

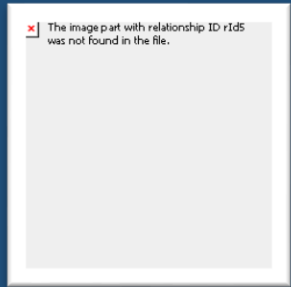
Court Improvement Program

- **Basic Grant** - The basic grant enables state courts to conduct assessments of the role, responsibilities and effectiveness of state courts in carrying out state laws relating to child welfare proceedings. It also allows state courts to make improvements to provide for the safety, well-being, and permanence of children in foster care and assist in the implementation of Program Improvement Plans (PIPs) as a result of the Child and Family Services and title IV-E Foster Care Eligibility Reviews.
- **Data Grant** - The data grant supports state court data collection and analysis and promotes data sharing between state courts, child welfare agencies and tribes.
- **Training Grant** - The training grant was intended to increase child welfare expertise within the legal community and facilitate cross-training opportunities among agencies, tribes, courts and other key stakeholders.



The purpose of the Court Improvement Project Taskforce is to provide a forum to consider issues, review data, develop plans and promote system enhancements related to deprived and delinquent/unruly youth in order to improve outcomes for North Dakota children and families.

Areas of Focus for CIP – A Data Driven Approach



Timeliness to
Permanency in
Deprivation and
Termination of
Parental Rights Cases



Dual Status Youth
Initiative



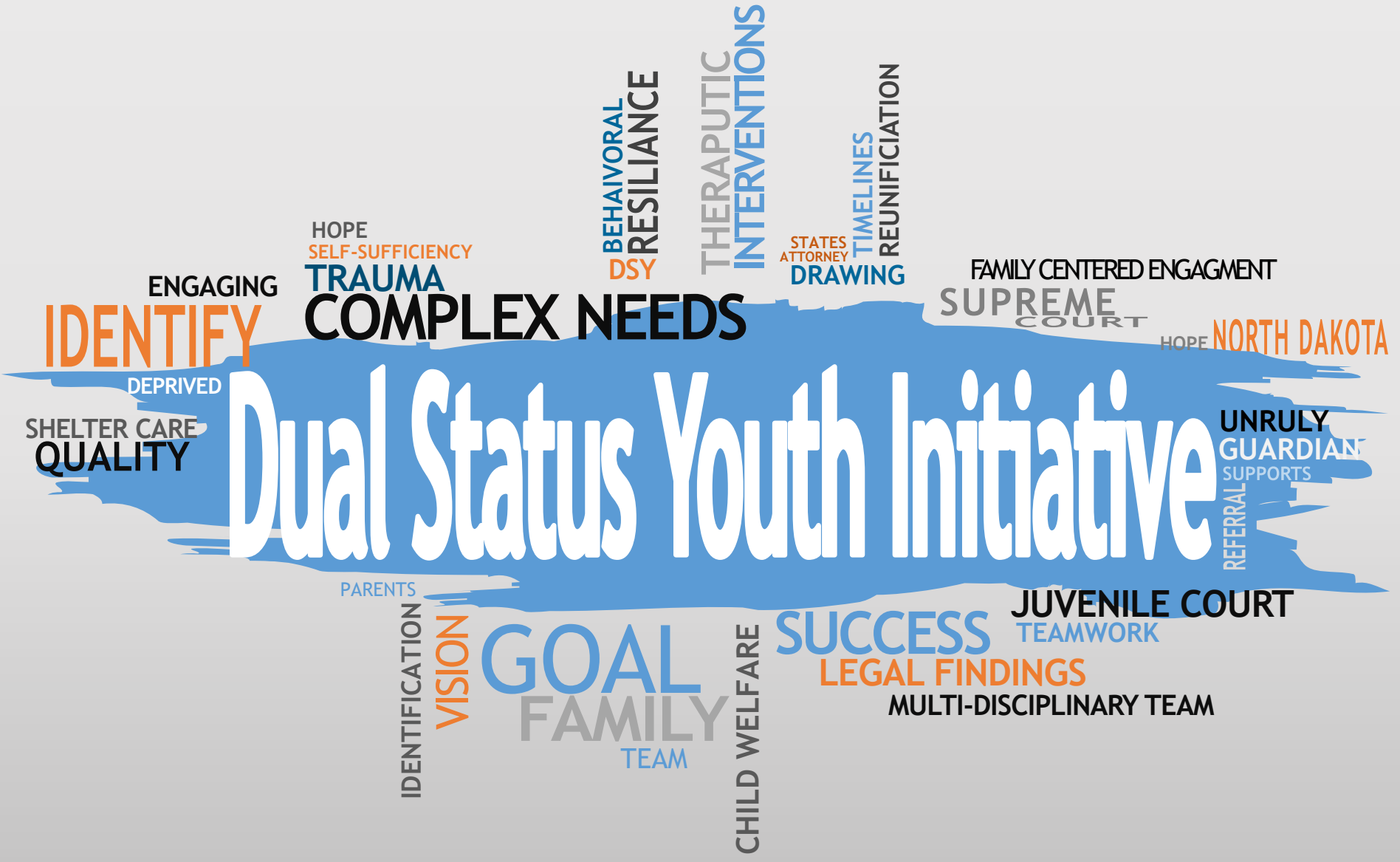
Indian Child
Welfare Act



Quality Legal
Representation
Plan

Collaboration with Title IV-B/IV-E Agency and Tribes

- State courts/CIP must demonstrate collaboration with the title IV-B/IV-E agency and Indian tribes in applications for CIP funding by describing how the title IV-B/IV-E agency and tribes, where applicable, will be involved in CIP planning, including:
 - identifying needs;
 - developing theories of change;
 - selecting or developing solutions;
 - planning, preparing and implementing change; and
 - evaluating and applying findings.
- State courts must also commit to participating in all stages of child welfare program planning and improvement efforts, including the CFSP/APSR, CFSR and title IV-E Foster Care Eligibility Review processes within required timeframes.



Dual Status Youth Initiative

IDENTIFY

COMPLEX NEEDS

BEHAVIORAL RESILIENCE
DSY

THERAPUTIC INTERVENTIONS

STATES ATTORNEY DRAWING

TIMELINES REUNIFICATION

FAMILY CENTERED ENGAGEMENT
SUPREME COURT

HOPE NORTH DAKOTA

SHELTER CARE QUALITY

DEPRIVED

UNRULY GUARDIAN SUPPORTS

REFERRAL

PARENTS

IDENTIFICATION

VISION

GOAL FAMILY TEAM

CHILD WELFARE

SUCCESS

LEGAL FINDINGS

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM

JUVENILE COURT TEAMWORK

Dual Status Youth Initiative

Children and youth who come into contact with both the child welfare and juvenile justice (delinquency) systems.



They may have different types of contact or legal statuses within these systems including:

- ✓ Dual identification
- ✓ Dual involvement

Complex Needs of this Population...

- ✓ Have experienced complex trauma
 - ~Repeated or prolonged trauma at significantly higher rates than others.
- ✓ Complex trauma is associated with behavioral problems that can bring youth into the juvenile justice delinquency system.
- ✓ Child maltreatment has been shown to increase the likelihood of arrest as a juvenile by 59% and as an adult by 28%.
- ✓ Maltreated children tend to be:
 - ~Younger at first arrest
 - ~Commit more offenses
 - ~Experience more frequent arrests



Outcomes...

Short Term

- ✓ DSY are removed from their homes more frequently.
- ✓ Detained more frequently.
- ✓ Stay in detention for longer periods of time.

Long Term

- ✓ Impact on educational, employment and self-sufficiency.
- ✓ Greater reliance on public systems.

Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems are not typically designed to coordinate, share info and collaborate to assure effective delivery of services.

ND'S Dual Status Youth Initiative

- ✓ ND Supreme Court
- ✓ ND Department of Human Services
- ✓ ND Division of Juvenile Services
- ✓ ND Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group
- ✓ Robert F Kennedy National Resource Center
for Juvenile Justice



Highly Responsive
to Therapeutic
Interventions

Trauma Informed
Care

Developmentally
Appropriate
Interventions

Agency
Coordinated Care

ND'S Dual Status Youth Initiative



1. Current and historical delinquent/unruly referrals
2. Type of abuse or neglect that occurred
3. Status of social services report and assessment
4. Services being provided or offered
5. Current and ongoing concerns
6. Parental cooperation with assisting in completion with case plans
7. Safety issues in regards to parent and/or juvenile



Information Shared between Agencies

Goals of MDTs and FCEs

1. Reduce the number of children entering foster care

2. Increase the number of children remaining safely in their own homes

3. For children that are removed, increasing the number placed with relatives.

February 1, 2019 to February 29, 2020

- Number of Dual Status Youth:
- Percentage of juvenile court referrals where a child was considered Dual Status:

1,396

44%

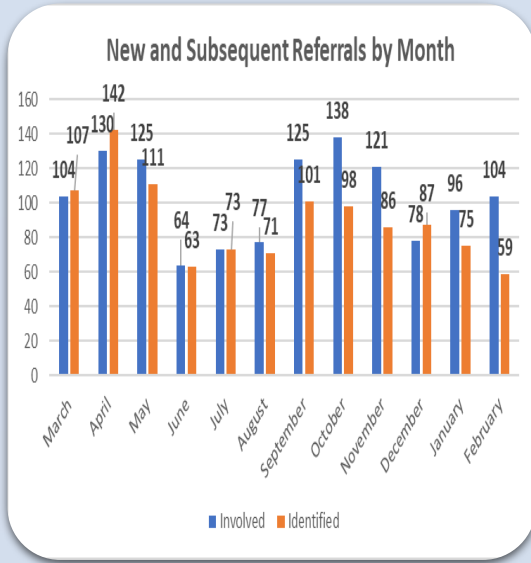


2019 Initiative findings:

- ✓ Less likely to be removed from their homes and placed in foster care;
- ✓ More likely to have their cases diverted;
- ✓ Less likely to be ordered into the custody of juvenile corrections or the social service system.



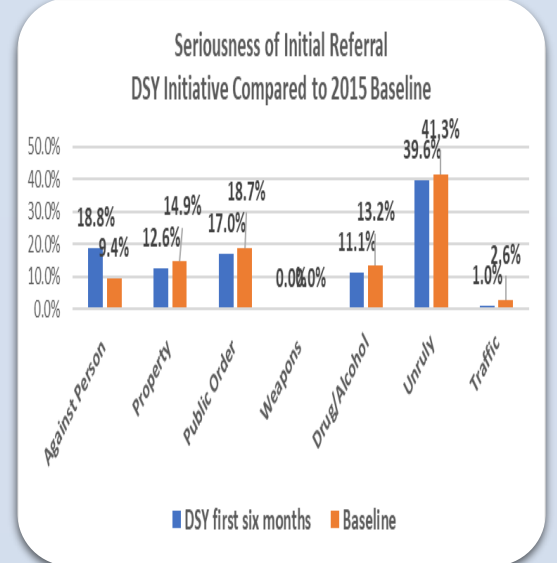
The proportion of dual status youth females has increased by 7% since 2015.



Dual status youth new and subsequent referrals drop significantly in the summer months.



Native American youth are 2.5 times more likely than White youth to be dual status.



40% of all referrals were due to unruly offenses

Future Goals:

Utilize DSYI data to address gaps in resources and guide conversations among the Children's Cabinet, Juvenile Justice Commission, Court Improvement Program Taskforce, and agency leadership as they work to identify areas for policy and practice development which may include:

- ✓ Eliminating the incarceration of female youth
- ✓ Decriminalizing unruly behavior
- ✓ Addressing disparities and disproportionality among minority youth
- ✓ Increasing access to behavioral health services including developing ample mental health and substance abuse services

