



Human Services
Research Institute

The background of the slide is a photograph of a wide river valley in North Dakota. The river flows through a green valley with rolling hills in the distance. The sky is blue with some clouds. The entire image is framed by a thin yellow border.

North Dakota Behavioral Health Plan

Progress and Updates for the Behavioral Health
Planning Council | October 2025

Adjusting Aim 6 to better reflect current actions and priorities

Previous wording:

***Continue to implement
and refine the current
criminal justice strategy***

Updated wording:

***Strengthen diversion
and reentry practices
through cross-system
collaboration to reduce
incarceration, promote
community integration,
and support justice-
involved people.***

Adjusting Aim 8
to encompass
more than just
Telebehavioral
health and to
reflect rural
populations as a
high priority

Previous wording:

**Continue to expand the
use of telebehavioral
health**

Updated wording:

***Increase access and
improve outcomes for
rural populations***

Broaden aim 5 beyond just System of Care grant activities to reflect actions to improve overall services for children, youth, and families

Current aims

Aim 4: Expand outpatient and community-based service array

Aim 5: Enhance and streamline System of Care for Children with Complex needs and their Families

Proposed aims

Aim 4: Expand and enhance the outpatient and community-based service array for adults

Aim 5: Expand and enhance the outpatient and community-based service array for children, youth, and families

Additional Updates

Aim 1 – Strategic Planning

- June dashboard published
- On track September dashboard (will reflect some recent updates)

Aim 7 - Workforce

- Updating objectives to reflect expanded and continuing work of the Training Academy for Addiction Professionals (TAAP)

Aim 9 – System Values

- Created new goal focused on creating more coordination within HHS to support and partner with foreign-born communities
- Completed person-centered practices self-assessment with BHD policy team

Aim 10 – Community Involvement

- New goal to reflect the advocacy education and support work done by the Consumer Family Network

Aim 11 – Partnering with Tribal Nations

- Reworked training goal to focus more broadly around coordination within HHS to support and partner with Tribal communities

Aim 12 – Financing

- New objectives related to continuing and enhancing support for providers to participate in the 1915(i)

Aim 13 – Data and Quality

- Developing new goals to reflect the work of the Quality and Technical Services Team

Be a liaison!

Aims can have multiple liaisons – currently all aims except #5 have only one liaison

Email bcroft@hsri.org with interest



Time commitment – 1-3 hours per quarter



Monthly – quarterly email correspondence with HSRI team and lead staff



Asked for input/advisement on major changes to goals



Can request information or suggest ideas any time

Establishing metrics for progress – group brainstorm

- Suicide fatality rates
- Prevalence of mental health and substance use problems
- Penetration rates
- Prison re-entry rates
- Numbers of providers licensed/certified

Aims

- 1 Develop and implement a comprehensive strategic plan
- 2 Invest in prevention and early intervention
- 3 Ensure all North Dakotans have timely access to behavioral health services
- 4 Expand outpatient and community-based service array
- 5 Enhance and streamline System of Care for Children with complex needs and their families
- 6 Strengthen diversion and reentry practices
- 7 Engage in targeted efforts to recruit and retain a qualified and competent behavioral health workforce
- 8 Continue to expand the use of telebehavioral health interventions
- 9 Ensure the system reflects its values of person-centeredness, access for all, and trauma-informed approaches
- 10 Encourage and support communities to share responsibility with the state for promoting high-quality behavioral health services
- 11 Partner with tribal nations to increase access and outcomes for American Indian populations
- 12 Diversify and enhance funding for behavioral health
- 13 Conduct ongoing, system-wide, data-driven monitoring of need and access

Thank You.



www.hsri.org/ND-plan

Bevin Croft
bcroft@hsri.org

