



# NORTH DAKOTA FEDERATION OF FAMILIES

*For Children's Mental Health*

SUMMER 2022

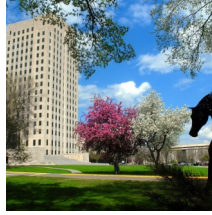
## Stories in this newsletter



CHINS Reform



Olmstead Commission



Alvarez and Marsal Study



MHAN Podcasts

## Children in Need of Services (CHINS) Reform Enacted

Starting August 1, 2022, ND will divert children in need of services from juvenile justice system and foster care. A statewide team of human service zone professionals will connect children and their families to community resources.



The team will work to engage, empower and encourage as it serves children who have run away, missed at least three days of school without an excused absence, use tobacco and related products, or regularly disobey their parents and guardians. Team members will assess needs and identify services and resources to meet their needs. School officials, parents, law enforcement and other interested adults should make referrals to the new CHINS team instead of the Juvenile Court.

To make a referral, complete the referral form found on the Department of Human Service's website and submit it by fax to (701) 328-0104 or email to [chins@nd.gov](mailto:chins@nd.gov). Find more information at: <https://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childfamily/chins.html>

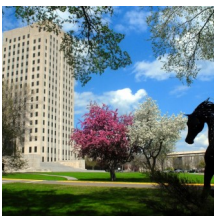
## Olmstead Commission



The ND Olmstead Commission, whose goal is greater integration and inclusion for persons with disabilities, met on July 19. The Olmstead Commission continued discussion at the request from the North Dakota Autism Disorder Advocacy Coalition about the disproportionate rate of admissions for persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder to the Life Skills and Transition Center (LSTC) in Grafton. Currently, the majority of individuals at LSTC have a diagnosis of an Autism Spectrum Disorder. Additional data was provided on length of stay, admission/readmission rates and reasons, co-occurring diagnoses, and assessments of individuals for Home and Community Based Services.

The Olmstead Commission also had a presentation about the 1915(i) State Plan Amendment. The 1915(i) allows ND to pay for additional home and community-based services to support individuals with behavioral health conditions. With the lowering of eligibility requirements (lowering WHODAS score requirement from 50 to 25), more individuals will be found eligible and access much needed services. There are now staff at DHS to connect eligible individuals to case management services. This should help individuals get started with services once they are found eligible.

## Alvarez and Marsal Report Findings Push for Disability Service Reforms



The ND legislature requested a study of the Developmental Disabilities service delivery system in North Dakota and services to people with autism. Alvarez and Marsal (A&M) were commissioned to do the primary study to inform the ND legislature on steps forward.

A&M found that there were strengths and weaknesses in the state's Developmental Disabilities service system. Among the strengths were the DD Waiver, which was seen as comprehensive and effective. However, A&M found that there was a significant cliff in services after children turn 3 years old. In addition, ND was found to have many waivers with inconsistent levels of funding support and suffer from having too many eligibility requirements. As a result, A&M found there was widespread inequity of access to services across disabilities.

To address these concerns, A&M had many recommendations, including the creation of a cross-disability children's waiver that would be more consistent with IDEA special education laws and the variety of disabilities that are covered under special education. A&M wanted ND to modernize its DD and disability waiver systems to be purposeful in serving people with disabilities from birth to seniors 65 years and older.

## Mental Health Advocacy Network Releases Several Podcast Episodes



Mental Health Advocacy Network (MHAN) has mass dropped 5 podcast episodes in June. MHAN's purpose is to advocate for a consumer/family-driven mental health system of care in ND. The MHAN Podcast is another venue for MHAN to advocate for its vision by doing in-depth interviews with people who can provide insightful analysis and commentary on ND's mental health system.

Episode 2: An Analysis of the North Dakota Mental Health Crisis Response System (Part 1)

Episode 3: An Analysis of the North Dakota Mental Health Crisis Response System (Part 2)

-Dr. Rosalie Etherington, Chief Clinical Officer for the Human Service Centers and the Superintendent of the State Hospital returns to answer tough questions about North Dakota's Mental Health Crisis Response System.

Episode 4: ND Consumer Family Network President Siobhan Deppa Shares Her Personal and Professional Journey

-Patrick & Matthew interview Siobhan Deppa, President of the North Dakota Consumer Family Network, who shares the story of her personal and professional journey.

Episode 5: Special ND Consumer Family Network Q/A with Dr. Rosalie Etherington

-Director of the ND State Hospital, Dr. Rosalie Etherington, does a special Q/A session with Siobhan Deppa, President of the North Dakota Consumer Family Network.

Episode 6: ND Behavioral Health 1915(i) Program Administrator Monica Haugen Shares Details For Those Needing Support

-Matthew and Patrick interview Monica Haugen, Home and Community-Based Services 1915(i) Program Administrator from the Behavioral Health Division of the ND Department of Human Services about the purpose and current status of the 1915(i) State Plan Amendment. What services does it provide? How can people apply? Do we have enough providers? Is the 1915(i) living up to its promise?

MHAN Podcast can be accessed through many podcast providers, including Apple Podcasts, Amazon Podcasts, and Google Podcasts.

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North Dakota Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health  
cmccleary@ndffcmh.com (Email)  
www.ndffcmh.org  
PO BOX 3061  
Bismarck, ND 58502  
(701) 222-3310

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