

Discussion Template

Regional Steering Committee Organization and Operations

Objective: Issue Identification/Needs Assessment for Children in (Geographic Area)

Introduction:

S.B. 2313 Established the North Dakota Children’s Cabinet to achieve the following goals”

1. Develop strategies to address gaps or needs regarding early care and education, medical and behavioral health, community, child welfare, and juvenile justice;
2. Coordinate broad-based leadership across programs, agencies, branches of government, and tribal nations to meet the needs of children;
3. Seek strategies to provide services to children without consideration of prior engagement with juvenile services.

Objective: The Steering Committee under the leadership of the North Dakota Children’s Cabinet is to develop a needs assessment, which is to understand and address the specific needs of children in Region III of North Dakota and their families.

Scope: The Steering Committees activities will generally encompass geographic Region 3 of ND and the target population of children from Birth to 18, related families and communities.

Methodology:

Data Collection Methods: The Children’s Cabinet will supply the Steering Committee with a common data set regarding the health and welfare of children, families and their communities. The data contain well-designed research-based elements already in use by North Dakota entities. To the extent possible, the Cabinet and Steering Committees will use existing data and information. Other data collection, such as surveys, interviews, focus groups, observations, and secondary data analysis might be required to inform the Steering and Cabinet’s work.

Data to be Utilized/Supplied:

Demographic Information: Demographic data about the child population, including age, gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and any specific vulnerabilities (e.g., children with disabilities).

Health and Healthcare Needs: Information on the health status of children, access to healthcare services, immunization rates, and common health issues.

Education Needs: Assess the state of education in the area, including school enrollment rates, access to quality education, and any barriers to learning.

Nutrition and Food Security: Evaluate children's access to nutritious food and food security.

Safety and Well-being: Examine safety concerns, including crime rates, child protection services, and the physical and emotional well-being of children.

Family and Community Support: Explore the availability of support systems for families, including childcare services, parenting resources, and community programs.

Special Needs and Vulnerable Groups: Identify the needs of special populations, such as children with disabilities, refugees, or homeless children.

Community Assets: Assess existing community resources and assets that can be leveraged to meet children's needs.

Data Analysis:

Quantitative Analysis: Analyze quantitative data using statistical methods to identify trends, disparities, and key findings.

Qualitative Analysis: Analyze qualitative data (e.g., interview transcripts, focus group discussions) to extract themes and insights.

Findings:

1. Present the key findings from the needs assessment, organized by thematic areas (e.g., health, education, safety).
2. Highlight any disparities or gaps in services.
3. Use data visualization tools, such as charts and graphs, to make the findings more accessible.
4. Determine, through group process, 2-3 major issues for the children and families Region III

Recommendations:

1. Based on the major/priority findings, provide recommendations for actions that can address the identified needs of children in the geographic area.
2. Prioritize recommendations and provide a timeline for implementation, including issues that need/require State action. Action by the State will include both Legislative, Executive and Regulatory recommendations.

Conclusion:

1. Summarize the main findings and the importance of addressing the needs of children and families in Region III.
2. Emphasize the potential impact of implementing the recommendations.

Next Steps:

1. Describe the next steps for stakeholders, including community organizations, government agencies, and concerned individuals, to act based on the assessment's findings.
2. Encourage collaboration and the formation of task forces or working groups to address specific needs.

Appendix (if applicable):

Include detailed data tables, survey instruments, interview guides, and any other supplementary materials used in the assessment and findings.