

Testimony
Engrossed House Bill 1012 – Department of Human Services
Senate Appropriations
Senator Holmberg, Chairman
March 13, 2013

Chairman Holmberg, members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am Alex C. Schweitzer, Director of Field Services of the Department of Human Services (Department). I am here today to provide you an overview of the statewide Human Service Center administration.

Programs

This area of the budget includes the system-wide resources to provide support to the Field Services division to carry out their programs. Resources include the Lead Fiscal Manager for Field Services, the state-wide Human Service Center Training Coordinator, the centralized billing and receivables department, and the state-wide contracts for Inpatient Hospitalization, Medical Detoxification, and Mobile On-call Crisis Stabilization services.

All of these resources were previously budgeted in one of the human service centers or in the Administration area of the Department's budget.

Major Program Changes

There have not been any major program changes in this area.

Overview of Budget Changes – State-Wide HSC Management

Description	2011 - 2013 Budget	Increase/ Decrease	2013 - 2015 Executive Budget	House Changes	To Senate
HSCs/Institutions	6,002,865	66,890	6,069,755	(1,000,000)	5,069,755
General Fund	4,653,031	341,585	4,994,616	(600,000)	4,394,616
Federal Funds	1,349,834	(274,695)	1,075,139	(400,000)	675,139
Other Funds	-	-	-	-	-
Total	6,002,865	66,890	6,069,755	(1,000,000)	5,069,755
FTE	13.00	-	13.00	-	13.00

Budget Changes from Current Budget to the Executive Budget:

- \$41,586 in total funds, all general fund, is needed to fund the Governor’s Benefit package for health insurance and retirement for state employees.
- \$37,578 in total funds, all general fund, is needed to fund the employee increases approved by the last Legislative Assembly.
- Decreases in travel and rent account for a reduction of approximately \$12,000 in the operating area.

The increase in general fund is related to a decrease in federal collection funding in this portion of the budget for the 2013-2015 biennium.

House Changes:

An overall \$1,000,000 reduction, with \$600,000 being general fund, was made in the Statewide Human Service Center Administration area. This reduces the available funding for the Inpatient Hospitalization contracts

by approximately 25% in the North Central, Northeast, Southeast, West Central and Badlands regions. This reduction in the local inpatient hospitalization option would lead to increased admissions to the North Dakota State Hospital. In addition, this reduction would also impede the Department's ability to provide mobile crisis team services in the Southeast region.

If reductions in inpatient hospitalization contracts and the mobile crisis team services are not sufficient to cover the reduction, the Department would then need to reduce vital core services in all regions, at a time when capacity and service needs are on the rise.

This concludes my testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.