

2023 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2034

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2034
1/4/2023

A BILL relating to the children's cabinet.

1:46 PM **Madam Chair Lee** called the hearing to order. **Senators Lee, Cleary, Clemens, K. Roers, Weston** are present. **Senator Hogan** was absent.

Discussion Topics:

- Coordination
- Service
- Membership change

1:47 PM **Joan Heckaman, Past Chair of the Children's Cabinet**, introduced SB 2034 testimony in favor #12273

2:08 PM Hearing adjourned.

Senator Cleary moved to amend SB 2034, to clarify there will be a member from each house on the committee.

Senator Weston seconded the Moton.
Voice vote was taken. Motion passed.

Senator Cleary move **DO PASS as AMENDED**.
Senator Weston seconded.

Roll call vote.

Senators	Vote
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	AB
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y

The motion passed 5-0-1.

Senator Cleary will carry SB 2034.

2:20 PM **Madam Chair Lee** closed hearing.

Pat Lahr, *Committee Clerk*

January 4, 2023

HA 1100
(1-1)

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2034

Page 1, line 24, replace "executive director" with "commissioner"

Page 1, line 24, replace "executive director's" with "commissioner's"

Page 2, line 11, after "member" insert ", who shall be selected from the legislative chamber of which the presiding officer of the cabinet is not a member."

Renumber accordingly

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2034: Human Services Committee (Sen. Lee, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2034 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

Page 1, line 24, replace "executive director" with "commissioner"

Page 1, line 24, replace "executive director's" with "commissioner's"

Page 2, line 11, after "member" insert ". who shall be selected from the legislative chamber of which the presiding officer of the cabinet is not a member."

Renumber accordingly

2023 HOUSE EDUCATION

SB 2034

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

SB 2034
3/14/2023

Relating to the children's cabinet.

3:10 PM Chairman Heinert opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber-Beck, Representatives Conmy, Dyk, Hager, Hauck, Heilman, Hoverson, Jonas, Longmuir, Marschall, Murphy, Novak, and Timmons.

Discussion Topics:

- Reporting requirements
- Membership changes
- Volunteer

Sen Kathy Hogan, District 21, introduced SB 2034, Testimony 24806, 24813, 24820
Bridgit Dowling, Facilitator, Children's Cabinet, oral testimony
Rep Michelle Strinden, oral testimony

3:17 PM Chairman Heinert closed the hearing.

Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

SB 2034
3/21/2023

Relating to the children's cabinet.

4:24 PM

Chairman Heinert opened the meeting Members present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber-Beck, Representatives Conmy, Dyk, Hager, Hauck, Heilman, Hoverson, Jonas, Longmuir, Marschall, Murphy, Novak, and Timmons.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

Rep Conmy moved to adopt amendment 23.0213.02001 (Testimony 26287) and amendment 23.0213.02002 (Testimony 26286) with an Emergency Clause, seconded by Rep Murphy. Voice vote, motion carried.

Rep Conmy moved a Do Pass as Amended, seconded by Rep Murphy.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative Scott Dyk	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Matt Heilman	Y
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	Y
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Eric James Murphy	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	Y
Representative Kelby Timmons	Y

14-0-0 Motion carried. Rep Conmy is carrier.

4:36 PM Meeting adjourned.

Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk

March 21, 2023

24
3-21-23

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2034

Page 1, line 2, after "cabinet" insert "; and to declare an emergency"

Page 2, line 10, remove "and one legislative"

Page 2, remove line 11

Page 2, line 12, replace "officer of the cabinet is not a member." with ". The children's cabinet shall select one of its members"

Page 3, after line 7, insert:

"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.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY. This Act is declared to be an emergency measure."

Renumber accordingly

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2034, as engrossed: Education Committee (Rep. Heinert, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2034 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 2, after "cabinet" insert "; and to declare an emergency"

Page 2, line 10, remove "and one legislative"

Page 2, remove line 11

Page 2, line 12, replace "officer of the cabinet is not a member." with ". The children's cabinet shall select one of its members"

Page 3, after line 7, insert:

- "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.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY. This Act is declared to be an emergency measure."

Renumber accordingly

TESTIMONY

SB 2034

Senate Human Services Committee-SB 2034

January 4, 2023

Madam Chair Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee:

I am Joan Heckaman from Dickinson ND, and I am here at the request of Sen. Lee to provide some information for SB2034.

During the 2021-22 Interim, I served as Chair of the Children's Cabinet. The Cabinet was established in 2019 session to assess, guide, and coordinate the care for children across the state branches of government and tribal nations.

You can see the duties of the Cabinet as listed on page 2, lines 13-30. While these are all encompassing, the Cabinet provides a connection between the providers, families, and state agencies to look for gaps, current services available, and provide recommendations to improve services. The Cabinet brought forth several recommendations including support for a data base to provide necessary information for program development and funding, an all encompassing list of recommendations for foster care, recommendations to close gaps in mental and behavioral services for children, how to address overrepresentation of children in services from tribal country, addressing workforce/staffing needs, adjustments to the delivery of services for the court system, changes to the juvenile justice system including moving children in need of services to the zones, and a final discussion on modeling the Cabinet through information from the Aspen Institute.

Membership consists of 12 individuals-some specific to positions and others selected because of their connections with children's programming across the state. Here is the membership:

1. Governor/designee
2. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court/designee
3. Speaker of the House/designee
4. President Pro Tempore of the Senate/designee
5. Superintendent of Public Instruction/designee
6. Director of Protection and Advocacy/designee
7. Representation from tribal nations
8. Four individuals representing parents, private providers or community interests.

9. Chairman of the Cabinet (legislator) appointed by the Chairman of Legislative Management

As the Cabinet worked in monthly meetings, it became evident that there was no specific individual responsible for representing the Department of Health and Human Services which is the main connection for children's services. We also found that starting December 1, 2022, all legislators serving on the Cabinet would be leaving. The legislators represent 25% of the membership and they provide an important connection with the legislature concerning recommendations coming from the Cabinet.

There were also no reporting requirements for the Cabinet to provide any summary of their work. I did provide a report to the Interim Human Services Committee and also an in-person presentation to Governor Burgum.

Since the Cabinet has no authority to bring bills forward, the Human Services Committee willingly took this upon their authority and you have SB 2034 before you this afternoon for your consideration.

Senate bill 2034 does three things:

1. It changes the membership from the legislature to include 2 members from the House and 2 members from the Senate from opposite numbered districts to serve 2-year terms on the Cabinet. This will increase membership to 14 and also ensure continuity. (Page 1, lines 12-20).
2. It adds the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services or their designee as a member of the Cabinet (page 1, line 24). This then increases the membership to 15.
3. It provides for an annual report from the Cabinet to Legislative Management and the Governor regarding the activities and findings of the Cabinet (page 3, lines 1-2).

It has been my privilege to lead a great team of hardworking members who have worked diligently for the children of North Dakota. Going forward, Rep. Michelle Strinden has been appointed by the Chairman of Legislative Management to be the next Chair of the Cabinet.

Thank you for your time today. I would stand for any questions.

Joan Heckaman

701-302-0355

Joanheck23@hotmail.com

SB 2034 – TESTIMONY
House Education Committee
Senator Kathy Hogan
March 14, 2023

Chairman Heinert and Members of the House Education Committee, my name is Kathy Hogan and I represent District 21 in Fargo.

During the 2021-22 Interim, Joan Heckaman served as Chair of the Children’s Cabinet. Because I am replacing her position and I worked closely for the establishment of the Cabinet, I am introducing this bill. Michelle Strinden, the current Chair of the Children’s Cabinet is here also.

The Cabinet was established in the 2019 session to assess, guide, and coordinate the care for children across the state branches of government and tribal nations. You can see the duties of the Cabinet as listed on page 2, lines 15-29 and page 3 lines 1-7.

While these are all encompassing, the Cabinet provides a connection between the providers, families, and state agencies to look for gaps, current services available, and provide recommendations to improve services. The Cabinet brought forth several recommendations including support for a data base to provide necessary information for program development and funding, an all-encompassing list of recommendations for foster care, recommendations to close

gaps in mental and behavioral services for children, how to address overrepresentation of children in services from tribal country, addressing workforce/staffing needs, adjustments to the delivery of services for the court system, changes to the juvenile justice system including moving children in need of services to the zones, and a final discussion on modeling the Cabinet through information from the Aspen Institute.

Attached is a copy of the report that was given to the Interim Human Service Committee at our last meeting so you can see the breath and depth of information that this group has been working with over the last year.

Membership previously consisted of 12 individuals--some specific to positions and others selected because of their connections with children's programming across the state. Here is the previous membership:

1. Governor/designee
2. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court/designee
3. Speaker of the House/designee
4. President Pro Tempore of the Senate/designee
5. Superintendent of Public Instruction/designee
6. Director of Protection and Advocacy/designee
7. Representation from tribal nations

8. Four individuals representing parents, private providers, or community interests.
9. Chairman of the Cabinet (legislator) appointed by the Chairman of Legislative Management

As the Cabinet worked in monthly meetings, it became evident that there was no specific individual responsible for representing the Department of Health and Human Services, which is the main connection for children's services. We also found that starting December 1, 2022, all legislators serving on the Cabinet would be leaving. The legislators represent 25% of the membership and they provide an important connection with the legislature concerning recommendations coming from the Cabinet.

There were also no reporting requirements for the Cabinet to provide any summary of their work. Attached is a copy of the report provided to the Interim Human Services Committee and an in-person presentation to Governor Burgum. Since the Cabinet has no authority to bring bills forward, the Human Services Committee willingly took this upon their authority and you have SB 2034 before you this afternoon for your consideration.

Senate bill 2034 did three things:

1. It changes the membership from the legislature to include 2 members from the House and 2 members from the Senate from opposite numbered districts to serve 2-year terms on the Cabinet. This will increase membership to 14 and also ensure continuity (Page 1, lines 1220).
2. It adds the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services or their designee as a member of the Cabinet (page 1, line 14). This then increases the membership to 15.
3. It establishes that one of the legislative appointments should be named the Chair of the Cabinet who is appointed by the Chair of Legislative Management. The current bill draft has the Vice Chair of the Cabinet to be from the opposite Chamber with the be named Vice Chair.
4. It provides for an annual report from the Cabinet to Legislative Management and the Governor regarding the activities and findings of the Cabinet (page 3, lines 4-5).

The new Cabinet held its first meeting and at that time, the new cabinet suggested that perhaps the Vice Chair should not be required to be a legislator but rather a representative from other areas elected by the Cabinet.

We would like to add an emergency clause so the Cabinet can begin.

I am willing to try to answer any questions.

Three Groups in ND Focused on Children/Youth:

Juvenile Justice Advisory Group	Children’s Cabinet	Commission on Juvenile Justice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established in 1988 pursuant to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 Created to advise the Governor and legislature on juvenile justice issues, including compliance with the Act 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established in 2019 w/SB 2313 Created to assess, guide, and coordinate the care for children across the state’s branches of government and the tribal nations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established in 2019 w/SB 2313 and reports to the Children’s Cabinet (Expires 7/31/25) Created to gather information, receive reports, and make recommendations regarding effective services for children
<p>Role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a comprehensive state juvenile justice plan Review and award grants pursuant to the plan, and monitor progress of programs funded Monitor compliance with the JJDP A Provide leadership, training and technical assistance on best practice Advocate for juvenile justice reform Interface between state and fed 	<p>Role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate leadership across agencies to meet needs of children Develop strategies to address gaps regarding early care and education, medical, behavioral health, community, child welfare, and juvenile justice Develop strategies to promote the full continuum of care Provide a comprehensive vision for how/where children are best served 	<p>Role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Chapter 27-20 Gather information concerning issues of child welfare, including education, abuse and neglect Receive reports and testimony in furtherance of the duties Advise on effective interventions, resources, and services for children

CHILDREN'S CABINET REPORT

Human Services Interim Committee

August 9, 2022

Senator Joan Heckaman

Madam Chair Lee and Members of the Interim Human Services Committee:

I am Senator Joan Heckaman, Chairman of the Children's Cabinet and am here today to provide a brief update on the work of the Cabinet and the recommendations from the Cabinet for your information.

The Cabinet is made up of 12 members from various disciplines as directed by SB 2313 from the 2019 session. Small adjustments were made in the 2021 session with the Chairman of Legislative Management selecting a legislator to chair the Cabinet rather than the Chairman of Legislative Management chairing the committee. I was that appointee and began in that position in the summer of 2021.

The Cabinet previously had been meeting quarterly and were receiving reports from a variety of departments and providers on their work across the state for the benefit of children. Beginning in October of 2021, the Cabinet members choose to begin meeting monthly and dig deeper into some programs for services to children across the state.

Since that time, we have held 1 hour monthly virtual meetings except for taking December off, and then holding face to face full day meeting July 15, 2022.

Today I will provide information about the work we have done. After receiving additional reports in October and November, the Cabinet began a deep dive into Foster Care services. We learned that while services across the state to the estimated 1500 children in the Foster Care system are moving along very well, about 1 to 3% of those 1500 are children with additional needs that bring concerns for the providers. We learned that some additional supports and recommendations would be beneficial to the child in service and their families, the families who provide Foster Care services, and the providers.

In April in response to concerns over needs for assessing high needs children in care, the Cabinet voted to recommend the development of the Lighthouse Project as presented by a workgroup. This project was highly recommended by the Department of Public Instruction along with the State Information Technology Department. It consists of the development of a database that will connect all state department information on children and will provide important information to better assess and utilize programs and services for children.

The following recommendations were also adopted by the Cabinet to assist in the efficient and effective delivery of services to children in Foster Care. These recommendations came from a workgroup of Zone Directors.

North Dakota Child Placement and Service Needs

Immediate and Mid-Range Needs

Listed below are some suggestions to help address the immediate and mid-range needs of North Dakota's child welfare system:

Immediate Needs:

- Develop a certification/licensing option for individuals to become authorized **emergency placements and licensing flexibility for community members and childcare providers to serve emergency, foster children.**
- Develop a short-term provisional or emergency licensing process for emergency placements.
 1. Funding is needed for paid, placement ability
 2. Process should be streamlined, nimble, and be available in all North Dakota communities.
 3. Emergency placements are short-term, community placements to meet immediate needs and to allow time for proper assessment, service planning, relative search, etc.
 4. Goal is to have emergency homes throughout North Dakota to keep existing supports such as childcare, school, etc. in place while longer term planning is performed.
- In addition, childcare is key to serving foster youth in both emergency and regular placements.
 1. Create flexibilities/variances in childcare licensing rules to meet foster child needs.
 2. Develop creative funding solutions to compensate childcare providers when they serve foster children. Funding solutions should consider best interest of foster child such as need for respite care and socialization.

- Create **incentives** for existing systems **to retain trained and quality workforce** ○ Support to certified youth shelters in providing services to at-risk youth by funding compensation incentives for their work force. Funding is needed to ensure operational stability, availability, and quality of operations.
- Fund incentives to increase salary and compensation levels for professional child welfare workers and paraprofessionals in the child welfare system providing direct supervision and service to children and families.
- Provide funding to develop and implement a student loan repayment program for child welfare workers. Collaborate with colleges to provide year-long paid internships for credit. Increased funding for paid training opportunities for residential and shelter related staff, recognizing that in workforce shortage situation it often requires overtime pay.

- Develop a **network of specialty foster homes** across the state that provide specialized services – such as working with high needs teenage females or males.
- Adjust funding and licensing structure to develop these homes into mini centers of specialization.
- This would encourage community setting, supportive services, specialization, and consistency of service.
- **Funding flexibility** to meet behavioral management/supervision needs of youth with high level needs and to support individualized care planning.
- There is great need for nimble, creative, and person-centered fiduciary tools to meet the needs of children in the child welfare system.

- **Assessment shelter facilities** to screen, identify the needs (physical, behavioral, educational), and stabilize. Assessment services would determine the most appropriate placement setting, as well as what community resources/services are necessary prior to discharge from the assessment center to another level of care or return home.
- An assessment facility needs to be staffed by professional level staff, with specialty knowledge/experience in those domains.
- Potential opportunity to be connected/supported by existing state systems such as the state hospital, human service centers, developmental center, YCC, etc.
- Comprehensive and intensive discharge planning to ensure services are in place prior to discharge.
- A strict criterion for admission, which includes exhausting all other placement options and a comprehensive list of reasons for denial.

- **Recommendations for North Dakota Service Provider Contracts.** Service providers who are contracted with or licensed by the Department of Human Services should be required to adhere to the following:
 - **No sudden/unplanned discharges.** A child should not be discharged until an appropriate discharge plan and services/placement is secured.

- The requirement to provide services throughout an entire region or service area. Too often service providers are not willing to travel provide similar service beyond a 20-mile radius of a major city. This is not realistic in a state such as North Dakota. Contracts should include **incentives for providing rural service** such as rural differential mileage and service provision rates.
- Contracts should require admission criteria focusing on child’s needs vs. the needs of the provider agency. **Individualized care planning** should be the norm vs. the exception.
- **Increased wages and training for direct care staff that serve at-risk and foster care populations.**
- Nearly every field & industry is experiencing a labor shortage currently. When an employee can make more money stocking shelves or work in a service industry, it is not realistic to expect them to earn less money for potentially more challenging work providing critical safety net services.
- Recommended similar approach conducted by the 2009 Legislative Session (SB 2012) that provided Qualified Service Provider (QSP) personnel serving elderly/disabled populations a supported salary increase. In the current situation, a **legislatively appropriated and directed wage increase** for specific providers providing core services to at-risk youth such as shelter personnel, which helped to stabilize the workforce and invest in targeted services.
- **Educational incentives** be provided to build workforce capacity and training competency for working with at-risk populations.
- FTEs and funding support for **Parent Aides and Transportation Aides** in human service zones to assist families and youth in the child welfare system. Parent Aides provide peer to peer coaching focusing on identified service plans and goals. Transportation Aides help ensure safe and reliable transportation and escort to critical appointments (behavioral and physical health) along with parent/child visitations.
- Make children and families the “infrastructure” of North Dakota
- Fully fund Behavior Health and Prevention services statewide for children and families.
- Promote and Invest in Family Advocacy outreach – to provide daily advocacy to families in the “system”
- Fully Fund Court Improvement Program (CIP) with additional funding from partnering agencies to expand and increase staff capacity to address statewide “child welfare” reform within all corners of ND.
 1. Quality Legal Rep statewide with IV-E funding
 2. DSY – one staff for ongoing support and training and policies to support compliance
 3. Annual training for stakeholders in Child Welfare cases - ICWA/CHIPS/CHINS/DSY/TPR
- Encourage, invest, and support private agencies applying for grants to be trained and provide 1915i services and Family First evidence-based services.
- Schulte report
 1. https://ndlegis.gov/files/committees/67-2021/23_2154_02000_09052presentation.pdf
- Use services currently available-

1. FCE – Family Center Engagement
2. ND Kinship Program - <https://kinshipnd.com/>
3. 211 and mobile Crisis Teams
4. Use Shelter Care/Respite Care as a prevention/assessment housing (grants)

Mid-Range Needs:

- Developing and funding a **system of treatment and care**, in North Dakota, that targets the common characteristics **of the youth most difficult to secure placement/service**. Including: cognitive impairment (below 70 IQ); a history of sexual acting out; physically aggressive; often males.
- **Legislative Study**. Considerable state and federal funds are invested in foster care. A study is recommended to analyze foster care trends, reasons for lack of placement options, identify system barriers and service gaps, and include a thorough analysis of why children are denied services. Furthermore, the recommended study would explore how can North Dakota develop prevention strategies and funding options to strengthen North Dakota families.
- **Specialty Services**. To help navigate and link North Dakota systems, several specialty services are recommended. This includes:
 - **Crisis team** of specialty child welfare workers that can work with placements/relatives to stabilize youth and their placement to avoid disruption
 - **Placement Recruiter**: Designated team to help strategize, locate, and recruit placement options for challenging to place youth in North Dakota.
 - **Licensing Gatekeeper**: There are many silos and gates to navigate when trying to access a licensed bed (foster home and/or facility) in North Dakota. There is need for a “gatekeeper” to help systems communicate clearly, to identify capacities and needs.
 - Incentives to grow **1915i providers** throughout North Dakota and reduce barriers for providers to enroll.
 - Provide funding to develop and implement a **student loan repayment program** for child welfare workers.
 - Provide incentives and reduce barriers for providers to engage in providing evidence-based services related to FFPSA funding streams.

July 15th METING:

3 topics were discussed with the following recommendations:

Mental/Behavioral Health Services

Immediate Solutions

- Attract workforce to ND. Break down barriers, fast stream reciprocity licensure.

- Integrate Behavioral health services in schools, keep kids out of courts, and mental health services for kids.
- Strengthen the family unit and add more systems to help support the family.
- Gating system, how to get kids to access to services they need. Example: Sanford Clinician has been visiting schools twice a week to provide mental health services to children.
- Support beneficial early childhood experiences
- Peer support for families/parents
- Working, incentivizing, and providing technical services to help schools provide mental/behavioral health services to their students.

Over-Representation of Native American Children in the Welfare System

Immediate Solutions

- Create a Native American Children's Cabinet
- Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA Court)
- ICWA specific legal representation for child welfare cases, pre and post removal

More Solutions

- CFSTC/NATI Collaboration specific to child welfare training

Lack of Providers

Immediate Solutions

- Shared Experience Families
- Workforce – Loan forgiveness, transportation services, paid internships
- High Need Services – Emergency assessment shelters

More solutions

- Code/Policy

ACCOUNTABILITY:

The Cabinet also supported an accountability factor in each of the areas presented. If an agency is impacted by the recommendations, a quarterly report is expected to determine which and to what extent the recommendations are being implemented. This may need further clarification as to notification process to specific agencies and the Cabinet will work this out.

WORKGROUPS

In June, the Cabinet received the final report from the CHINS (Children in Need of Services) workgroup. On August 1, 2022, cases of children previously referred to courts for services have been moved to the Human Services Zones for processing.

The workgroup identified two main areas of need. One subgroup worked on the referral process to the Zones and the second subgroup worked on Intake and Case Management Policies and procedures. That link is attached here. [North Dakota Association of Counties - House Bill 1427 Planning Committees \(ndaco.org\)](https://www.ndaco.org/committees/house-bill-1427-planning-committees)



CHINS Intake and
Case Management Po



CHINS Eligibility and
Referral Policy v.2.doc

NEXT STEPS:

At our upcoming August meeting, the Cabinet will receive reports from the other two Juvenile Justice workgroups which are the Committee for Alternative to Juvenile Detention and the Juvenile Justice Planning Committee.

REPORTING:

I also want to mention that I am getting a bill draft ready to have someone introduce it to the 2023 session that clarifies membership and reporting responsibilities for the Cabinet. Currently, the language in Century Code removes all 3 legislators on December 1st with new ones stepping in after appointments are made by Legislative Management. There is also no representation from DHS and that agency is responsible for most of the recommendations the Cabinet has made. The third issue is there are no reporting requirements for the Cabinet. In a conversation, Sen. Lee and I agreed it would be good to update this committee on the work of the Cabinet. I also have an appointment with the Governor this afternoon to present this report to his office. Cory Pedersen from Children and Family Services has been attending the meetings as the Foster Care recommendations are in his portfolio.

Thank you, Chairman Lee and Committee members for your time today. As you can see, the Cabinet has been busy, and we are also looking forward to continuing the work as assigned in SB 2313.

23.0213.02002
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Representative Conmy
March 15, 2023

SB 2034
3/21/23 PK
HEDU
Conmy

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Renumber accordingly

23.0213.02001
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Senator Hogan
March 14, 2023

SB 2034
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Page 3 Add an emergency clause.