

**BEFORE THE
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES COMMITTEE
OF THE
NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**Request for an Extension for)
Administrative Rules governing)
Enrollment of Licensed Marriage)
and Family Therapists to Provide)
Services to Recipients of)
Medical Assistance)
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**DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES**

September 15, 2015

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Chairman Devlin and members of the committee, my name is Julie Leer and I am an attorney with the Department of Human Services' Legal Advisory Unit. I am here today to request an extension to adopt administrative rules governing the enrollment of licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFT) as of January 1, 2016, to provide services to recipients of medical assistance. The Department will begin enrolling LMFT in January 2016; however, we are not able to prepare corresponding administrative rule changes for consideration within nine months of the effective date of 2015 Senate Bill No. 2046. When the Department implements limitations on services, we research what other state Medicaid programs are allowing for coverage and what, if any limitations or exclusions they include. We also research what other third party payers allow for coverage and include for limitations. Finally, as part of including coverage, including any limitations, in the Medicaid State Plan (submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)), the Department is required to provide CMS with information about how we established the limits and how we will guarantee access to services with the limits imposed. This information will need to be submitted to CMS no later than March 31, 2016. Due to the amount of research we need to conduct before we can

identify the changes we need to make to our rules, the Department is not able to complete the research and develop coverage limitations for rule changes that need to be adopted by May 1, 2016. If the extension is granted, the Department intends to adopt rules by January 1, 2017.

I would be happy to try and answer any questions that you may have.
Thank you.

Prepared by:

Julie Leer

September 15, 2015