



Meeting Minutes

North Dakota Children's Cabinet Meeting

Friday, July 15, 2022

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Central Time

ND State Capitol, 600 E Boulevard Ave, Bismarck, ND 58505

Virtual Call through Microsoft Teams

Members in attendance

Russell Riehl, Parent/Private Service Provider	Kim Jacobson, Director, Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone
Vincent Roehr, Tribal Nations Representative	Honorable Justice Lisa McEvers
Representative Kim Koppelman	Senator Joan Heckaman, Chair
Veronica Zietz, Director, Protection & Advocacy	Senator Larry Luick

Members Absent

Janell Regimbal, Parent/Private Service Provider	Kirsten Baesler, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Lt. Governor Brent Sanford, Governor's designee	Paula Condol, Parent/Private Service Provider

Other attendees

Kelli Ulberg	Bridget Dowling
Cathy Ferderer	Lisa Bjergaard
Maria Neset, representing Lt. Governor Sanford	Carrie Evans
Kristen Hasbargen	Lynn Flieth

Heather Traynor	Cory Pedersen
Jodi Duttenhefer	Sara Kapp

Call to Order – 9:00 a.m. – Senator Heckaman

Motioned to add Cory Pedersen’s Presentation Points to Foster Care Recommendations – Motioned by Representative Koppelman, Seconded by Russell Riehl

Unanimous Approval

Motion to Pass Minutes from 6.13.2022 – Motioned by Kim Jacobson, Second by Russell Riehl.

Unanimous Approval

Motion to Approve CHINS Workgroup Recommendations – Motioned by Justice McEvers, Second by Kim Jacobson.

Unanimous Approval

Cabinet members and other attendees to divide into three workgroups and identify three gaps/concerns

Workgroups -

Mental/Behavioral Health Services Workgroup – Russell Riehl (lead), Representative Koppelman, Justice McEvers, Chris Jones, Lisa Bjergaard, Maria Neset, Kelli Ulberg

Gaps/Concerns

- Attract workforce to ND/Recruitment and Retention
 - Break down licensure barriers
 - Reciprocity issues
 - Licensing boards
 - Restructure personnel requirements if possible
 - Higher Education
 - Require internship/on the job experiences
 - Industry partners connected to degrees in the field
 - Elevate choice-ready
 - Stackable credentials
 - Technical careers
 - Expand CTE program/funding to 6-8 (middle school)

Recognition of experience – recognition of skills and trades (i.e. master carpenter can teach woodworking or carpentry even if doesn't have a teaching degree)
Utilization of peer support when possible.

- Integrate Behavioral health services in schools
 - Keep kids out of court system
 - Mental health services available for kids
- Strengthen the family unit and add more systems to help support the family.
 - Focus on supporting the family early (as early as pre-natal)
 - Prioritize prevention
- Continuum of care addiction and mental health
- Integrated behavioral health services in schools
 - Gating system, how to get kids to access to services they need.
 - Example: Sanford Clinician has been visiting schools twice a week to provide mental health services to children.
- Support quality early childhood experiences
- Peer support for family's/parents
- Working, incentivizing, and providing technical services to help schools provide mental/behavioral health services to their students
- Program Reinvention – Flexibility, change resistance, focus on “systems” not programs. Ensure systems are interconnected.

Over-Representation of Native American Children in the Welfare System

Workgroup – Vincent Roehr (lead), Senator Larry Luick, Cory Pedersen, Veronica Zietz, Heather Traynor

Gaps/Concerns

- Create a Native American Children's Cabinet
- Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA Court)
- ICWA specific legal representation for child welfare cases, pre and post removal
- CFSTC/NATI Collaboration specific to child welfare training

Lack of Providers Workgroup- Kim Jacobson (lead), Senator Heckaman, Sara Kapp, Jodi Duttenhefer, Kirsten Hasbargen, Lynn Flieth, Carrie Evans

Gaps/Concerns

- Shared Experience Families
 - Formalized
 - Kinship
 - Financed
 - Relative Search Expansion/Support
- Workforce
 - Paid Internships

- Loan Forgiveness
- In Home
- Transportation Services
- Parent Aide Services
- Code/Policy
 - Dual licensure (foster care and daycare) – dual funded
 - Revision to Universal Application process
 - TA/Support for Ascend approvals
 - Reimbursement rates (rural differential/MA)
 - Flexible Funding for creative solutions
 - Expanded payment opportunities for unlicensed caregivers
- High Need Services – Emergency assessment shelters
 - Emergency Assessment Shelter
 - Integration of DD System
 - Full-Service Community Schools
 - Mobile Crisis with EMT Model for Rural

Children’s Cabinet Vote on Top Priorities from the Workgroup Discussions.

The following workgroup gaps/concerns were identified as priorities:

Mental/Behavioral Health Services Workgroup

1. Attract workforce to ND.
 - Break down licensure barriers
 - Fast Stream reciprocity licensure
2. Integrate Behavioral health services in schools
 - Keep kids out of court system
 - Mental health services available for kids
3. Strengthen the family unit and add more systems to help support the family.

Over-Representation of Native American Children in the Welfare System Workgroup

1. Create a Native American Children’s Cabinet
2. Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA Court)
3. ICWA specific legal representation for child welfare cases, pre and post removal

Lack of Providers Workgroup

1. Shared Experience Families
 - Formalized
 - Kinship
 - Financed
 - Relative Search Expansion/Support
2. Workforce
 - Paid Internships
 - Loan Forgiveness

- In Home
- Transportation Services
- Parent Aide Services
- 3. High Need Services – Emergency assessment shelters
 - Emergency Assessment Shelter
 - Integration of DD System
 - Full-Service Community Schools
 - Mobile Crisis with EMT Model for Rural

Motion to Bring Forth Workgroup Priorities – Motioned by Russel Riehl, Second by Vincent Roehr.

Unanimous Approval

Cabinet Discussion on Accountability of Recommendations – Sen. Heckaman

- Cabinet will receive rotating quarterly reports from ND Departments regarding the recommendations they are making. Cabinet will decide which Departments at monthly meetings and will send out notices to the Departments they choose.

Cabinet Discussion: Next meeting - Sen. Heckaman

- New meeting date is 3rd Friday of every month at 11:00 a.m.
- Next meeting is set for August 19, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.

2:01 p.m. **Adjourn**