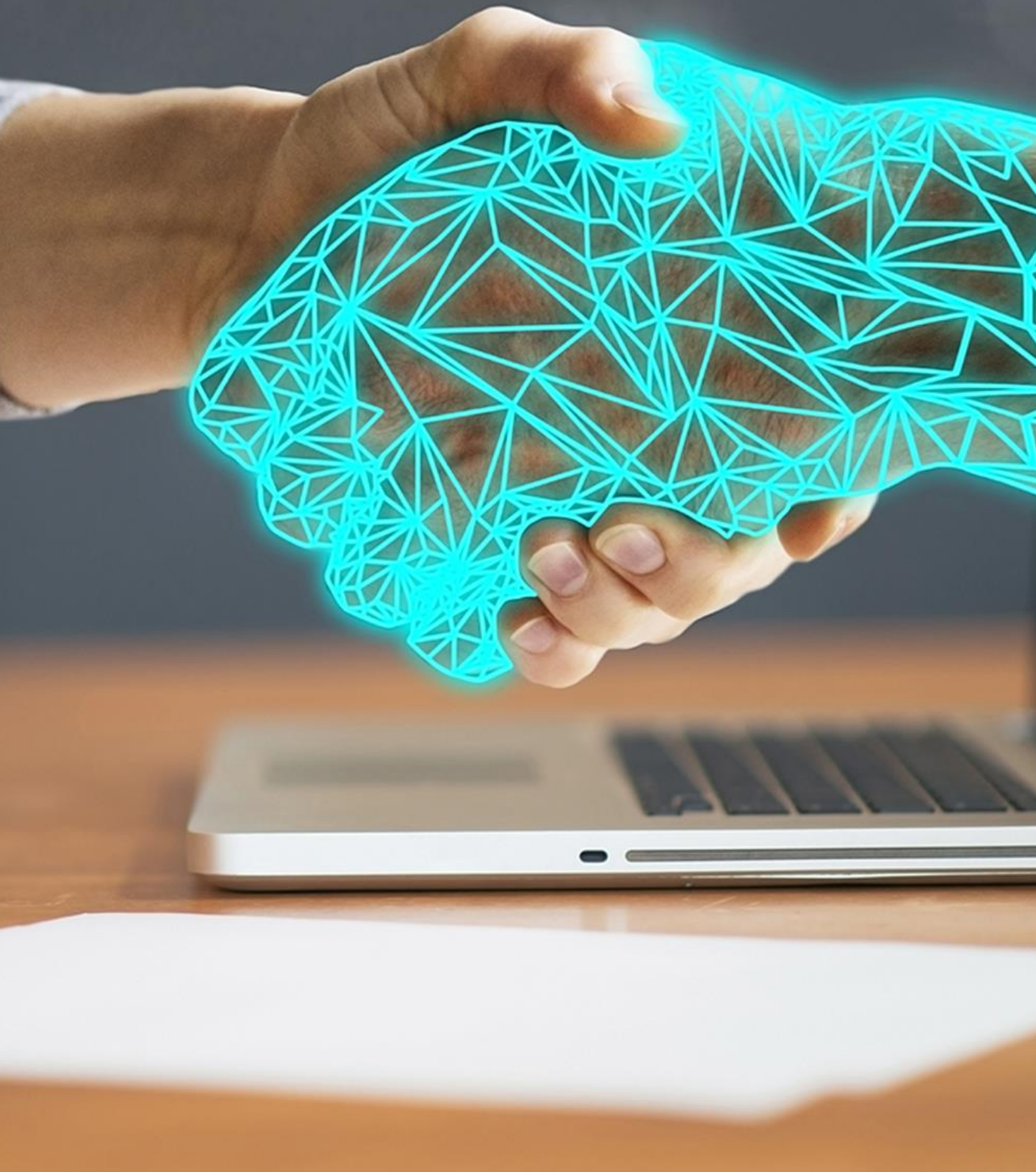
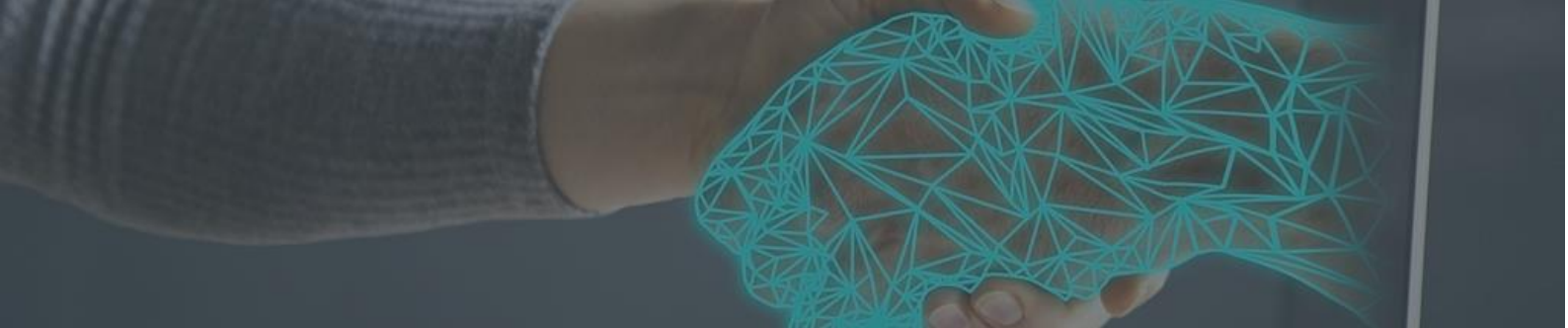


ND DOCR Innovation





Innovative Projects and Initiatives



ND DOCR is proposing to expand community services through ND DOCR grant allocations to judicial districts for innovative community program options beyond incarceration.



ND DOCR continues progressive change through guiding philosophies of dynamic security, normalcy, progression, and the import model. ND DOCR collaborates with national justice organizations, including Restoring Promise, AMEND, and the Last Mile.



ND DOCR – Information technology / Business Intelligence / Business Analysis

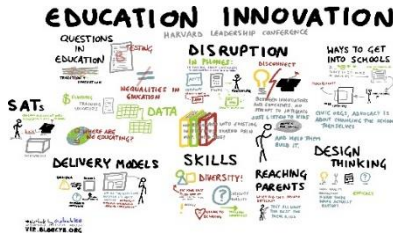
- Recidiviz Dashboarding – implementing a dashboarding project (zero budget cost) with non-profit Recidiviz; using nightly data to ingest to a Google cloud based data base.
- Foundation AI EMR Lifeboat / Data Warehouse - 20 multi-panel dashboards are being designed, document ingest and data capture of 35 document types for inclusion; transitioning the system from a medical-only tool, to a robust data warehouse leveraging the five core operational databases (prison, community supervision, medical system, pharmacy, and medication administration) used by DOCR. On premise and operated by DOCR.



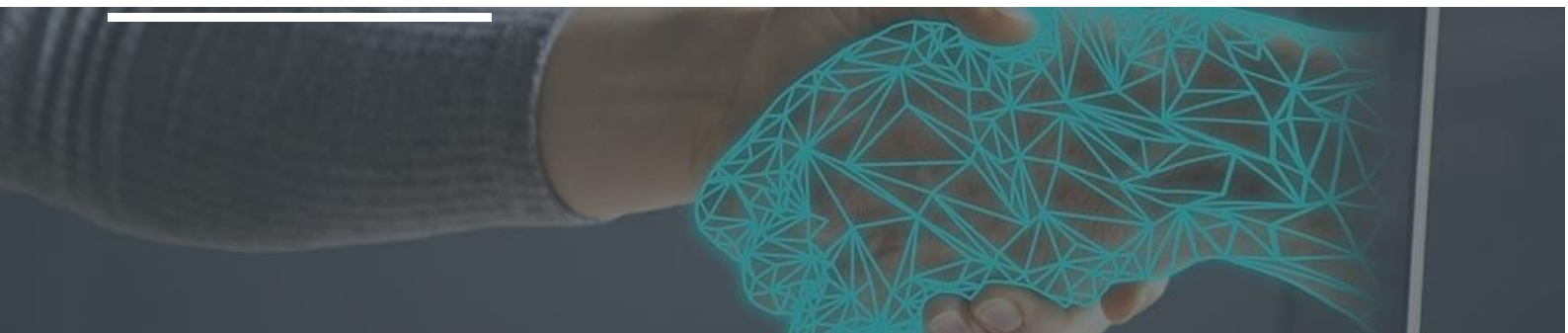
ND DOCR is increasing tele-services, including medical, behavioral health, education, and work.



ND DOCR's Division of Juvenile Services is helping to rewrite the Uniform Juvenile Court Act, which has been virtually untouched since the 1969 authorship and the 1974 enactment.



ND DOCR's Youth Correctional Center is one of the Knowledgeworks Innovative schools, piloting the North Dakota Personalized, Competency-Based Learning (PCBL) instruction model and attribute transcript. ND DOCR's Adult Education has written a national mentoring guide for correctional educators teaching Adult Basic Education (ABE).



Proposed Legislation

Expand Correctional Access to Mental Health Services (NDCC § 25-03.1-25(3)(b))

ND DOCR is the regulatory authority of regional and county correctional facilities. In that capacity, ND DOCR's Behavioral Health Services Division and Office of Inspections plan to offer to provide technical assistance to these correctional facilities and other stakeholders on mental health challenges in corrections. Specifically, ND DOCR would like to help explore legislative options for alternatives to holding patients on involuntary commitments in correctional facilities; alternatives to holding non-emergency civilly committed patients in correctional facilities; and opportunities for increased correctional facility access to mental health resources.

Streamline Access to Work Release Opportunities (NDCC § 12-48.1-02(2))

To help ND DOCR more efficiently provide individuals with long-term sentences (over 10 years) the opportunity to participate in work release and other community programs near the end of their sentences, ND DOCR recommends an agency bill to expand the ND DOCR Director's ability to allow those individuals to participate in release programs without Parole Board approval to facilitate re-entry. Although

the Parole Board typically approves all candidates, ND DOCR waits for the next Parole Board meeting, which may interfere with employers' start dates and hinder job prospects.

Transition Violent Offenders to the Community Effectively (NDCC § 12.1-32-09.1)

ND DOCR plans to assist a legislative sponsor with drafting a bill to reduce the "truth in sentencing" requirement for violent offenders of certain crimes to serve 85% of their sentences before becoming eligible to be considered for parole to a requirement to serve 65% before becoming eligible to be considered for parole by the Parole Board. ND DOCR anticipates the bill will provide for retroactive application. Currently, individuals in prison with 85% sentences often reach their good time release date prior to their parole eligibility. When individuals do not have the opportunity for parole and do not have probation to follow their incarceration, they do not have the opportunity to transition safely and effectively from prison while under supervision.

Expand Relocation for Indigent Released Individuals (NDCC § 12-47-31)

Although most individuals pay for their own transportation after release, ND DOCR requests an amendment to current legislation through an agency bill to allow ND DOCR to purchase a bus or train ticket for indigent individuals to travel to "a reasonable point specified in the case plan" where the individual has re-entry support. The location will be investigated by ND DOCR personnel.

Remove Threat of Imprisonment for Nonpayment of Fines (NDCC § 12.1-32-05(3))

ND DOCR suspects additional charges and punishment are not efficient uses of resources and may have unintended consequences. After ND DOCR completes a thorough review of relevant data, ND DOCR likely will want to help a legislative sponsor explore whether it may be beneficial to remove incarceration as a punishment for nonpayment of fines. The number of fines and fees and total amount of financial obligations individuals face when trying to transition out of the criminal justice system often make the transition very difficult.

Reduce Employment Barriers for Child Support Obligor (NDCC § 14-08.1-07)

ND DOCR would like to partner with DHS and a legislative sponsor to explore limiting or removing the authority for DHS's Child Support Division to suspend motor vehicle operator's licenses for nonpayment of child support. Justice-involved individuals often get behind on child support. When these individuals lose transportation or receive penalties for driving under suspension, they have even more difficulty gaining employment needed to begin to pay child support.

Streamline Supervision Fee Collection (NDCC § 12.1-32-07(2))

Currently parole and probation officers and case managers spend significant time collecting and tracking monthly fees; this time could be better spent on implementing evidence-based practices. ND DOCR would like to partner with a legislative sponsor to explore transitioning from monthly payments to annual payments, which would create efficiencies for staff and allow staff to spend more time on case planning to help individuals transition effectively out of the criminal justice system.

Transform Lives by Right-sizing Probation Caseloads (NDCC Ch. 54-23.3)

ND DOCR plans to submit an agency bill or collaborate with a legislative sponsor on a bill with strategies to reduce probation caseloads. The size of most caseloads hinders the ability for parole and probation personnel to implement evidence-based interventions.

Retain/Attract Staff through a Public Safety Retirement Plan (NDCC Ch. 54-52)

To continue to improve employee retention and work toward equitable compensation, ND DOCR plans to submit an agency bill to create a Public Safety Retirement Plan for parole and probation officers and correctional officers (including the supervisory chain of those groups). County correctional officers, federal correctional officers, many other states' correctional officers, the North Dakota Highway Patrol, and the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation have public safety retirement plans. Parole and probation officers and correctional officers face dangerous situations and receive relatively low compensation. As ND DOCR implements evidenced-based approaches in the community and in its facilities, the need for skilled, experienced, and engaged personnel continues to grow.

Enhance Staff, Victim and Witness Safety and Wellbeing (NDCC Ch. 54-23.3)

Although most individuals incarcerated at ND DOCR are not likely to harm victims, witnesses or staff, ND DOCR houses some dangerous and well-connected individuals. Staff, victims, and witnesses can face danger within the facility and even outside the facility for sharing information that may have detrimental impacts on these individuals. To encourage the flow of intelligence information and to protect those who provide information, ND DOCR proposes an agency bill to make records relating to internal investigations exempt if disclosure would reveal the identity of or endanger the physical well-being of victims, witnesses, department informants, department employees, and former department employees.

Expand Parole Board's Ability to Update Parole Conditions (NDCC § 12-59-12)

After parolees spend time in the community, parole and probation staff commonly identify additional areas of risk. Currently, there is not a mechanism for the Parole Board to change conditions of supervision. ND DOCR plans to submit an agency bill to clarify the Parole Board's authority to change conditions of supervision throughout the duration of parole. This change would help the Parole Board create solutions to intervene sooner and more effectively, instead of revoking or allowing the parolee to continue to fail until revocation is inevitable.

Update Medical Parole to Address Pandemic Conditions (NDCC § 12-59-08)

ND DOCR buildings were not built for pandemic conditions for the number of individuals ND DOCR is asked to serve. Given limited resources, the Parole Board needs clear authority to consider alternate placements for those with underlying medical conditions. ND DOCR would like to draft an agency bill to clarify that medical parole may be based on the substantial risk of serious injury or death based on underlying medical conditions.