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Meeting Minutes

North Dakota Children's Cabinet Meeting

Friday, August 19, 2022

11:00 a.m. to 12:20 p.m., Central Time

APT Solutions, 2900 E Broadway Ave, Bismarck, ND 58501

Virtual Call through Microsoft Teams

Members in attendance

Russell Riehl, Parent/Private Service Provider	Kim Jacobson, Director, Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone
Representative Kim Koppelman	Kirsten Baesler, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Janell Regimbal, Parent/Private Service Provider	Senator Joan Heckaman, Chair
Veronica Zietz, Director, Protection & Advocacy	

Members Absent

Honorable Justice Lisa McEvers	Senator Larry Luick
Lt. Governor Brent Sanford, Governor's designee	Paula Condol, Parent/Private Service Provider
Vincent Roehr, Tribal Nations Representative	

Other attendees

Kelli Ulberg	Bridget Dowling
Cathy Ferderer	Lisa Bjergaard

Maria Neset, representing Lt. Governor Sanford	Carrie Hjellming
Kayla Stastny	Lisa Jahner
Lorraine Davis	

Call to Order – 11:00 a.m. – Senator Heckaman

Motion to Pass Minutes from 7.15.2022 – Motioned by Russell Riehl, Second by Veronica Zietz.

Unanimous Approval

Court Recommendations – Cathy Ferderer – Attachment

- 1) Support for new judgeship across the state
- 2) FTE's for CIP – The Court Improvement Program promotes continuous quality improvement of child welfare court hearings and reviews, legal representation for parents, children youth and the state child welfare agency, and collaboration between the judicial branch of state government, the title IV-B/IV-E agency, and tribes to improve child welfare outcomes.
- 3) Expand use of Case Aides with high risk youth in the ND Juvenile court to address complex needs of the youth and family as well as working to reduce recidivism.
- 4) Support for the increase request for Indigent Defense
- 5) Funding for the expansion of in-home family therapy and drug and alcohol treatment for youth as well as addressing recruiting mental health and addiction treatment providers

Cabinet Discussion on Court Recommendation:

- 1) Cabinet thinks that recommendations should include mentoring/bringing awareness of the juvenile court
- 2) Representative Koppelman wants these recommendations presented to the Judicial Interim Committee
- 3) Cabinet will be waiting to vote on approval of recommendations until the next meeting when Justice McEvers is present.

Commission on Juvenile Justice Report to Cabinet – Lisa Bjergaard – Attachment

- 1) Revising the Detention Screening Tool – Attachment
- 2) Reviewing and recommending a new process for completion of the Detention Screening
- 3) Developing a decision-making guideline to assist law enforcement in making appropriate placement decisions – Attachment
- 4) Developing a kinship care guideline

Juvenile Justice Services Planning Working Group – Carrie Hjellming – Attachment

Key Barriers

- 1) Limited Coordination Around Youth Services at Local and State Level:
- 2) Insufficient Provider and Staffing Capacity
- 3) Need to Improve Cross-Systems Information Sharing and Assessments
- 4) Insufficient Attention to Youth and Family Engagement
- 5) Need for Increased Statewide Attention and Capacity Around Cultural Competence

Recommendations

- 1) Establish more formal connection points in every community and at the state level for coordinating, mobilizing, and supporting youth development services and related funding
- 2) Establish a concrete action plan designed to result in an MOU or other type of formal agreement across the education, child welfare, juvenile justice, and behavioral health systems on a priority number of items
- 3) Develop a statewide strategy for expanding the number and type of providers willing to work with higher-risk youth, including cross-systems engagement with local community-based and residential providers
- 4) Establish a single cross-system case management system for youth/family service systems to improve information sharing and collaboration, including a single case/youth identifier
- 5) Improve the statewide use of screening and assessments by developing an inventory of screening and assessments tools used across agencies to promote consistent use of validated tools and reduce redundancies
- 6) Establish a shared, expanded definition of family across service systems and related community providers
- 7) Develop a statewide, cross-systems action plan for improving the cultural competence of systems and service providers, with a particular focus on indigenous populations.

Title IV-E & Prevention Services Gaps/Needs & Opportunities– Lorraine Davis –
Attachment - Brochure

Gaps:

- 1) DHS Response Time A, for child protective services, averages 13 days for first face-to-face contact with children
- 2) Emergency child placement during interim of confirming next of kin.
- 3) Family Re-Unification opportunities are needed.

Solutions

- 1) NATIVE, Inc. as a provider that DHS could contract to assist in improving the 24-hour response time and identifying kin to take the child in these emergencies
- 2) NATIVE, Inc. director and staff have tribal (kinship) relationships within urban areas & tribal governments/communities.
- 3) NATIVE, Inc. could create a data agreement with ND DHS on not only children and family services if we were to be contracted for Title IV-E services & prevention services but for behavioral health (likely to include parents needing recovery or in recovery). We just created a partnership with two CHINS staff Specialists in Bismarck handling Runaway, Truancy, and Unruly children.

Cabinet Discussion: Next meeting - Sen. Heckaman

- Next meeting is set for September 16, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.

12:20 p.m. Adjourn