

**Budget Committee on Human Services
Human Service Center Study
Representative Dever, Chairman
May 31, 2006**

Chairman Dever and members of the Budget Committee on Human Services, I am Lynn Nelson, Regional Director of the Lake Region Human Service Center in Devils Lake. I am here today to provide you with an overview of the Lake Region Human Service Center.

The Lake Region Human Service Center provides a variety of services to residents of the following six North Dakota counties: Rolette, Cavalier, Towner, Ramsey, Benson and Eddy.

The presentations you will hear today will focus primarily on the Human Service Center reporting format developed by the Legislative Council.

Today, Mr. Clint DeVier, Regional Fiscal Manager for Lake Region Human Service Center, and I will be presenting trends, concerns and budget data related to the Lake Region area.

Lake Region Human Service Center is experiencing many of the same challenges as South Central Human Service Center in recruitment of staff. Lake Region Human Service Center has been actively recruiting a vacant psychologist position for many months. We are also finding recruitment of advanced clinical specialists and licensed addiction counselors quite difficult.

Lake Region Human Service Center continues to operate a substance abuse treatment program in both Rolla and Devils Lake. In fiscal year 2005, Lake Region had 260 adults admitted to our crisis units (124 in Devils Lake; 136 at our Rolla

office) and an additional 42 adolescent Crisis Residential Unit admissions needing addiction treatment.

Substance abuse issues continue to be a major area of concern in Region III. Some of the trends in substance abuse services at Lake Region Human Service Center include:

- One-third of the North Dakota citizens in Region III are Native-American and 43% of all clients receiving clinical services at Lake Region Human Service Center during state fiscal year 2005 were Native-American. This percentage climbs much higher in the substance abuse area.
- Lake Region, in a recent “point-in-time analysis,” revealed that 239 adult clients were “externally motivated” for services by either a court system or probation and parole. Sixty-nine percent (69%) of these referrals were for substance abuse services. Of the 91 adults referred by the State Probation and Parole during the time analysis, 77% were referred for substance abuse.
- In both adolescent and adult populations, we are seeing a definite sustained increase in presenting problems involving dual mental health and substance abuse issues.
- There is an increasing trend toward poly-substance abuse, and there is an increase in the total number of drugs being used.
- Presentations involving the use of methamphetamines continue to increase in the Lake Region area, and we are seeing a poly-substance use trend of combining meth with the prescription pain medication, OxyContin, with the latter becoming a significant drug of choice.
- There is an increase in clients in substance abuse treatment where child protective service concerns are present.

- **Inhalant abuse continues to be a significant concern for adolescents in the region, and we continue to see some of this in the adult population as well.**
- **Tobacco use remains a significant trend in the overall substance abuse population, and an estimated 75% of adults evaluated for substance abuse at Lake Region are tobacco users.**
- **Reported first use of substances (excluding tobacco) is lower over the past three to four years; most common age at first use is eight to nine years old.**
- **The demise of adolescent drug court on Spirit Lake Nation three years ago results in fewer early interventions; thus, those presenting have more serious legal problems.**
- **Increased incidents of alcohol poisoning among adolescents in some parts of the region.**
- **No-show rates remain a challenge, and with the price of gas affecting transportation, possible increases in no-shows are of concern.**
- **Poly-substance use by adolescents is also a continued concern, with drugs of choice ranked as follows: cannabis/alcohol/opiates/amphetamines/hallucinogens/inhalants.**

Mr. Clint DeVier, Regional Fiscal Manager of Lake Region Human Service Center, will give you an overview of the total Center budget and the administrative budget for the Lake Region Human Service Center.