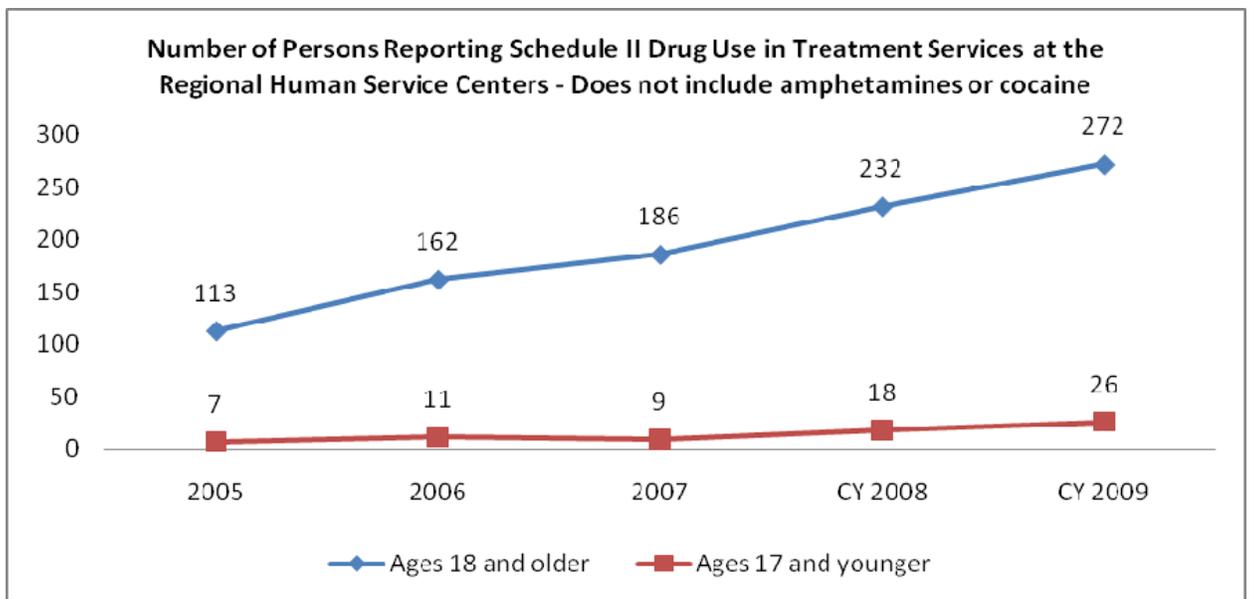


Testimony
Senate Bill 2151 – Department of Human Services
House Human Services
Representative Weisz, Chairman
March 15, 2011

Chairman Weisz, members of the House Human Services Committee, I am JoAnne Hoesel, Director of the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse for the Department of Human Services (DHS). I am here to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 2151.



The non-medical use of prescription drugs is a growing problem in North Dakota.

- 6.3% of middle school students and 15% of high school students reported taking prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription (YRBS, 2009).
- 43.9% of community members don't know if youth prescription drug abuse in their community is a problem (CRS, 2008).

DHS supports the addition of licensed addiction counselors having access to the ND Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. These professionals are uniquely qualified and positioned to use this information at the time of addiction evaluation or treatment. Timing is critical to an intervention.

The division licenses 81 licensed substance abuse treatment programs in North Dakota. The access allowed in this legislation will be another tool in their treatment 'toolbox'. It has the potential to maximize the program's potential and most importantly play a role to bring clients who are doctor shopping into treatment and recovery.

I am available to answer any questions.