



# NORTH DAKOTA FEDERATION OF FAMILIES

*For Children's Mental Health*

FALL 2022

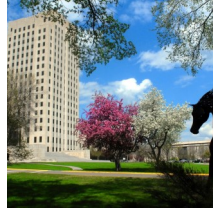
## Stories in this newsletter



988 Rollout



Education Advocacy Consortium Advice



Acute Psychiatric Treatment Committee



MHAN Podcasts

## 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Launches



In July ND launched its counterpart of the 988 suicide and crisis lifeline that rolled out across the country as part of the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act. This legislation created an easy-to-remember telephone number that would increase accessibility of the Lifeline.

When a North Dakota resident calls the National Suicide Lifeline, a trained member of the state's Lifeline crisis center, FirstLink, answers. FirstLink staff listen to the caller, understand how their problem is affecting them, provide support, and share resources if needed. If additional support is needed, FirstLink connects the person to their local Human Service Center's mobile crisis team.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.behavioralhealth.nd.gov/988>

## Education Advocacy Consortium: Advice for Families Struggling with School Attendance



Education Advocacy Consortium partners, including NDFFCMH and ND Protection & Advocacy Project have been monitoring the implementation of CHINS and growing issues surrounding school attendance for children with disabilities or suspected disabilities.

ND Century Code requires school attendance for children until they reach 16 years old and penalizes failure of students to attend school. However, there are some exceptions. Century code establishes that "in a prosecution for an offense under this section, it is an affirmative defense if the person responsible for ensuring that the student is in attendance has made substantial and reasonable efforts to comply with the requirements of this section, but is unable to compel the student to attend school. If the court determines that the affirmative defense is valid, the court shall dismiss the complaint against the person."

Parents and school teams are encouraged to collaborate to get children to school in as integrated a setting as possible, but there are going to be occasions in which some students, due to their disability are struggling to get to school. While the above section of Century Code should be protection for guardians under those circumstances, our system partners have offered some useful advice in case more is needed.

If a child is under an IEP, it may be advisable to write into the IEP that a student does not need to follow ordinary school attendance policies.

## Interim Acute Psychiatric Treatment Committee



The Acute Psychiatric Treatment Committee met in October at Prairie St. John's Hospital in Fargo. Bill drafts relating to the State Hospital were presented. Disability advocates would argue that the issue of the IMD Exclusion Waiver loomed large over the hearing. The IMD Exclusion was created to ensure that states would not have an overreliance on institutional care for people with psychiatric disabilities instead of community-based services in or near their home communities. To do this, the federal government severely restricted the opportunities states and institutional facilities could use Medicaid funding for institutional placements of people with psychiatric disabilities, limiting such reimbursements for facilities that have 16 beds or less.

Despite these restrictions, there are options for states to pursue to remove those barriers. States can apply for an IMD Exclusion Waiver (also known as a Section 1115 waiver) to allow for facilities larger than 16 beds to reimburse their services through Medicaid. There is significant interest from providers like Prairie St. Johns and Sharehouse to do this. The concern is that doing this may irreparably

## Mental Health Advocacy Network Releases More Podcast Episodes



Mental Health Advocacy Network (MHAN) has released another 4 podcast episodes this fall. 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 7: The Importance of Person-Centered Planning.

-Carlotta McCleary interviews Jake Reuter of ND Department of Human Services and Sheryl Beard of Williston, ND. Today the MHAN podcast discusses the importance of programs fitting the person they're trying to help—and not the other way around.

Episode 8: Juvenile Justice Reform with Karen Kringlie

-Patrick & Carlotta interview Karen Kringlie, Director of Juvenile Court for Unit 2. In 2021, Karen received the Governor's Pioneer Award for Excellence in Innovation for her work to modernize the juvenile justice system, including championing changes in state law that provide children and families with the services and supports they need and reduce unnecessary interactions with the juvenile justice system to improve outcomes later in life. Karen was part of the team involved with HB 1035 which was a re-write of the section of North Dakota Century Code pertaining to the juvenile court.

Episode 9: Veterans Services & Suicide Prevention with Guest Tammy Monsebroten

-North Dakota Veterans Administration's Suicide Prevention Coordinator Tammy Monsebroten joins Patrick & Matthew today to discuss what's being done for veterans related to suicide prevention. She shares what resources are currently available, how to recognize and react to someone in need, and prevention.

Episode 10: Safe Places for Homeless Youth & Youth With Disabilities With Fraser LTD & Youthworks

-Patrick & Matthew welcome Erica Markle (Youth Services Programs Administrator at Fraser, LTD) and Mark Heinert (Assistant Executive Director of Youthworks).

Today they discuss the resources available for youth in our region—especially the homeless. Both organizations are located in North Dakota and together they provide a broad range of services critical to all communities, including mental health services and independent/transitional living options in Fargo and elsewhere...giving all youth a safe place to be and a place to be heard.

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

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### KX News: Carlotta McCleary Interview



Carlotta McCleary, Executive Director of NDFFCMH appeared on Good Day North Dakota to discuss NDFFCMH and the services we provide and discussed the children's mental health crisis in North Dakota.

You can view the interview here: <https://www.kxnet.com/news/local-news/connecting-kids-and-families-with-families-and-mental-health-resources/>

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