

Resolution to Enact a Children's Commission

Children's Behavioral Health Task Force December 2018

On December 6, 2018, the Children's Behavioral Health Task Force adopted the following resolution, seeking to establish a statewide children's coordinating committee, pursuant to the CBHTF platform statements, Section B:

PAM MACK MADE AND LISA BJERGAARD SECONDED A MOTION THAT THE CHAIR OF THE CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TASK FORCE SUBMIT TO THE 2019 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, ON BEHALF OF THE TASK FORCE, A BILL DRAFT TO ESTABLISH A STATE CABINET-LEVEL COMMITTEE, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE GOVERNOR, TO PROVIDE INTER-BRANCH AND -TRIBAL GUIDANCE ON ALL CHILDREN'S MATTERS, INCLUDING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, THAT (1) ADVANCES BROAD-BASED INTERDISCIPLINARY SUPPORT TO CHILDREN, (2) ATTENDS TO THE FULL CONTINUUM OF CARE OF SERVICES, (3) EXTENDS ACROSS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROVIDERS, (4) ENGAGES CHILDREN RESPECTFULLY WHERE THEY ARE BEST SERVED, (5) UNIFIES INTERGOVERNMENTAL EFFORTS, (6) PROMOTES PROVIDING SERVICES WITHOUT THE PRIOR INVOLVEMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES, AND (7) INVITES THE ACTIVE VOICE OF CONSUMERS STATEWIDE.

Chairperson Jones requested that Greg Gallagher, CBHTF recorder, prepare language that would anticipate structural issues and form the basis for a legislative bill draft to be managed through the Department of Human Services.

The following presents an outline of provisions that support the formation of a children's coordinating committee. The children's coordinating committee is titled hereafter the "children's commission," to underscore the committee's structural importance within state governance.

A. Purpose of Resolution.

To enact a new section to chapter 50-06 of the North Dakota Century Code establishing an inter-branch children's commission.

B. Children's Commission Defined; Membership; and Duties.

1. A children's commission is created for the purpose of assessing, guiding, and coordinating the care for children and youth across the state's branches of government, including the legislative assembly, the judiciary, and executive agencies, and including the tribal nations.
2. The children' commission consists of the following members:
 - a. The governor, or the governor's designee;
 - b. The chief justice of the supreme court, or the chief justice's designee;

- c. The speaker of the house of representatives, or the speaker's designee;
 - d. The president pro tempore of the senate, or the president pro tempore's designee;
 - e. The superintendent of public instruction, or the superintendent's designee;
 - f. The executive director of the department of human services, or the executive director's designee;
 - g. The state health officer, or the state health officer's designee;
 - h. The executive director of the Indian affairs commission, or the executive director's designee;
 - i. The executive director of the department of corrections and rehabilitation, or the director's designee;
 - j. The director of the committee on protection and advocacy, or the director's designee;
 - k. The tribal chairman of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation, or the tribal chairman's designee;
 - i. The tribal chairman of the Spirit Lake Nation, or the tribal chairman's designee;
 - j. The tribal chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, or the tribal chairman's designee;
 - k. The tribal chairman of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, or the tribal chairman's designee; and
 - l. Four open positions to be appointed by the governor, representing parents, private service providers, or other community interests.
2. The governor, or the governor's designee, shall serve as the chairman of the children's commission. The children's commission shall meet at least quarterly. Additional meetings may be held at the discretion of the chairman.
 3. The chairman of the children's commission may request appropriate staff services from the department of human services.
 4. The children's commission shall:
 - a. Coordinate broad-based leadership across agencies and programs to meet the needs of children and youth;

- b. Develop strategies to address gaps or needs regarding education, medical and behavioral health, community, child welfare, and juvenile justice;
- c. Develop strategies to provide for the full continuum of care in the delivery of services, including promotion, prevention, early identification and intervention, service delivery, and recovery;
- d. Seek to engage cooperation across public and private service providers;
- e. Provide a comprehensive vision for how and where children are best served, attending to children in a respectful and relevant manner;
- f. Seek strategies to provide services to children and youth without consideration of prior engagement with juvenile services; and
- g. Provide for the active participation of consumers and providers statewide on advisory committees.

C. Repeal.

Section 50-06-43 of the North Dakota Century Code is repealed.

Respectfully submitted:
Greg Gallagher, CBHTF Recorder
The Consensus Council, Inc.