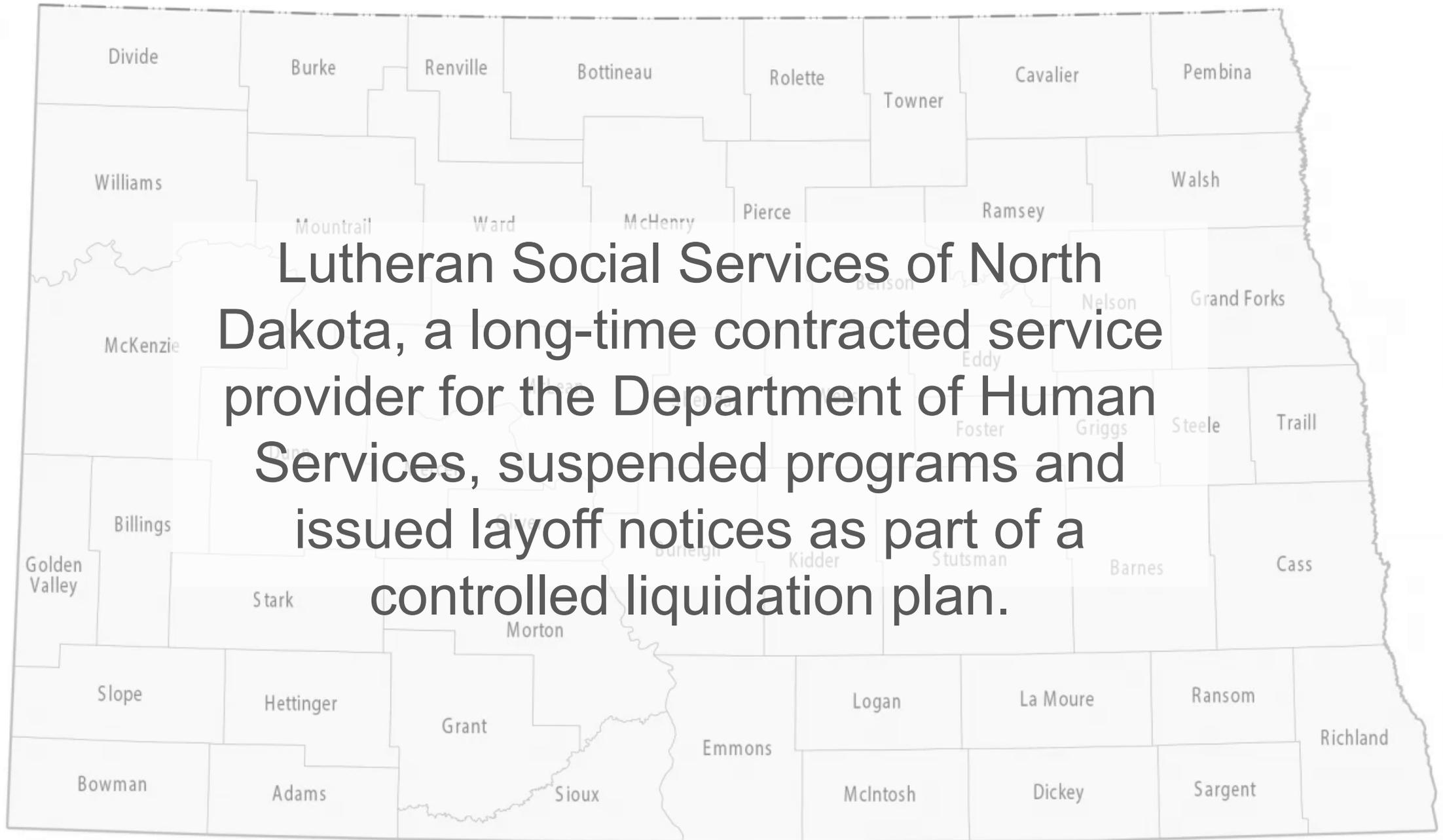


AN UPDATE RE THE MAINTENANCE OF
CONTRACTED SERVICES FORMERLY PROVIDED BY
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF NORTH DAKOTA

House Appropriations | Human Resources Subdivision





Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota, a long-time contracted service provider for the Department of Human Services, suspended programs and issued layoff notices as part of a controlled liquidation plan.



Why did DHS establish a Work Group in this situation?

LSSND was contracted to provide several critical services on behalf of the state. The **state** has a **responsibility** to assure uninterrupted delivery of these services.

LSSND provided a wide array of human services in communities across North Dakota and, in many cases, was the **only provider** of a particular service in a community.

WORK GROUP GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Minimize disruption of core services
- Ensure safety for children and adults receiving behavioral health and addiction/recovery services
- Transition core staff for state-required services to DHS temporarily, to allow for longer-term solutions to be identified
- Evaluate efficiency and effectiveness of contracted services to guide future procurement

EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE

Programs:

Child Care Aware
Bright & Early
Growing Futures

*Coaching, training, workforce
development, quality
improvement for child care
providers; parent resource and
referral services*

Funding:

Child Care Development
Block Grant

Impact:

3 provider-oriented data
systems; 33 staff



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Programs:

Project Renew

Crisis Counseling response line for behavioral health needs related to pandemic

Funding:

SAMHSA and FEMA Crisis Counseling Assistance

Impact:

5-7 staff temporarily connected to DHS to avoid interruption in availability of behavioral health crisis resource

Programs:

Gambler's Choice

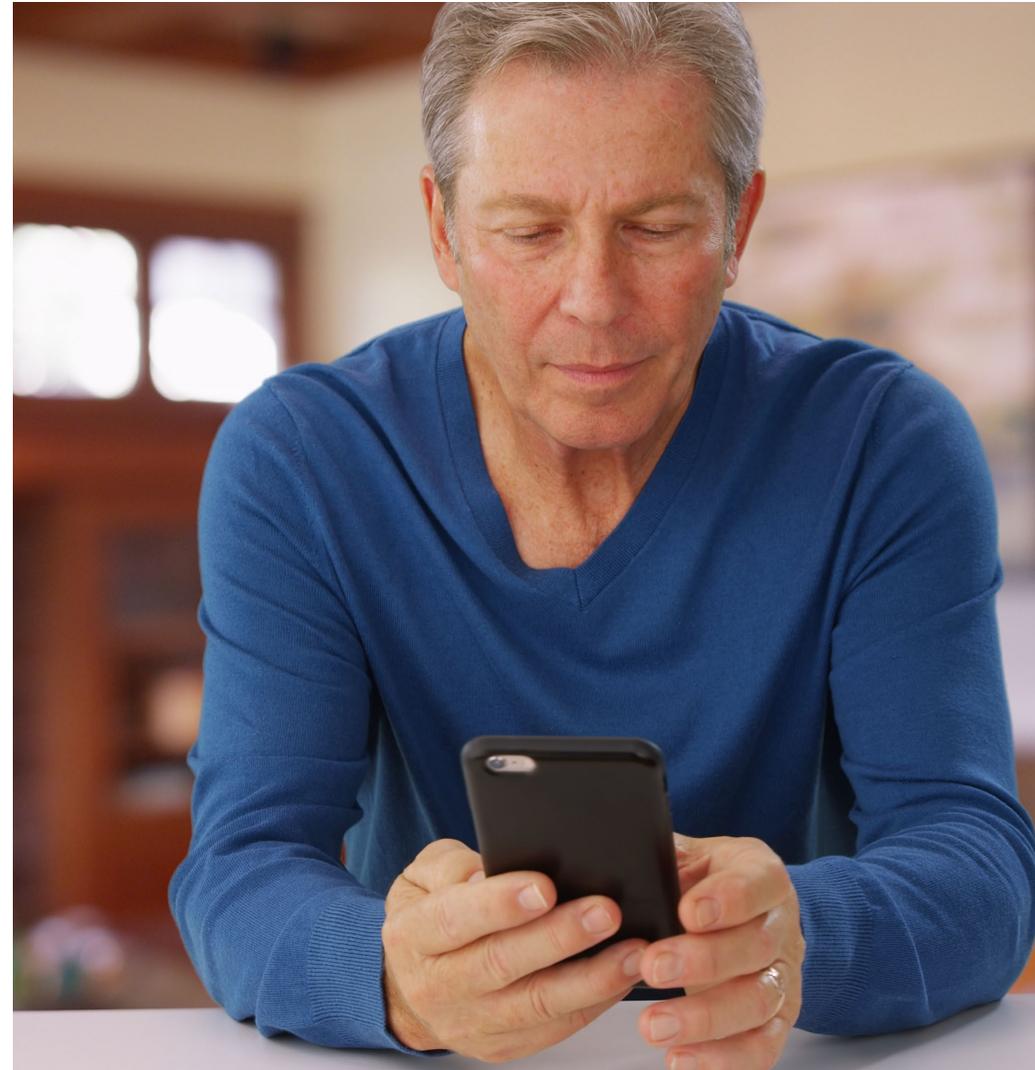
Problem gambling prevention and treatment program to be made available to ND via State Lottery revenues

Funding:

State Special Funds (lottery)

Impact:

4 staff temporarily connected to DHS to avoid disruption in specialized addiction services



REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT COORDINATION

Programs:

Refugee Medical Assistance
Refugee Cash Assistance
Refugee Support Services

Wrap-around services for resettled refugees.

Funding:

Office of Refugee Resettlement (U.S. Dept of HHS)

Impact:

DHS re-assumes responsibility for state refugee coordination; 8-10 staff temporarily connected to DHS to facilitate program administration



URM FOSTER CARE

Programs:

Unaccompanied Refugee Minor
(URM) Foster Care

*Licensed foster care program that is fully
federally funded to serve unaccompanied
children*

Funding:

Office of Refugee Resettlement

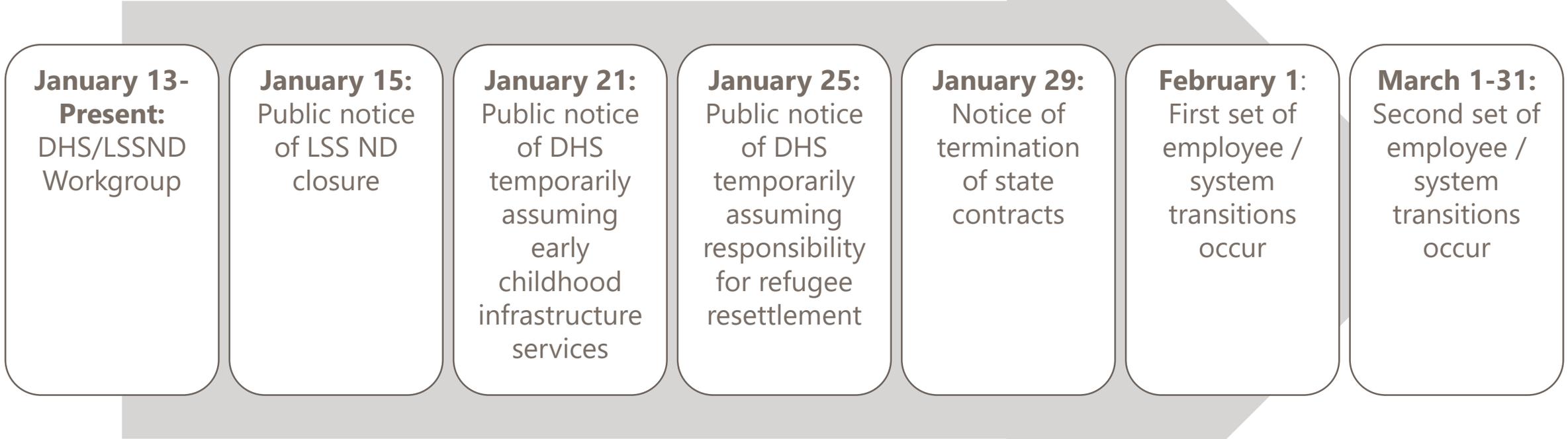
Impact:

7-9 staff temporarily connected to
DHS to ensure continued service to
40 foster children in 25 licensed
foster homes





TIMELINE



**January 13-
Present:**
DHS/LSSND
Workgroup

January 15:
Public notice
of LSS ND
closure

January 21:
Public notice
of DHS
temporarily
assuming
early
childhood
infrastructure
services

January 25:
Public notice
of DHS
temporarily
assuming
responsibility
for refugee
resettlement

January 29:
Notice of
termination
of state
contracts

February 1:
First set of
employee /
system
transitions
occur

March 1-31:
Second set of
employee /
system
transitions
occur

NEXT STEPS

1. Finalize the operating budget and provide an amendment to HB 1012
2. Write the ND State Plan for Refugee Support Services and submit to ORR on February 22
3. Continue to transition staff
4. Fully operational March 31