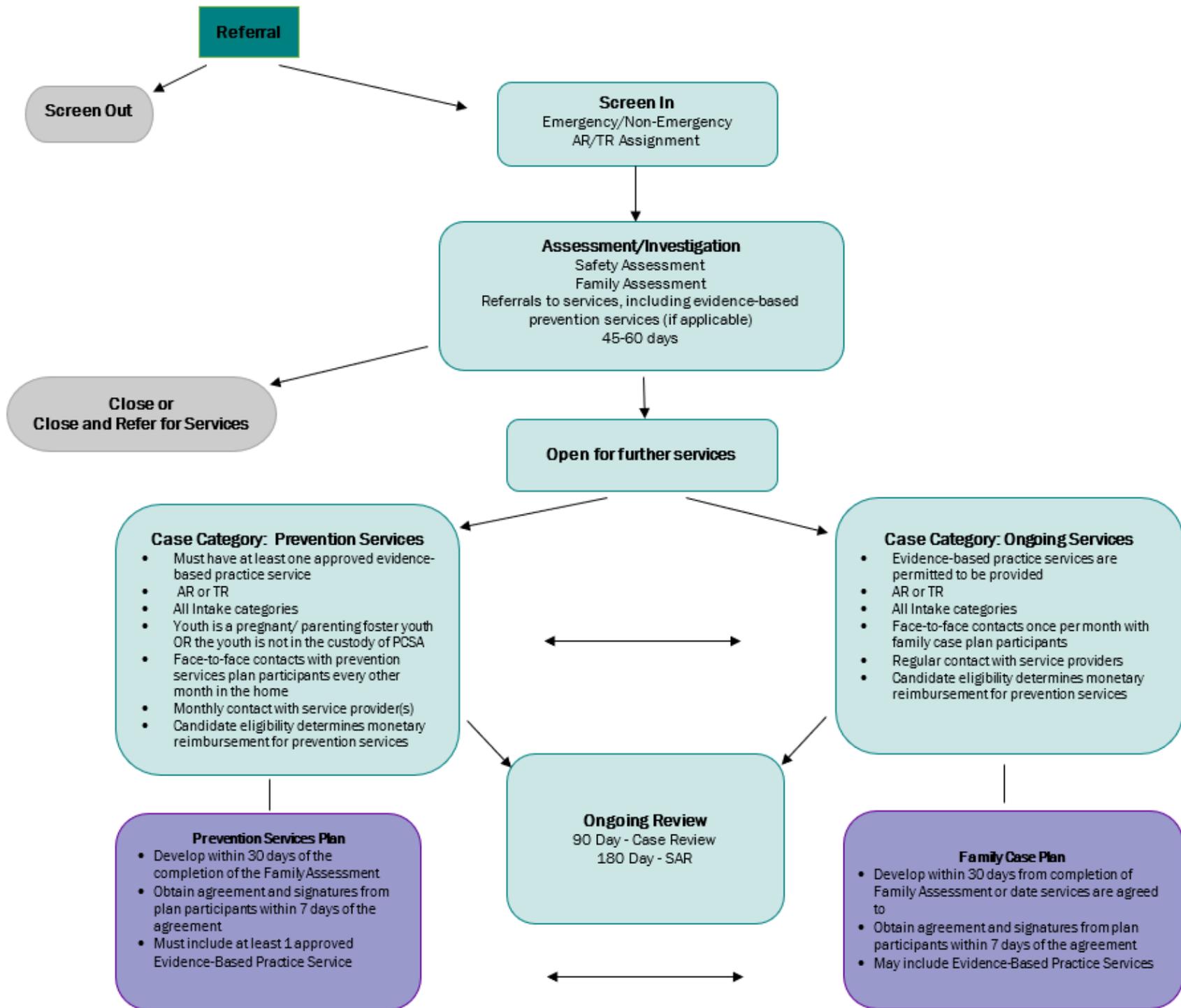
## Side by Side Comparison of Case Categorization

### Ongoing Case Category

- \* Follow OAC 5101:2-38-01, 5101:2-38-05, or 5101:2-38-20.
- \* Case participants *MAY* have EBP services but not required.
- \* Follow existing monitoring requirements and complete *minimum monthly contacts* with case participants.
- \* Better suited for those with increased risk or child safety concerns.
- \* Use existing tools to assess and guide service planning.
- \* Can transfer to/from Prevention Services Case Category.

### Prevention Services Case Category

- \* Follow OAC 5101:2-40-05.
- \* Case participant(s) *MUST* have at least one EBP service.
- \* Complete minimum *contacts at least every other month in the home*.
- \* Have *monthly contact* with all service providers.
- \* Better fit for low to moderate risk families or those with exceptional circumstances as determined by the PCSA.
- \* Use new/existing tools to assess and guide service planning as they become available.
- \* Can transfer to/from Ongoing Case Category.



## Prevention Services case category:

Family is in agreement with the case opening for ongoing services

A case member has been identified as benefitting from an evidence-based practice service



## Considerations for Prevention Services case category:

Families that have had multiple recurrences with PCSAs that resulted in case closure at the assessment/investigation level

Families that have been identified as lower risk and would have been closed with a referral to services

Families that are low to moderate risk and there is no active safety threat

## Ongoing case category:

Court involved case where custody is with a relative or kin and reunification is the goal

Safety threat being controlled by a safety plan



## Considerations for the Ongoing case category:

Court involved (not in PCSA custody) or recently court involved case

Protective Supervision  
(Including post-reunification cases)

Family has an active safety plan