

XII. Prevention

"Primary prevention refers to preventing the occurrence of developmental disabilities by mitigating or eliminating factors in life of which developmental disabilities may be a consequence. Secondary prevention refers to preventing symptoms of developmental disabilities from occurring by early case finding and intervention. Tertiary prevention refers to ameliorating the effects of a developmental disability, and to reducing the impairment associated with it, by providing appropriate services to developmentally disabled individuals and their families". (Standards for Services for Developmentally Disabled Individuals, Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals, 1978, p. 138).

A. Policy

As indicated in Family Outreach's Philosophy and Goals, prevention of developmental disabilities is supported. Family Outreach, Inc. is directly involved in secondary and tertiary prevention. (See I.C. Program Policies).

Family Outreach, Inc. supports the effort of individuals and agencies in primary prevention.

B. Procedures

- a. Through activities of the services delivery system, Family Outreach, Inc. staff will support agencies directly involved in prevention, such as preventing poisoning from lead and other toxic agents, accidents, child abuse, and fetal alcohol and other drug syndromes and biomedical preventive activities, such as providing maternal health services, including family planning and conceptual and interconceptual care, natal and neonatal care, child health services, including immunization, and screening and counseling for genetic disorders.