Testimony
Department of Human Services
Health Care Reform Review Committee
Representative George Keiser, Chairman
July 9, 2013

Chairman Keiser, members of the Health Care Reform Review Committee, I am Jenny Witham, Chief Information Officer for the Department of Human Services (DHS). I appear before you to provide information regarding the status of the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) portions of the eligibility system modernization project and how this system will be integrating with the Federal Facilitated Marketplace (FFM) health benefit exchange.

In November 2011, House Bill No. 1475 Section 1 authorized $42,617,925 of which $8,736,679 is general fund to support the modernization of DHS's eligibility determination systems. The first phase of the project is focused on meeting the requirements of the Affordable Care Act.

The project plan for phase one has five major "waves" of system functionality:

- July 2013 – ITD will be testing key interactions between state eligibility determination system and the FFM
- October 2013 – New DHS client portal will be available, providing a "no wrong door" approach to North Dakotans seeking health coverage
- December 2013 – Enrollment of Medicaid expansion clients for January 1, 2014, coverage with third party carrier ("truly newly" individuals)

- January 2014 – Medicaid Management Information System accepts transactions from the new Modified Gross Income Test eligibility determination process (clients in traditional Medicaid coverage, i.e. "woodwork" individuals)
- March 2014 – Expanded functionality added to DHS client portal

The milestones outlined above are still very aggressive, but we believe we have addressed all the requirements over the six month implementation.

We have successfully completed the first of three CMS required project reviews. The second review is scheduled for next month, and the final review is planned to take place before the October implementation.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to address them at this time.