North Dakota Dual Status Youth Initiative Goals
Goal:

Change the trajectory of alleged abused and/or neglected children from entering the Juvenile Justice System by establishing child and family-centered multi-disciplinary policies and practices.
Target Population:
Youth with an “open assessment” or “services required” finding and an unruly/delinquent referral.
Recommendations

• Implementation of a protocol to ensure reliable, early identification of dual status youth;

• Development of a multi-agency agreement or Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate necessary data and information sharing;

• Standardized, cross-system practices (including, where appropriate, Multi-Disciplinary Team Processes) to assess, plan and manage multi-system cases;

• Improved training and workforce development of child welfare and juvenile justice practitioners, as well as collaborate with field partners such as school personnel, law enforcement and school resource officers; private non-profits
Action Strategy – Tier One (Immediate Action)

- Continue Executive Committee to oversee implementation and sustainability;

- Create an Implementation Team

- Execute the information sharing MOU to allow for the identification of dual status youth and communication between the Juvenile Court and DHS

- Disseminate policy and provide training;

- Generate regular data reports to monitor progress through a research agreement.
Action Strategy – Tier Two (Short-Term Goals)

• Finalize and disseminate Multi-Disciplinary Team policy and practice, including Family Centered Engagement – Child Family Services

• Enhance access to targeted, evidence-based interventions, particularly those that address trauma and prevention/early intervention; - Behavioral Health

• Integrate data to allow for the analysis of educational needs and concerns of dual status youth (in the aggregate);

  ✓ Develop a plan for evaluation of the implemented dual status youth policies and practices;

• Obtain endorsement of a dual status youth bench card; - Court Improvement Project
Action Strategy – Tier Three (Long-Term Goals)

• Address the need for more behavioral health services; - Behavioral Health

• Consider strategies for reducing the rate of out of home placement, and explore concerns with the mixing of youth populations;

• Explore the use of officers in schools and incorporate restorative justice practices into schools and facilities;

• Incorporate screening and assessment in developing appropriate and effective plans for youth to better match services to needs; - Child Family Services

  ✓ Consider the establishment of a state level cabinet/commission that brings together leadership from all youth- and family-serving systems;

• Support the development of a statewide data repository; - CFS/CIP

• Consider policy to provide for one family/one judge in juvenile cases;

  ✓ Renew efforts of Senate Bill 2046 (services for tribal youth);

• Develop an MOU to incorporate information on tribal youth into FRAME.
Questions? Concerns? Comments? Suggestions?

- **Leadership Team:**
  - Justice Lisa McEvers – North Dakota Supreme Court
  - Lauren Sauer, Asst. Director – DHS Children and Family Services Division
  - Lisa Bjergaard, Director – DOCR Division of Juvenile Services
  - Terry Traynor, Chair – ND Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group

- **Executive Committee Chair:**
  - Cory Pedersen – CIP