



Comprehensive  
Child Welfare  
Information  
System

## VISION STATEMENT

We believe that a comprehensive child welfare information system is more than just a repository of case notes and data to meet reporting requirements.

The information stored in each electronic case tells the **STORY** of a child in foster care or of a family receiving services to ensure the safety of their children. This holds true even generations after we directly work with a child or family.

It is our responsibility to create electronic tools that help and not hinder the ability for workers to ensure the safety, permanency and wellbeing of children in the Commonwealth. This means that the system is truly mobile, adaptive to new technologies and uses document imaging to host the entire care record.

Reporting and data quality assurance tools should be accessible to all users on an ongoing and ad hoc basis.

In a modular approach, different functions of the system should communicate effectively in “real-time” rather than in a batch process. This includes the recycling of common data elements and an ongoing data exchange with internal systems like title IV-E eligibility determination and purchase orders along with external systems like local financial systems, court improvement, child support, Medicaid, education and the Children’s Services Act.

It is imperative that we maximize the interoperability of existing and future systems that intersect with the comprehensive child welfare information system to reduce the need to develop or maintain multiple I.T. solutions. We must be able to update the system to accommodate legislative changes and new program activities with minimal effort or delay.

We believe that workers are not the only users of a truly comprehensive system. Children, families, foster or adoptive parents, Guardians ad Litem, financial services and community partners all have a legitimate need to access information in a case record. This requires a flexible system with robust security protocols.



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES