

# Dual Status Youth Initiative

COMPLEX NEEDS

HOPE  
SELF-SUFFICIENCY  
TRAUMA

BEHAVIORAL  
RESILIENCE  
DSY

THERAPUTIC  
INTERVENTIONS

STATES  
ATTORNEY  
DRAWING

TIMELINES  
REUNIFICATION

FAMILY CENTERED ENGAGEMENT  
SUPREME  
COURT

HOPE NORTH DAKOTA

UNRULY  
GUARDIAN  
SUPPORTS

REFERRAL

JUVENILE COURT  
TEAMWORK

SUCCESS  
LEGAL FINDINGS

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM

GOAL  
FAMILY  
TEAM

CHILD WELFARE

PARENTS  
IDENTIFICATION

VISION

IDENTIFY

ENGAGING

DEPRIVED

SHELTER CARE  
QUALITY

SHELTER CARE  
QUALITY

# 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
- ✓ Dual adjudication

# 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.

Highly Responsive  
to Therapeutic  
Interventions

Trauma Informed  
Care

Developmentally  
Appropriate  
Interventions

Agency  
Coordinated Care

# ND'S Dual Status Youth Initiative



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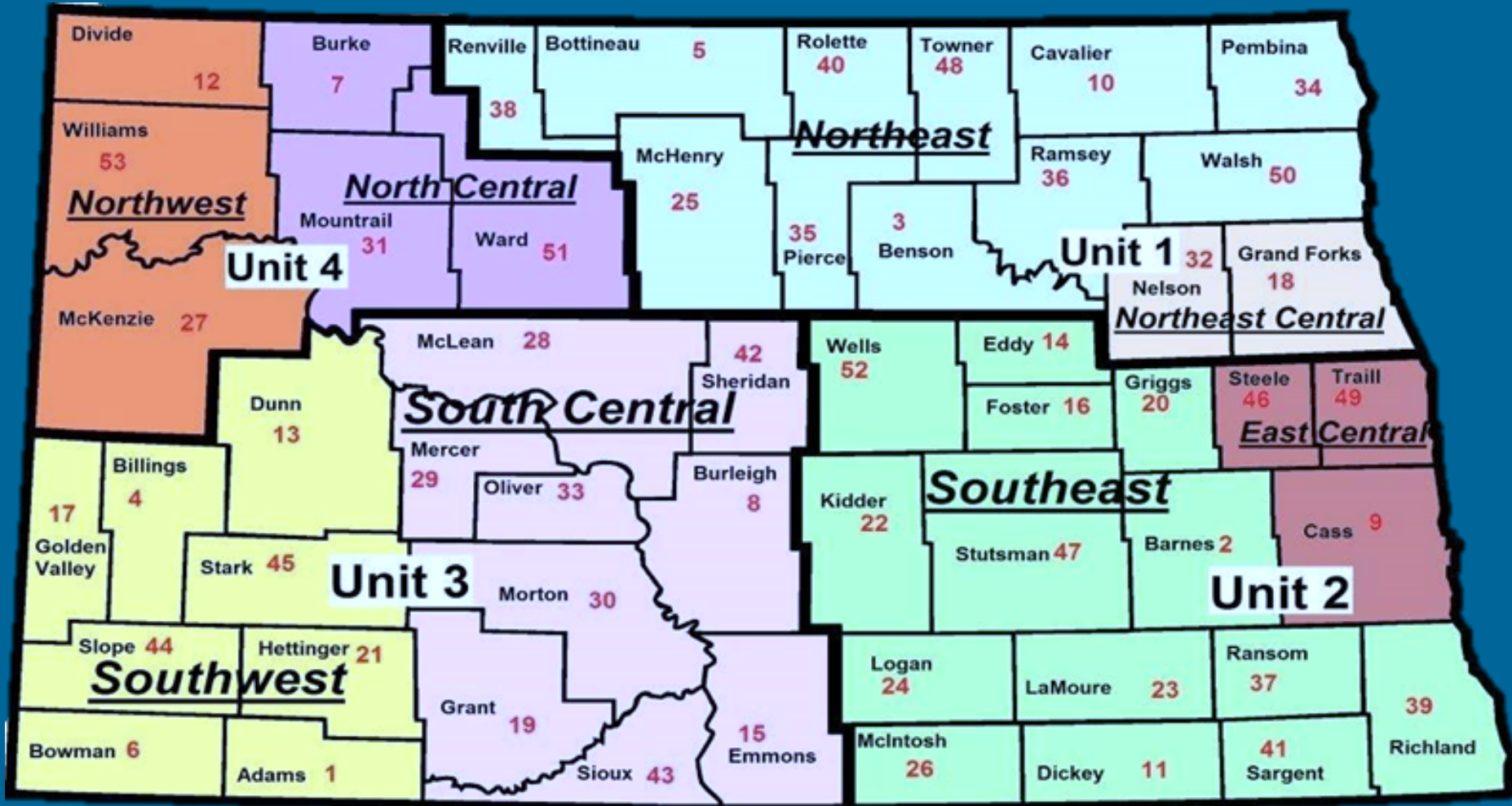
- ✓ ND Supreme Court
- ✓ ND Department of Human Services
- ✓ ND Division of Juvenile Services
- ✓ ND Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group
- ✓ Robert F Kennedy National Resource Center  
for Juvenile Justice



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# Introduction to the Juvenile Court Process in North Dakota

# JUVENILE COURT





# Case Referrals

## **Delinquent and Unruly Case Referrals**

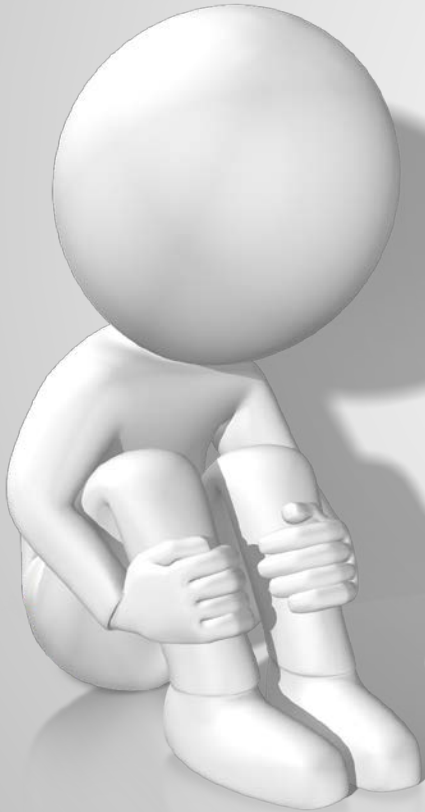
In North Dakota, the Juvenile Court has exclusive jurisdiction over youth ages seven to seventeen who are alleged to have committed a delinquent or an unruly act. A delinquent act would be a crime if committed by an adult, while an unruly act is behavior such as truancy from school, runaway, ungovernable behavior, or minor consuming alcohol, all of which are based on age.



# Case Referrals

## Deprived Case Referrals

The Juvenile Court also has exclusive jurisdiction over children from birth through age seventeen who are alleged to be deprived of proper care or control by their parent, guardian, or other custodian. More commonly known as child abuse and neglect, these cases are referred to the courts by the county social service agencies after a child abuse and neglect assessment.

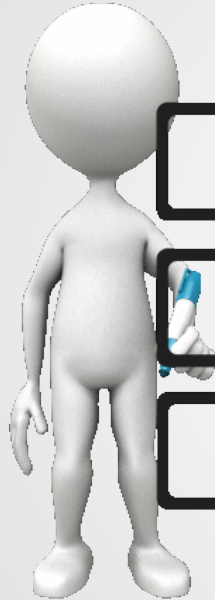


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# Introduction to the Social Services Process in North Dakota

# What is the Child Welfare System?

A group of services designed to promote the well-being of children by:

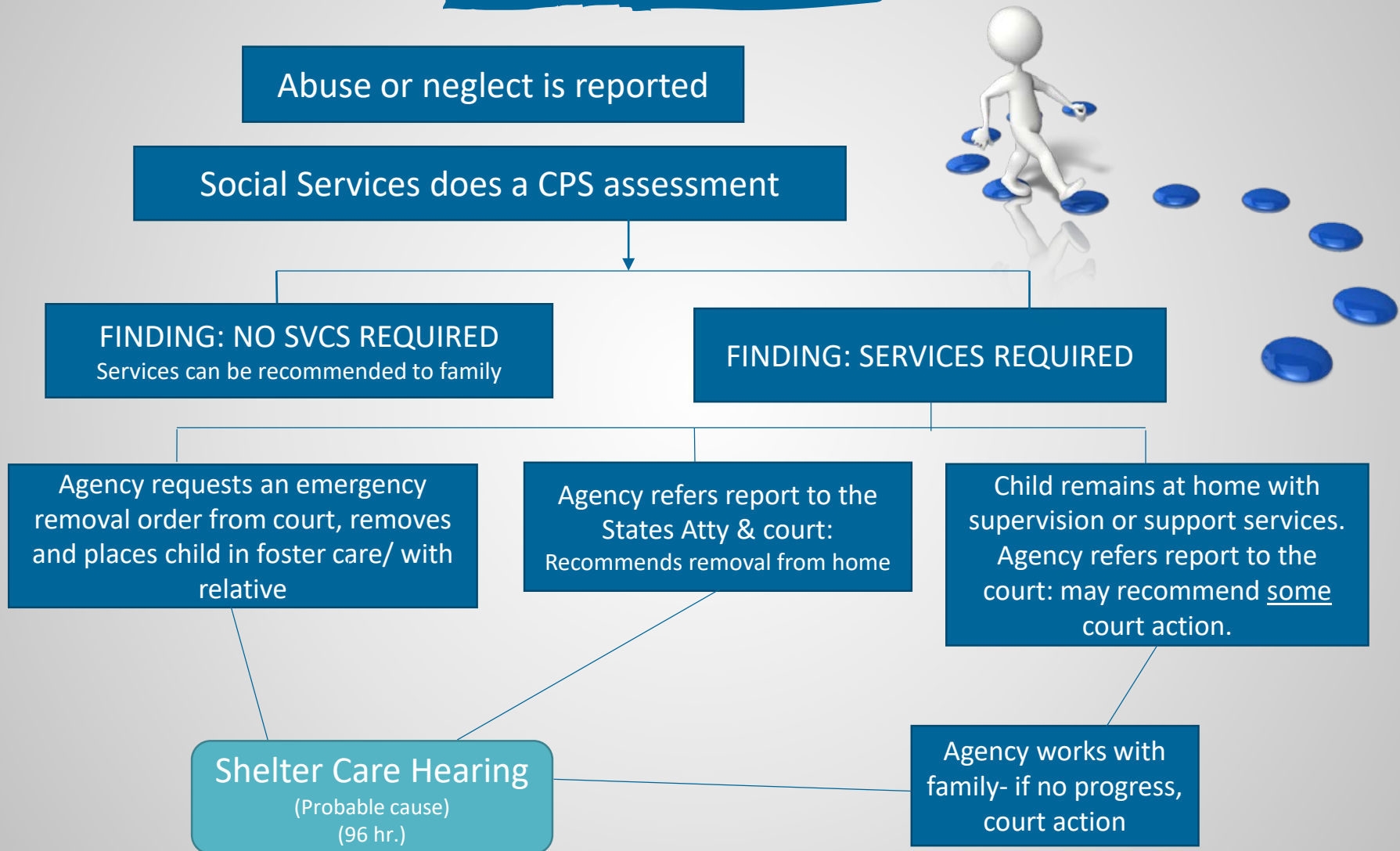


- Ensuring safety,
- Achieving permanency, and
- Strengthening families to successfully care for their children.

While the primary responsibility for child welfare services rests with the States, the Federal Government plays a major role in supporting States in the delivery of services through funding of programs and legislative initiatives.

State and local agencies develop programs that focus on preventing the abuse of children in troubled families, protecting children from abuse, and finding permanent families for those who cannot safely return to their parents.

# Child's Journey through ND Child Welfare System



Shelter Care Hearing  
(Probable cause)  
(96 hr.)

Child sent home  
without services

Child returns home with  
supervision or support  
services

Child's removal from home  
continues/child remains in  
county custody plcmt.

Child's family works on plan  
to be reunited with child

Adjudicatory &  
Dispositional  
Hearing: determines  
placement and plan

Agency works with child's family  
and develops a concurrent plan  
for permanency

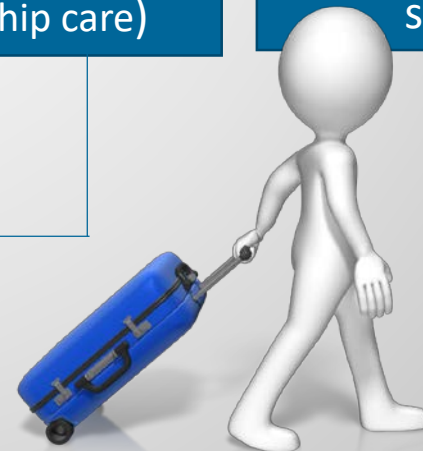
Child continues in or  
is placed in foster  
family home.

Child placed in  
group home, shelter,  
or residential facility

Child placed with  
a relative  
(kinship care)

Child returns home  
with or without  
services

Court must review  
progress after 12 months  
at a Permanency Hearing  
( can review at an earlier interval)



Court must review progress after 12 months at a Permanency Hearing  
( can review at an earlier interval)

Reunification with bio family; child returns home

Biological family doesn't complete reunification plan

Guardianship created

Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (PPLA)

Court may terminate rights- possible appeals follow or child may continue in foster care

Child remains in Foster Care, may receive Independent Living Services (age 16+)

Child placed in adoptive home

Guardianship is created

Court must hold Permanency Hearing every 12 months

Court holds Adoption Hearing

Child reaches 18, or in some states 21, with no perm home

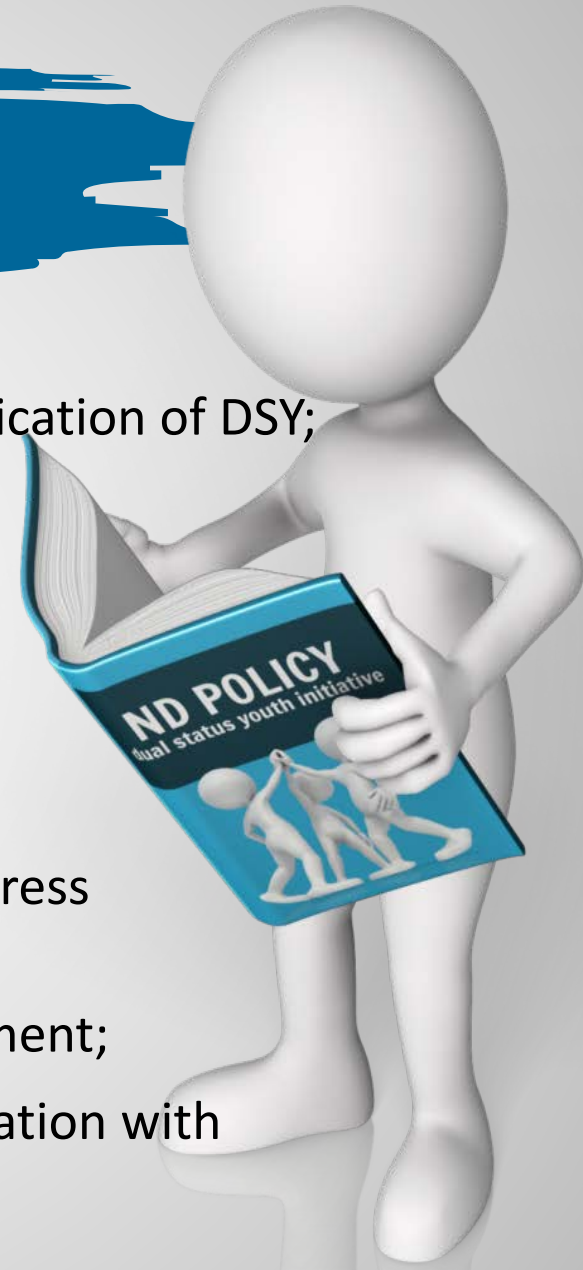
Case closed; Child has permanent home (adoption, kinship, or guardian)

Case Closed: Child had "aged out"



# ND Policy & Practice Recommendations

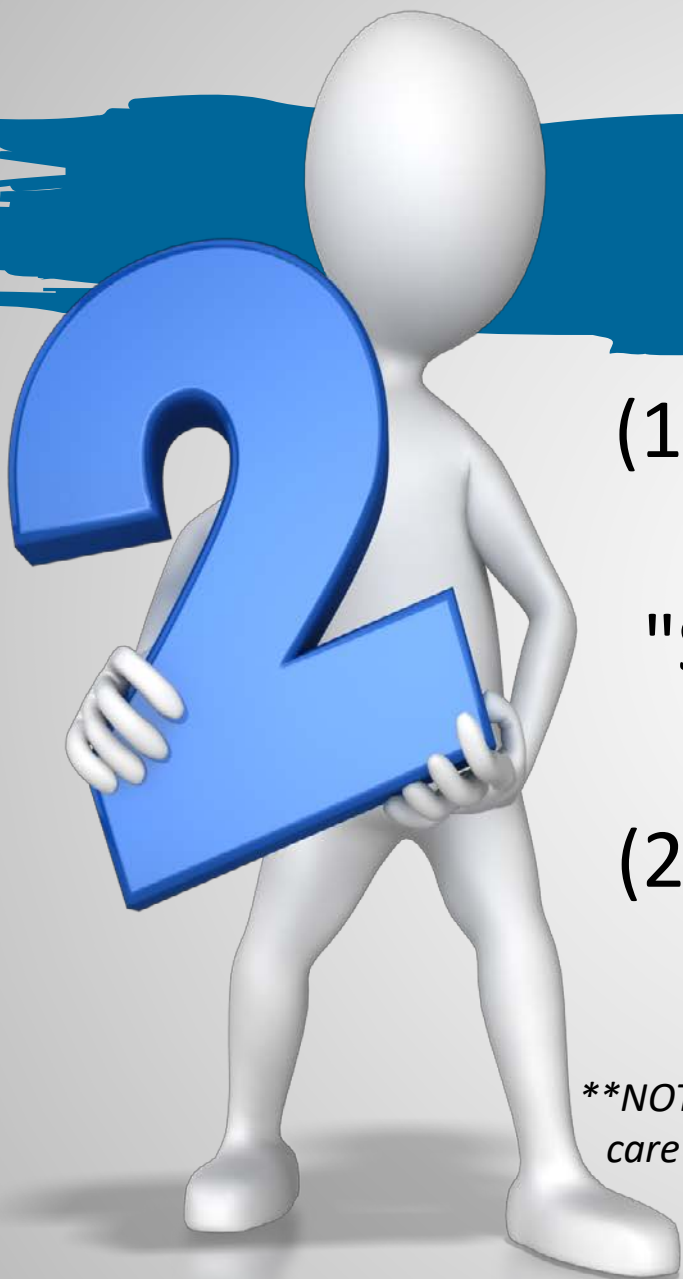
- ✓ Implementation of a protocol to ensure early identification of DSY;
- ✓ Development of a multi-agency agreement to facilitate data sharing;
- ✓ Standardized cross-system practices to assess, plan and manage multi-system cases;
- ✓ Improved training and work force development;
- ✓ Increased collaboration with tribal leadership to address racial/ethnic disparities;
- ✓ Closer examination of the use of out of home placement;
- ✓ Closing gaps in resource availability through coordination with other legislative and executive initiatives underway.





# Target Population?

## A Youth...



(1) Who is involved in an open CPS Assessment or who has been identified as a victim of a CPS "Services Required" determination

*And*

(2) Who has an Unruly/Delinquent referral

*\*\*NOTE: This includes youth with open CPS assessment or In Home/foster care case management (Child Welfare) and an open unruly/delinquent referral, probation or DJS custody (Juvenile Court).*

*After January 1, 2019, new case activity in one system and current activity or history as far back as 2010 in the other system. \*\**

# Protocol



1. Identification

2. Actions following Identification

3. Multi-Disciplinary Team Meetings

# Identification

Client data from both CMS (Juvenile Court) and FRAME (Child Welfare) will be compared to identify youth in the DSYI target population. Newly encountered youth from one system that match to client activity in the other system through the data matching process will be generated for future tracking on the “DSYI Identification List”.



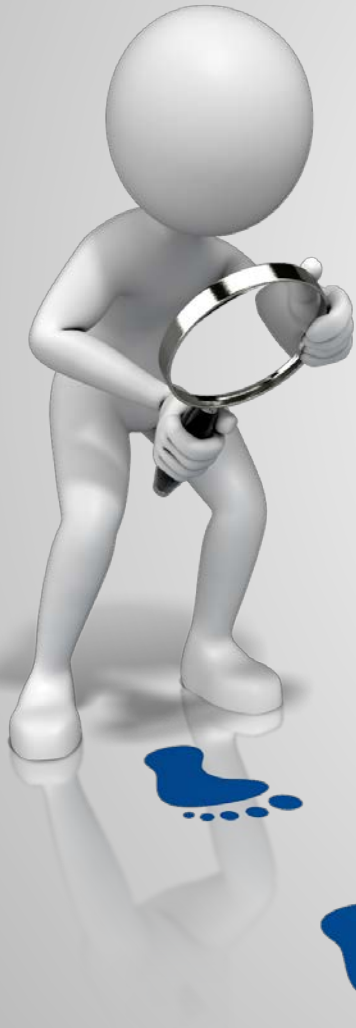
# Action Steps Following Identification:

## Phase 1: Initial Data Analysis Period

The “DSYI Identification List” will be automatically generated and sent to ND CIP detailing a DSYI match. CIP staff will manually review the list to determine if the child is in the “involved” or “identified” population and will begin communications with both parties (Juvenile Court and County).

## Phase 2: Future - Fully Automated Data Management

The “Identification List” will be automatically generated and sent to field staff (Juvenile Court and County workers) as well as the CIP staff detailing a DSYI match. The party with the most recent activity will begin communications with the other party.



# For a new Delinquency or Unruly Referral/Citation:

## 1. Active involvement with child welfare

~JCO III contact the local social service office/assigned social worker on the youth's case prior to making an intake decision.

## 2. Previous involvement with child welfare.

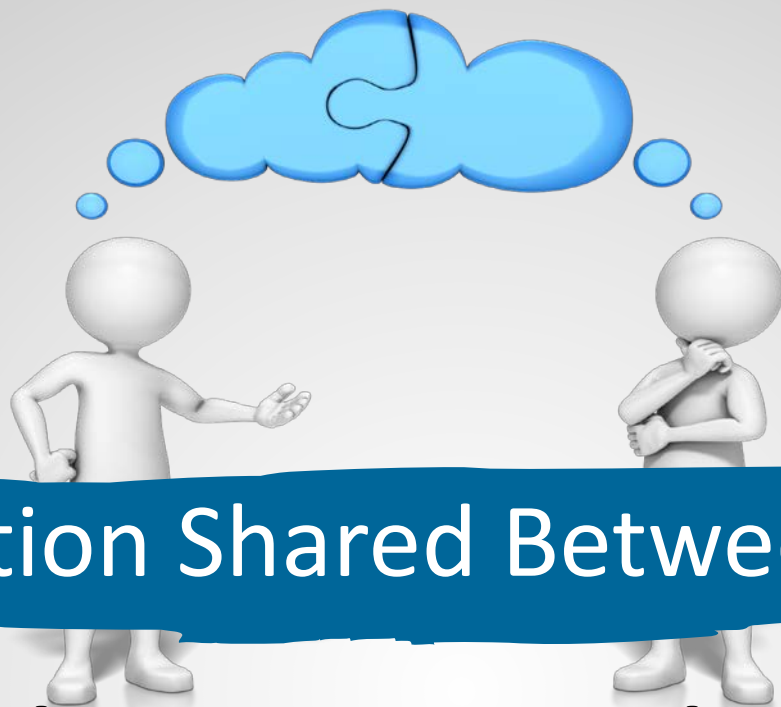
~JCO III contact the local social service office to request information that will assist the JCO III prior to making an intake decision.

**Actions Following Identification  
Juvenile Court Initiation**

# Actions Following Identification Social Service Initiation

## For a new CPS referral:

1. If a youth is determined to have a currently active delinquency or unruly case.
  - ~CPS worker contact the juvenile court/assigned court officer as part of the initial assessment within one week.
2. If a youth is determined to have a previous delinquency or unruly case.
  - ~CPS worker will contact the juvenile court to request a courtesy update on the youth.



# Information Shared Between Agencies

## Juvenile Court to Social Services:

1. Current and historical delinquent & unruly referrals
2. Probation case plan (services being provided)
3. Current & ongoing concerns regarding juveniles behaviors
4. Parental cooperation with assisting in the completion of the case plan
5. Safety issues in regards to the parents and/or juvenile

# Social Services to Juvenile Court:

- 1.Type of abuse – current and historical
- 2.Status of assessment
- 3.The subject of the report
- 4.Services being provided or offered



Information Shared between Agencies



# Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)



# FAMILY CENTERED ENGAGEMENT (FCE)



***Family Centered Engagement (FCE)*** is the North Dakota model used to design the DSYI MDT meeting structure.

*MDT replicates the model to create participatory and an inclusive process bringing together those with relationships to the children and those who are service providers to improve child welfare decision making and outcomes for children.*

# Goals of MDT...

1. Reduce the number of children entering foster care

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

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

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# Purpose of MDT

The MDT is in place to aid in making critical decisions regarding the removal of children from their homes.

To achieve the least restrictive, safest and most appropriate placements that are in the best interest of the child(ren).

# Who Makes the Referral? Who Facilitates the MDT?

The referral and facilitator of the MDT would be the agency that identifies that the youth is a Dual Status.



## Examples:

If the youth is working with County Social Services and receives a juvenile citation, the CSS worker is the referral and facilitator of the MDT.

If the youth is working with Juvenile Court and the Juvenile Court Officer (JCO) completes a Report of Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect (SFN 960), the JCO is the referral and facilitator of the MDT.

# Referring Worker and/or Facilitator Role



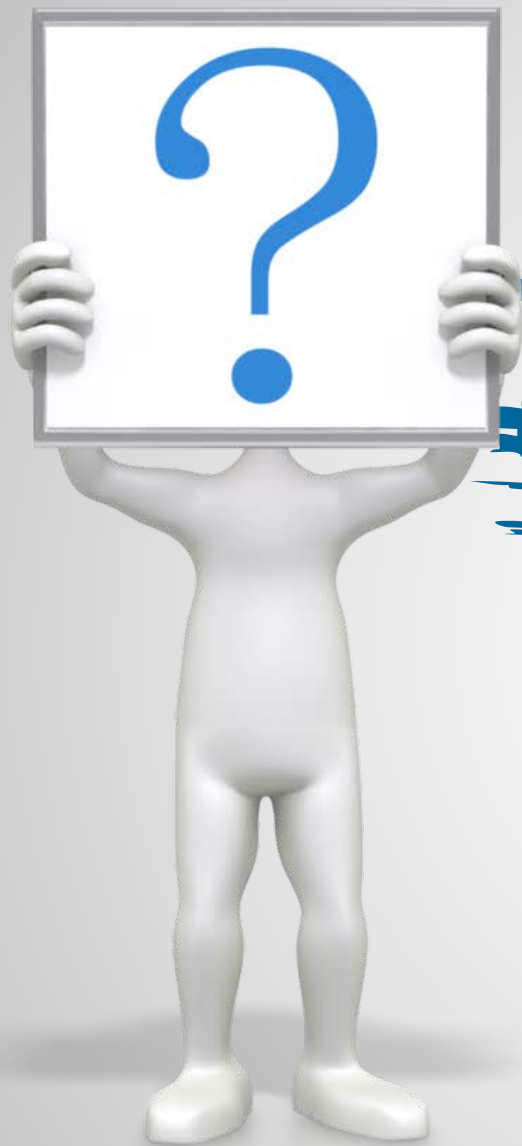
A referring worker may also act as the facilitator of the MDT.

- ✓ The Supervisor of the referring worker may step into the role of facilitator
- ✓ An MDT may run very similar to a Child and Family Team Meeting (CFTM)

The Facilitator is charged with:

- ✓ Completion of the MDT Facilitator Task Checklist
  - ★ Completion of the DSYI Multi-Disciplinary Team Release/Exchange of Information Form
  - ★ Identifying Rules and Boundaries of the MDT
  - ★ Keeping the meeting within the time frame of 1.5-2 hours
  - ★ Identifying Strengths and Supports of the child(ren) and their family

(Please See DSYI-MDT handout for the full list)



## Who is eligible for an MDT?

Dual status youth involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems who are in care or at the risk of removal.

**Referral Timeline:** within 7 calendar days from the receipt of a Report of Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect (SFN 960) or as soon as is appropriate

**MDT Meeting Timeline:** Within 7-12 days of the youth being identified as Dual Status



Timeline to  
facilitate an MDT



# Meeting agenda

Total time: 1.5 to 2 hours



## **Opening (approximately 15-20 minutes)**

- ~Introductions/welcome
- ~Sign-in
- ~Meeting guidelines, rules and boundaries
- ~Identify situation-
  - Why are we here? (presented by both workers)
- ~Purpose/goal of the meeting

## **Discussion (approximately 30 minutes)**

- ~Strengths and supports
- ~Safety, needs and concerns
- ~Ideas
- ~Non-negotiables

## Creating a Plan (approximately 15-20 minutes)

Private Family Time

## Wrap up (approximately 15 minutes)

Plan presentation and clarification

Plan acceptance

Satisfaction surveys/data collection, if applicable



...continued

# Suggested list of who should be invited to an MDT



MDT's are family driven. If a parent(s) objects to the attendance of any potential participant other than County Social Services and/or Juvenile Court staff, the referring worker and/or facilitator will discuss with the parent(s) the advantage of the participant's presence in the process. If the parent(s) continues to object, then the parents' wishes should be honored.

## **Parent(s) and/or legal guardians**

Mother

Father

Step-Parent

They are the expert on the family's needs and strengths. Presence and involvement is essential.



# Suggested List for MDT Attendee's continued...

## Child(ren)

- ~Over the age of 12 and developmentally appropriate.
- ~Under the age of 12 should be considered on a case-by-case basis
- ~If the child(ren) are not able to attend, the referring worker/facilitator can obtain the child(ren)'s view prior to the MDT.

## Current Caregivers and Kin Providers

Key team members who assist in providing information regarding:

- ~Child(ren)'s adjustment
- ~Progress
- ~Needs
- ~Discuss placement ideas

Mother

Father

Step-Parent

Sibling(s)

Grandparents (Maternal and Paternal)

Aunts, Uncles and Cousins (Maternal and Paternal)



# Suggested List for MDT attendee's continued...



## Extended Family and Non-Relative Supports

- ~Identified by parent(s) or referring worker to provide support, assistance or resources to the child(ren) and/or parent(s)
- ~Participate in developing ideas and reaching a placement decision

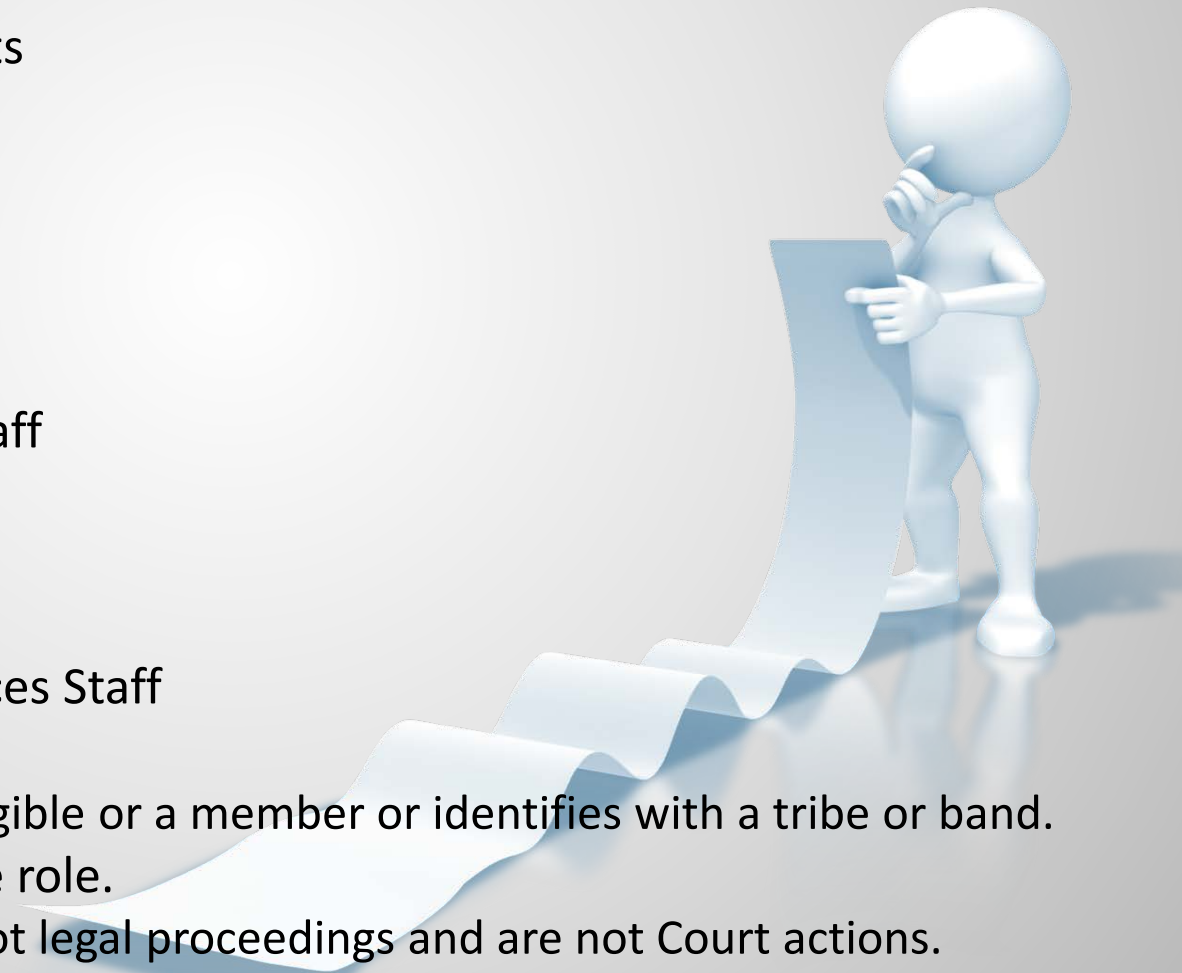
## Community Resource Representatives

- ~Defined as a member of the family's 'community' whether based on neighborhood, ethnicity, religion or other natural connection
- ~Identified by referral worker and/or parent(s) based on an existing partnership, to provide support, resource expertise, cultural understanding and an external perspective to decision making

# Suggested List for MDT attende'e's continued...

## Service Providers (currently or previously involved with the family):

- ✓ Chemical Dependency Professionals
- ✓ Domestic Violence Experts
- ✓ Mental Health Clinicians
- ✓ Public Health Nurses
- ✓ Educational Provides
- ✓ Guardian Ad Litem
- ✓ Private Agency Staff
- ✓ Human Service Center Staff
- ✓ Placement Facility Staff
- ✓ Juvenile Court Staff
- ✓ Police Youth Worker
- ✓ Division of Juvenile Services Staff
- ✓ ICWA Workers
  - ✓ When the family is eligible or a member or identifies with a tribe or band.
- ✓ Attorney's in a supportive role.
  - ✓ These meetings are not legal proceedings and are not Court actions.



# Court Procedures



BENCH CARD will be developed and available for all judges and judicial referees.



**For additional information, please contact:**

**Heather Traynor, Court Improvement Program Coordinator**  
(701) 328-4287 or [HTraynor@ndcourts.gov](mailto:HTraynor@ndcourts.gov)

**Cathy Ferderer, Juvenile Court Coordinator**  
(701) 328 2695 or [CFerderer@ndcourts.gov](mailto:CFerderer@ndcourts.gov)

**Cory Pedersen, DSY Executive Committee Chair**  
(701) 222-6709 [cpedersen@ndcourts.gov](mailto:cpedersen@ndcourts.gov)



OBRIGADO  
KIITOS SPASIBO  
DZIEKUJE XIE XIE DEKUJI  
CHOUKRANE  
ARRIGATO  
DO JEH  
SHUKRAN  
DANKIE  
TODA  
SUKRIA  
EFHARISTO  
STRENGTH  
FALEMINDERIT  
TAKK  
ASANTE

NA GODE  
DO JEH  
GRATIAS TIBI  
**THANK YOU**  
ARIGATO  
SPASIBO

DANKE JE  
KAMSA HAMNIDA  
BALIKA  
NGIYABONGA  
SALAMAT PO  
MERCIGRAZIE  
MAHALO  
DEKUJI  
TERIMA KASISH  
GRACIAS  
TRUGERE  
HVALA  
DANK U  
FALEMINDERIT