Children and Family Services
Rethinking Child Welfare in North Dakota

NORTH Dakota
Human Services
Be Legendary.
DHS 2021-2025 KEY PRIORITIES

**Strong Stable Families**
- Maintain family connections
- Improve stability and prevent crises
- Promote and support recovery and well-being

**Early Childhood Experiences**
- Support workforce needs with improved access to childcare
- Help kids realize their potential with top quality early experiences
- Align programs for maximum return on investment

**Services Closer to Home**
- Create pathways that help people access the right service at the right time
- Engage proactively with providers to expand access to services

**Efficiency Through Redesign**
- Embrace process redesign to find efficiencies in our work
- Leverage technology to support greater efficiency, quality and customer service

**High-Performing Team**
- Develop a One DHS Team culture
- Engage team with opportunities for learning and development
- Implement fiscal scorecard to drive efficiency and effectiveness

Reinforce the Foundations of Well-being
- Economic Health
- Behavioral Health
- Physical Health
RECOMMENDATIONS

Short Term

• Use services currently available –
  • FCE – Family Center Engagement
  • ND Kinship Program
    https://kinshipnd.com/
  • 211 and mobile Crisis Teams
  • Use Shelter Care/Respite Care as a prevention/assessment housing (grants)

• Encourage, Invest, and support private agencies applying for grants to be trained and provide 1915i services and Family First evidence-based services

• Schultz report

Long Term

• Make children and families the “infrastructure” of North Dakota

• Fully fund Behavior Health and Prevention services statewide for children and families

• Promote and invest in Family Advocacy outreach – to provide daily advocacy to families in the “system” –
  • i.e. Parent to Parent model with a hands-on approach

• Fully Fund Court Improvement Program (CIP) with additional funding from partnering agencies to expand and increase staff capacity to address statewide “child welfare” reform within all corners of ND.
  • Quality Legal Rep statewide with IV-E funding
  • DSY – one staff for ongoing support and training and policies to support compliance
  • Annual training for stakeholders in Child Welfare cases -ICWA/CHIPS/CHINS/DSY/TPR
QUESTIONS?

Families First Program


1915 i

• [https://www.behavioralhealth.nd.gov/1915i](https://www.behavioralhealth.nd.gov/1915i)

Kinship ND

• [https://kinshipnd.com/](https://kinshipnd.com/)