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Meeting Minutes

North Dakota Children's Cabinet Meeting

Thursday, October 12, 2023

2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Central Time

Virtual Call through Microsoft Teams

Members in attendance

Russell Riehl, Parent/Private Service Provider	Janell Regimbal, Parent/Private Service Provider
Representative Brandy Pyle	Senator Michelle Axtman
Paula Condol, Parent/Private Service Provider	Senator Kathy Hogan
Kirsten Baesler, Superintendent of Public Instruction	Representative Michelle Strinden, Chair
Veronica Zietz, Director, Protection & Advocacy	Shawn Huss, Director, Wilmac Special Education Unit
Sara Stolt, Interim Director of DHHS	

Members Absent

Honorable Justice Lisa McEvers	VACANT, Tribal Nations Representative
Kim Jacobson, Director, Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone, Vice Chair	Maria Neset, Designee for Governor

Other attendees

Kelli Ulberg	Shae Stober
Lisa Bjergaard	Kayla Stastny

Jim Vetter	Lisa Jahner
Sara Kapp	Melissa Markegard
Cathy Ferderer	Shauna Eberhardt
Eric Monson	
Heather Traynor	

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

Welcome/Roll Call/Agenda Change – Rep Strinden

Motion to Approve Agenda as changed – Motion by Russ Riehl, Second by Sara Stolt. Unanimous approval

Member Updates - Two new members- Shawn Huss (replacing Paula Condol) and Sara Stolt (replacing Chris Jones).

August Retreat discussion and feedback -

Senator Hogan- Reviewed meeting from August 14th to include prioritizing the mission, value of Children’s Cabinet and the high priorities. The Children’s Cabinet supports all children and solves problems that impact children and families.

Senator Hogan explained the process of how data was prioritized and discussed the consistencies with cabinet members. It was apparent when summarized, that the Cabinet needed to focus on local needs.

Senator Hogan reviewed the goals, methods and discussed the need to focus on 2-3 areas in which the Cabinet can discuss as a whole. Discussion regarding a model to include Health and Human Services and early childhood and integration into education. Governor is in support of the Cabinet moving forward with a consultant to help with this work.

Discussed making two local children’s Coordinating committee models or children’s cabinets at the local level. This has not been done as of yet, but open for discussion within group and then secure funding to do local pilot projects. Would need to seek funding from DMF. The concept to do a rural and urban committee to break it down into two different tiers. Mutual Education goals and then break it down into local levels to specific needs. The groups would also discuss the needs of the families specific to that area as well.

Senator Hogan shared that these committees used to exist in regional levels, but due to funding many evaporated. Discussed previous committees within Fargo and Bismarck regions and how we can bring those back.

Eric Monson discussed that through regional groups like this, you develop the pilots and get those who understand the program who can be strong advocates.

Sara Stolt shared her support for a project similar to what the state used to have. Shared she wanted to assess what regions have similar groups to not duplicate the work, but collaborate with them so we can align with the same groups. Has there been an assessment or inventory done to assess groups who support children and what that looks like?

Kristen Baesler discussed it is important to review the data and address the main areas of the outcomes that the group needs to focus on. Previously 6 outcomes were identified, but those regional areas had to decide out of those 6 outcomes, what do we need to focus on. It will take each region and community to focus on what their needs are. The State will not be able to drive those outcomes. Broad enough based on data, but the state cannot be developing policy. Our job is to decide what those "six" goals are.

Discussion there has been no outcomes developed as of yet and clarification that it is all children and not just school aged children.

Cabinet vote to move forward with the procurement of the process to hire a consultant-
Motion by Michelle Strinden

Axtman-yes

Zietz-yes

Stolt- yes

Baesler-yes

Riehl-yes

Regimbal-yes

Huss-yes

Quorum met

Juvenile Justice Commission Report/Update- Lisa Biergaard

Continues to move forward with a delinquency code rewrite. Developing a second work group Travis Fink (Director of indigenous defense- chair). Juvenile Justice Reform workgroup has been working with education since early this year. In September, it was decided to continue to move forward with an education work group (Partnered with CREA).

Kelli discussed North Dakota Behavioral Health and Children and Family Services Conference being held. It will be the largest conference to date with over 900 attendees

and 39 exhibitors and sponsors for the conference. Childrens Cabinet members can attend for free with the code that Kelli shared in previous email.

Discussion on recurring meetings:

Based on feedback from previous poll that was sent out to see on Cabinet members availability it was noted that the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 4pm worked best for everyone as it received the most votes

Motion made by Sara Stolt- second by Veronica. Unanimously passed.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 4th at 4:00pm

Sara Stolt attended National Governor's Association and shared about the Children's Funding Project- Work with states who primarily have Children's Cabinets. Discussed what children's funding projects did for them to develop fiscal mapping within the state. Fiscal Mapping- Analyzing the amount of dollars where the funding goes throughout the state. Work with the team to identify the scope, where the funding is and what are the outcomes for those programs. The state then is able to identify where the budget is focused on throughout the state and where it should be shifted. How we fund resources for children and what outcomes do those tie to.

Fiscal Mapping Link: <https://mn.gov/mmb/childrens-cabinet/childrens-fiscal-map/>

Children's mental health crisis primarily looking at children who are being housed in Emergency Departments, Offices within CFS, etc. How are we able to address that within our state and what does that look like?

Sara will coordinate with NGA to see if representative can come from the Children's Funding Project can present to the Childrens Cabinet.

Next Meeting – November 21st from 4:00 – 5:00 pm via Teams

Adjourn – 4:54pm