

# North Dakota Dual Status Youth Initiative

## Goal:

Change the trajectory of alleged abused and/or neglected children from entering the Juvenile justice system (including Juvenile Court, Probation, and Corrections) 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.

## Objectives to measure the achievement of the DSYI Goal

### Overall System Outcomes

#### 1. Improved data collection and information sharing across youth-serving systems, for individual case management as well as outcome tracking and trend analysis.

##### A. DATA COLLECTION and SHARING

- i. Information can be shared under a state wide MOU between DHS and ND courts to share data and information regarding the target population (youth with an open assessment or services required finding AND a referral in juvenile court).
- ii. Define with clarity what practices will be put in place, what services will be provided and what data will be collected on this target population

##### B. INDIVIDUAL CASE MANAGEMENT

- i. Modify FRAME to send notice to juvenile court of child protection investigations.
- ii. While a full FRAME modification is pending; Children and Family Services (CFS) could modify a current **Cognos Report** to extract from FRAME any new CPS assessments. Under the MOU this report could be shared with JC via email two times per week sorted by court district.

##### C. OUTCOME TRACKING

- i. Maintain a core group of the data subcommittee as a team who will continue to meet for the purpose of discussing data analysis.
- ii. Juvenile Court will continue to gather information in order to run recidivism analysis. Therefore, it is imperative that the CPS data be entered into juvenile court confidentially secured database.
- iii. Produce a DSYI quarterly update for the Executive Committee to review.
- iv. Produce a DSYI annual trend analysis report for publication.

- 2. Effective use of multidisciplinary teams engaged in and cross-system assessment, case planning, case management, and case supervision methodologies.**
  - A. Access to Family Engagement Strategies (FES) is essential for success.
    - i. This resource is funding through CFS and must be made available statewide and in sufficient capacity.
  - B. Capacity analysis is identified by resources and practices committee
  - C. This population requires skilled and targeted case management capable of addressing family's needs and behaviors.
  
- 3. Enhanced access to targeted, evidence-based intervention services, including those that address trauma and prevention/early intervention.**
  - A. Intensify training for case managers to prepare them to work effectively with behavioral health issues.
  - B. Train professionals on the trauma screening tool, educate on access to referral to HSC trauma therapists.
  
- 4. Formalized protocols and procedures to ensure efficient use of limited resources and consistent outcomes for dual status youth.**
  - A. Implement statewide trauma screening with capacity for follow up assessment used at first formal system contact.
  - B. Implement state juvenile court best practices in every juvenile court district to include completing risk assessment.
  - C. Juvenile court districts will report risk assessment data to the DSYI executive committee on an annual basis.
  
- 5. Reduced reliance on costly and ineffective placement and incarceration (specifically reducing the rate of out-of-home placements below the national average).**
  - A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
    - i. Analyze residential and correction bed capacity based on national averages and review the outcome data for children in such placement.
    - ii. Analyze existing effective community based prevention services for purpose of determining expansion of those programs with good outcome data.
    - iii. Analyze gaps in services.
    - iv. Prepare funding recommendations for agency budget building spring of 2018; include prevention services to retain children in their home, as well as a reduction in the use of congregate care while increasing reimbursement for specialized family foster homes if out of home placement is required.

6. Reduced racial/ethnic and gender disparities
  - A. Renew efforts of SB2046 (Tribal, Juvenile Court, and DJS pilot program to provide tribal youth access to the same continuum of services and supervision available to youth adjudicated in state courts).
  - B. Adopt MOU between tribal social services and state juvenile courts to facilitate information sharing and collaboration for youth and families that relocate between reservations and cities.

## Youth & Family Outcomes

1. Recidivism
  - A. Low Recidivism
    - i. Decrease in the number of Dual Status Youth (DSY) who experience new unruly or delinquent offense adjudicated within one year, two year and three years of supervision closure/termination.
  - B. Prevent deeper delinquency through diversion
    - i. % of youth who complete a diversion program
    - ii. Reduce Dual Status Youth being removed from their family.
2. Improved educational performance for Dual Status Youth
  - A. Decrease in school suspensions and expulsions
  - B. Increase in school attendance
  - C. Decrease in school dropout rates
3. Increased development of social competencies
  - A. Increase in the number/percent of youth participating in pro-social activities (i.e. mentoring, sports, arts, employment, clubs)
  - B. Reduction in display of problem behaviors
4. Increased stability in home or placement
  - A. Decrease in deprived court cases
  - B. Decrease in the number of out-of-home placements
  - C. Increase in family reunifications
5. Improved family functioning
  - A. % of new CPS investigations after a youth is identified dual status youth
  - B. Increase in the number of families completing needed programming
  - C. Increase family participation in quarterly team meetings