



Meeting Minutes

North Dakota Children's Cabinet Meeting

Friday, July 28, 2023
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Central Time
Virtual Call through Microsoft Teams

Members in attendance

Russell Riehl, Parent/Private Service Provider	Janell Regimbal, Parent/Private Service Provider
Honorable Justice Lisa McEvers	Senator Michelle Axtman
Paula Condol, Parent/Private Service Provider	Kim Jacobson, Director, Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone, Vice Chair
Kirsten Baesler, Superintendent of Public Instruction	Representative Michelle Strinden, Chair
Veronica Zietz, Director, Protection & Advocacy	Maria Neset, Designee for Governor
Chris Jones, Director of DHHS	Senator Kathy Hogan

Members Absent

Representative Brandy Pyle	VACANT, Tribal Nations Representative
----------------------------	---------------------------------------

Other attendees

Kelli Ulberg	Bridget Dowling
Katie Houle	Kayla Stastny
Jim Vetter	Lisa Jahner
Sara Kapp	Luke Schaefer

Lisa Bjergaard	Joan Heckaman
Eric Monson	Whitney Isaacson

Call to Order – 11:00 a.m. – Representative Strinden

Motion to Pass Agenda – Motion by Veronica Zietz, Second by Chris Jones. Unanimous approval.

Motion to Pass Minutes from 6.22.2023 – Motion by Janell Regimbal, Second by Veronica Zietz. Unanimous Approval.

Representative Strinden updated the Cabinet that that OMB Office provided feedback that that the continuation of APT Solutions contract to facilitate and coordinate the Children’s Cabinet has to follow procurement procedures. In the meantime, Kelli Ulberg, would coordinate meetings. Representative Strinden expressed gratitude for Bridget Dowling and her work in supporting the Cabinet.

Report from Central Regional Education Association, Regional Education Association – Luke Schaefer

- Lisa Bjergaard provided context to Luke’s presentation, sharing that the Juvenile Justice Commission, in response to HB 1035 has created working groups for juvenile justice reform. The working groups include diverse stakeholders to guide implementation strategies. Luke is sharing today regarding reform within school settings.
- Luke Schaefer, Central Regional Education Association shared a presentation from the working group – [Presentation Link](#)
- Luke shared that the working group has three main tasks: 1). To develop a comprehensive state-wide plan, 2). To provide clear pathways for implementation and serve as a forum for collaboration related to CHINS and truancy related issues. 3). To increase equity in implementation and reduce disparities.
- Luke shared that the main priorities and “non-negotiables” of the group was:
 - o To provide clarity on fighting vs assault as well as mutual combat vs self defense and each school district would define their discipline process.
 - o Develop action plans with stakeholders including DPI, REAs, law enforcement assessments, etc.
- Other recommendations:
 - o Data analysis: Identifying disparities in resources and services available
 - o Restorative Practices: Training and implementation support offered to schools, including funding
 - o Flow charts for Referrals for Truancy and Delinquency in Schools: Support in identifying the process for a CHINS referral and for delinquency.

- There are concerns from schools that they are in position to serve as police, investigators, and courts. Schools do not feel well equipped to be in these roles.
 - Community Service Provider Network: Establishment of a network where agencies and schools acquire a deeper understanding of community services and partners to help with student needs.
 - Luke suggested providing a template or toolkit for schools to develop their own networks
 - Attendance Review Boards (ARB): Utilized in multiple regions for highest incidents of truancy.
 - Intended to be the last step before: criminal charges or CHINS referral
 - System of Care: Engage CHINS staff with System of Care as “learners” in systems reform
- Questions for Luke:
 - Janell asked about the ARB being a more proactive effort to identify deprivation, mental health issues, and other issues within family system. Sooner is better.
 - Luke responded that schools would continue to engage their policies and practices in attendance and truancy issues before an ARB is engaged. If those efforts fail, before citation - a review board would be necessary to ensure that we have investigated why a student would be missing school.
 - Chris stated this is very helpful and expressed “how do we change the mindset around using discipline to change behavior”. In lots of cases, discipline may make it worse.
 - Luke shared that school administrators are asking for help with behavioral health issues. Schools do have for behavioral health, they have strong, established discipline processes but do not know what to do when those don’t work.
 - Veronica – children with disabilities are getting cited due to not being able to meet expectations, attend school on time due to condition and are inadvertently getting involved in justice issues. Veronica expressed that there would need to be special attention to how ARBs are implemented as to not further impact this population.
- Representative Strinden thanked Luke and the working group for extensive and impressive work.

Cabinet discussion on Mission Statement’s progress – Eric Monson

- Cabinet work group (Kim Jacobson, Maria Neset, Senator Hogan, Representative Strinden) have been working diligently over the last month to develop mission, vision, and goals for the Children’s Group.

- Senator Kathy Hogan shared that they are looking comprehensively at children's needs. Senator Hogan updated that the group has shared a draft mission statement to the group and reviewed Children's Cabinets from different states. The group would like to prioritize data to drive visioning. Senator Hogan recognized that there are many stakeholders and work groups across the child-serving continuum and they are putting a list of stakeholders, work groups, current program initiatives, and other efforts together to inform the development of the mission.
- Kim Jacobson shared that in order for the group have a robust conversation and to define an effective vision, that the group wants to prioritize having a retreat to meet in person.
- Senator Hogan introduced Eric Monson who will assist in facilitating a Children's Cabinet Retreat, August 14, 9am-12pm at Dakota Medical Foundation in Fargo. Eric shared that the goals will be resetting and reaffirming the guiding principles. Dakota Medical Foundation will provide scribes to record important conversations and outcomes of the retreat. Reimagining what the children's cabinet could be

August Meeting – Children's Cabinet Retreat, August 14, 9am-12pm, Dakota Medical Foundation Training Center, Fargo.

Adjourn - 11:58 a.m.