



2024 Annual Report

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
2024 Children's Cabinet Meeting Resources and Information	4
Monthly Agendas, Minutes, Presentations and Handouts	
Children's Cabinet Strategic Planning	3
Participants	
Members of the North Dakota Children's Cabinet Forum for Youth Investment	
Acknowledgements	
Enabling Statute	
Process Overview	
Values, Mission, Vision, S.O.A.R Analysis	
Current Charter	
Working Draft of Strategic Plan	
Next Steps	
Appendix A: Meeting Agendas	

Appendix B: Forum for Youth Investment Children's Cabinet Network

Executive Summary

North Dakota's Children's Cabinet was created by 2019 Senate Bill No. 2313 to assess, guide and coordinate care for children across North Dakota branches of government and tribal nations. The Cabinet meets monthly to receive information and collaborate on strategies that address gaps and the full continuum of care and delivery of services regarding early care and education, medical and behavioral health, community, child welfare, and juvenile justice issues. This year's annual report describes that work and captures the progress and momentum towards improving outcomes for North Dakota's children and families.

In addition to the work of the North Dakota Children's Cabinet in meeting its statutory responsibilities and planning for the long-term future of our children, the Cabinet identified that a strategic plan and technical assistance was critical to its future success and sustainability. North Dakota became a member of the Forum for Youth Investment's Children's Cabinet Network in the fall of 2023 and the second portion of this report documents its 2024 planning work with the Forum for Youth Investment in helping to illuminate a path forward.

2024 Meeting Resources and Information

Tuesday, Jan. 16 - Agenda

Meeting Minutes

Presentation: Region V Children's Services Coordinating Committee

Tuesday, Feb. 20 - Agenda

Presentation: Graduation, Behavior and School Discipline

Presentation: ND System of Care

Tuesday, March 19 - Agenda

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 16 - Agenda

Presentation: Lighthouse Overview

Tuesday, May 21 - Agenda

Meeting Minutes

Presentation: ND Children's Cabinet Presentation May 2024 (Kringlie) Presentation: ND Children's Cabinet Presentation May 2024 (Riehl)

Tuesday, June 18 - Agenda

Presentation: Current State of SOR in ND (Whipple)

Presentation: NDDPI

Tuesday, July 16 - Agenda

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, Aug. 20 - Agenda

Meeting Minutes

Presentation: ND Children's Cabinet Presentation August 2024

Presentation: CIP Presentation August 2024

Tuesday, Sept. 17

Meeting Minutes

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Tuesday, Oct. 15 - Agenda

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Tuesday, Nov. 19

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Tuesday, Dec. 17

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Members of the North Dakota Children's Cabinet

Representative Michelle Strinden (Chair)

State House of Representatives

Representative Brandy Pyle

State House of Representatives

Senator Kathy Hogan

State Senate

Senator Michelle Axtman

State Senate

Honorable Lisa McEvers

Justice, North Dakota Supreme Court

Superintendent Kirsten Baesler

Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction

Maria Neset

Policy Advisor, Governor Burgum's Office

Wayne Salter

Commissioner, Dept. of Health and Human Services

Veronica Zietz

Director, Committee on Protection and Advocacy

Russel Riehl

Parent, Private Service Provider, or Other Community

Interest

Kimberly Jacobson (Vice Chair)

Parent, Private Service Provider, or Other Community

Interest

Janell Regimbal

Parent, Private Service Provider, or Other Community

Interest

Shawn Huss

Parent, Private Service Provider, or Other Community

Interest

Daniell Breland

Tribal Nations Representative

Forum for Youth Investment

Meghan McCann

Vice President, State Policy

Dana Kunzman

Senior Director, Cross-Systems Consulting

Other Acknowledgements & Gratitude

The Children's Cabinet would like to recognize Governor Doug Burgum for his commitment to advancing the work around children's systems in partnership with the three branches of government. The strategic plan as well as the collaborative effort ahead would not have been possible without his support to allocate funding from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funds. These funds have and will continue to be instrumental in facilitating the critical work across agencies alongside state and local partners to support the children and families of North Dakota.

Enabling Statute

N.D. Cent. Code § 50-06-43.1. Children's cabinet - Membership - Duties - Report

- 1. The children's cabinet is created to assess, guide, and coordinate the care for children across the state's branches of government and the tribal nations.
- 2. The children's cabinet consists of the following members:
 - a. The governor, or the governor's designee;
 - b. The chief justice of the supreme court, or the chief justice's designee;
 - c. A member of the house of representatives from an even-numbered legislative district and a member of the house of representatives from an odd-numbered legislative district appointed by the majority leader of the house of representatives to serve two-year terms;
 - d. A member of the senate from an even-numbered legislative district and a member of the senate from an odd-numbered legislative district appointed by the majority leader of the senate to serve two-year terms;
 - e. The superintendent of public instruction, or the superintendent's designee;
 - f. The director of the committee on protection and advocacy, or the director's designee;
 - g. The commissioner of the department, or the commissioner's designee.
 - h. A representative of the tribal nations in the state, who is appointed by the governor; and
 - i. Four individuals representing parents, private service providers, or other community interests, who are appointed by the governor to serve a term of two years, at the pleasure of the governor, and who are entitled to reimbursement from the department for travel and lodging at the same rate as provided for state officers and employees.
- 3. The chairman of legislative management shall appoint one of the legislative members to serve as the presiding officer of the cabinet. The children's cabinet shall select one of its members to serve as the vice-presiding officer. The cabinet shall meet at least quarterly. Additional meetings may be held at the discretion of the presiding officer.
- 4. The children's cabinet shall:
 - a. Coordinate broad-based leadership across programs, agencies, branches of government, and tribal nations to meet the needs of children;
 - b. Develop strategies to address gaps or needs regarding early care and education, medical and behavioral health, community, child welfare, and juvenile justice;
 - c. Develop strategies to provide for the full continuum of care in the delivery of services, including promotion, prevention, early identification and intervention, service delivery, and recovery;
 - d. Seek to engage cooperation across public and private service providers;
 - e. Provide a comprehensive vision for how and where children are best served, attending to children in a respectful and relevant manner;
 - f. Seek strategies to provide services to children without consideration of prior engagement with juvenile services;
 - g. Provide for the active participation of consumers and providers statewide on advisory committees;
 - h. Receive information and recommendations from the department of health and human services, department of corrections and rehabilitation, and other state agencies; and
 - i. Provide an annual report to the legislative management and governor regarding the activities and findings of the cabinet.
- 5. The department shall provide the children's cabinet with staffing and administrative services.
- 6. A member of the cabinet who is not a state employee is entitled to reimbursement for mileage and expenses as provided by law for state officers and employees, to be paid by the department. A state employee who is a member of the cabinet is entitled to receive that employee's regular salary and is entitled to reimbursement for mileage and expenses to be paid by the employing agency.

A member of the cabinet who is a member of the legislative assembly is entitled to receive per diem compensation at the rate provided under section 54-35-10 for each day performing official duties of the cabinet. The legislative council shall pay the per diem compensation and reimbursement for travel and expenses as provided by law for any member of the cabinet who is a member of the legislative assembly.

Process Overview

Aug.-Oct. 2023

- North Dakota Children's Cabinet holds retreat to discuss strategic way forward
- Presentation of retreat findings to Children's Cabinet

Dec. 2023

- The Forum for Youth Investment (Forum) & North Dakota Children's Cabinet are introduced
- Begin discussing potential support and scope of work

May 2024

- The Forum facilitates full day convening of Children's Cabinet and designees
- Beginning discussion and identification of values, vision and mission

June-Aug. 2024 • The Forum attends two Children's Cabinet virtual meetings to refine values, vision and mission

Sept. 2024

- The Forum facilitates full day convening of Children's Cabinet to finalize values, vision, mission
- Clarification of purpose and role of Children's Cabinet
- Beginning of strategic planning

Oct.-Nov.

- The Forum drafts initial Children's Cabinet road map
- Review and presentation to Children's Cabinet and General Assembly

2025

• The Forum is on contract to continue supporting the Children's Cabinet with strategic planning and implementation.

Values, Vision, Mission & S.O.A.R

Values

- 360 Communication: the Children's Cabinet will engage in open, honest and meaningful communication that leads to positive results for all children and families.
- Optimism: the Children's Cabinet will be solutions-focused, adopting a can-do attitude while avoiding the impulse to admire the problem.
- Accountability: the Children's Cabinet accepts clear accountability for leadership and allows all members to know their role and responsibility while sharing a common vision.

Vision: The North Dakota Children's Cabinet ensures that all children are prepared and successful, equipped with the skills, knowledge, and resilience to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Mission: The North Dakota Children's Cabinet collaborates to elevate what works and drive towards a seamless network of services and supports that meet the needs of every child and family.

S.O.A.R. Analysis

	Internal	External		
	Strengths	Opportunities		
	Multidisciplinary/Three Branches	Cross-agency collaboration became more		
	Varied experiences: lived/work	"real"/deeper during pandemic response.		
	Good listeners	ND is small enough and has systems that are		
	Committed to the cause	straightforward enough that change is possible.		
Current	Organized momentum	We are often 1 degree removed from being able to		
Cur	Know each other/meet regularly	make changes happen		
	Similar values	State with strong economy and strong financial		
	Diverse backgrounds	position		
	Genuine willingness and want to work together	Children's Cabinet is in statute and has a home in		
	Genuine openness to ideas	Gov. office – confers respect.		
	Turnover has not impacted function			
	Aspirations	Results		
	Create a safe space for voices to be heard	Be the leader for Children's systems in U.S.		
	Advocate	Support families		
	Improve communication and inclusion through the	Share success and replicating success cross-system		
	process	Children and their families are resilient		
	We can have an impact	When kids make mistakes there are restorative paths		
Future	Broaden our network through working groups on	available to them		
Ē	specific topics	People know how to advocate for themselves and		
	Create/broaden engagement	access services they need		
	Unified voice	Healthy, safe children and families		
		Dashboard of well-being.		
		Synergy between systems: the whole is greater than		
		the sum of its parts.		
		Foster a culture of continuous quality improvement.		

Current Children's Cabinet Charter

Name of Coordinating Body: North Dakota Children's Cabinet

Administrative Home: Department of Health and Human Services provides administrative support

Staffing: No permanent staff support.

Funding: \$45/day compensation and travel expenses

Membership: 12 members appointed by the Governor, and their designees

Structure:

Co-Chaired by legislative representatives.

Meeting Cadence: Monthly

History:

Year Established: 2019

Enabling Method: N.D. Cent. Code § 50-06-43.1

Primary Duties:

- Coordinate leadership
- Develop strategies to close gaps, create full continuum of care in service delivery, provide services regardless of system involvement
- Engage public and private providers
- Vision for how and where children are best served
- Participation of children, youth and families
- Receive information and recommendations from HHS, DOCR and other agencies.

Goals & Objectives: Pending (see below)

- Strategic Goal 1: strengthen foundational elements of the Children's Cabinet and promote statewide.
- Strategic Goal 2: identify and elevate promising practices to advance a seamless network of services and supports throughout North Dakota.
- Strategic Goal 3: define, measure and report out on the status of child-wellbeing in North Dakota.

Reporting Requirement: annually on activities and findings

Links: https://www.hhs.nd.gov/cfs/childrens-cabinet

Strategic Plan [DRAFT]

Strategic Goal #1: strengthen foundational elements of the Children's Cabinet and promote statewide.							
Key Actions	Accountable	By When?	First step				
Develop a North Dakota Children's Cabinet Logo							
Refine Children's Cabinet enabling statute: N.D. Cent. Code § 50-06-43.1							
Move Children's Cabinet to the Governor's Office							
Enlist thought partners and create feedback loop among youth ecosystem							
stakeholders							
Define focus of Children's Cabinet to "children" as ages 0-21; families with							
children; youth in key transition stages							
Establish a regular cadence of Children's Cabinet meetings and calendar							
deliverables (ex. Report xyz by x)							
Creating subcommittees to do the deep dives and report back with recs							
Create communication strategy for dissemination of Children's Cabinet							
initiatives							
Strategic Goal #2: identify and elevate promising practices to advance a seam	less network o	f services ar	nd supports				
throughout North Dakota.							
Showcase innovations from North Dakota and other states							
Identify key criteria for promising practices and expected effects for positive							
outcomes							
Select early adopters for replication							
Curate repository of reports from state children-serving agencies (one-stop							
shop of resources).							
Identify gaps in services (Gap, Bridge or Gate?)							
Consult with: subject-matter experts, people with lived experience and industry							
leaders.							
Identify "risk points" when children and families transition between systems							
Create a visual to show the full continuum of services available							
Strategic Goal #3: Define, measure and report out on the status of child-wellbe	ing in North D	akota.					
Examine disaggregated data							
Establish outcome benchmarks / identify key outcome indicators							
Develop Annual Data Report on status of wellbeing in ND							
Identify and explore existing data: Lighthouse Project, Kids Count Data							
Define child well-being: What are we measuring against? What is the %							
change we hope to see?							
Develop reporting structure and infrastructure to house and report the data.							
Explore external partners: Kids Count (Annie E. Casey Foundation), Children's							
Funding Project							

Next Steps



Appendix A: Meeting Agendas

North Dakota Children's Cabinet Agenda

Monday, May 6, 2024 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Purpose: Set the North Dakota Children's Cabinet mission and vision to guide a strategic plan.

Objectives:

- Identify purpose, mission, and vision for the North Dakota Children's Cabinet.
- Connect with colleagues in an open dialogue and brainstorming.
- Begin thinking about long-term strategy and goals for the North Dakota Children's Cabinet.

Introductions [9:00-9:45]

- Name, affiliation, favorite summer vacation activity?
- Review agenda for the day and strategic planning process.

Community Agreements [9:45-10:00]

- We agree to:
 - Speak from our own experience.
 - Honor the complexity of this work.
 - o Be imperfect in our learning and sharing.
 - Recognize each other's learning journey AND acknowledge impact.
 - Lean into conversations AND create space for all voices (move in, move out)
 - O What's said here stays here, what's learned here leaves here.
 - o Expect and accept non-closure.
- What else do we need to feel supported?
- If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

Children's Cabinet Strategic Planning – National Landscape [10:00-10:20]

Break [10:20-10:30]

Mission & Vision [10:30-12:00]

- What do we mean by mission & vision?
- Vision Prompt: In 5 years, what do you want the headline to be for this work?

Lunch on Your Own [12:00-1:00]

Mission & Vision [1:00-3:30]

• Revisit 2023 Retreat Priorities, Challenges and Opportunities

Closing [3:30-4:00]

- Next steps
- Closing reflection

North Dakota Children's Cabinet Agenda

Monday, September 16, 2024 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Purpose: Approve the vision, mission and values. Begin strategic planning and charter development.

Objectives:

- Approve mission and vision for the North Dakota Children's Cabinet.
- Connect with colleagues in an open dialogue and brainstorming.
- Begin short and long-term strategic planning for the North Dakota Children's Cabinet.

Introductions [9:00-9:30]

- Name, affiliation, favorite thing about back to school?
- Review agenda for the day and strategic planning process.

Community Agreements [9:30-9:45]

- We agree to:
 - Speak from our own experience.
 - Honor the complexity of this work.
 - o Be imperfect in our learning and sharing.
 - o Recognize each other's learning journey AND acknowledge impact.
 - Lean into conversations AND create space for all voices (move in, move out)
 - O What's said here stays here, what's learned here leaves here.
 - Expect and accept non-closure.
- What else do we need to feel supported?
- If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

Children's Cabinet Charter Development [9:45-10:45]

- Identify role and purpose of Children's Cabinet
- Establish communication and working norms.

Break [10:45-11:00]

Charter Development Continued and/or Begin Narrowing Strategic Goals [11:00-12:00]

Lunch on Your Own [12:00-1:00]

Strategic Goal and Action Step Identification [1:00-2:45]

Closing [2:45-3:00]

- Next steps
- Closing reflection

Appendix B: The Forum for Youth Investment's Children's Cabinet Network

No single support or program is enough to ensure children and youth are on track developmentally, educationally, socially, and emotionally. Children's Cabinets are systematically changing the fragmented ways that state and local governments do business for children and youth. Since 2004, The Forum for Youth Investment has engaged with these coordinating bodies to support their operation and share lessons learned with the youth development field.

Unfortunately, the manner in which rules, regulations and government structures are crafted makes it difficult for leaders to create and implement coordinated programs and services that address the comprehensive needs of young people. But there is much that can be done to simplify and untangle the patchwork of polices and funding streams so they are more efficient and effective.

The Forum's policy staff support Children's Cabinets, also known as councils, commissions or P-20 councils. Children's Cabinets are typically made up of the heads of all government agencies with child- and youth-serving programs. They meet regularly to coordinate services, develop a common set of outcomes, and collaboratively decide upon and implement plans to foster the well-being of young people.

Members of this network receive technical assistance, share best practices and learn more about tools that bring efficiency and effectiveness to their efforts to improve outcomes for young people. Below are the states currently engaged in the Children's Cabinet Network.

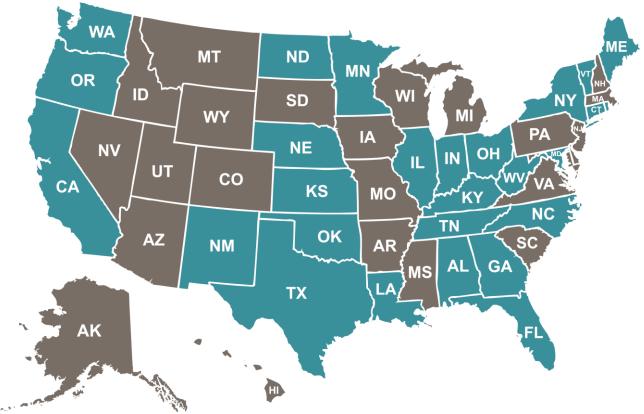


Figure 1. States engaged in the Forum for Youth Investment's Children's Cabinet Network.