

May 1, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Over the past year, a committed group of leadership from the Supreme Court, district court, juvenile court, Department of Human Services, Department of Juvenile Services and the Association of Counties, along with other stakeholders representing a wide variety of child- and family-serving systems have worked together to address the issue of dual status youth – those youth who have been involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems in North Dakota. This collaborative effort explored how to prevent youth in the child welfare system from formally penetrating the juvenile justice system; more effectively serve youth that touch both systems; and use research and best practice to inform changes in both systems to better serve youth and families.

Beginning on June 1, dual status cases will be flagged in Odyssey. Judicial officers will play a critical role in ensuring the dual status youth protocol and best practices are being used and followed correctly. Hearings involving dual status youth provide opportunities for the judicial officer to highlight and explore the factors research shows are essential in effective case planning. The attached hard card will be a helpful resource and tool when making inquiries during court proceedings.

A further in depth Live at Lunch training regarding the initiative and hard card will be provided on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. If you have any further questions please contact the Juvenile Court Director in your area.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather Traynor". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and contact information.

Heather Traynor  
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