

Testimony
House Bill 1012 – Department of Human Services
House Appropriations – Human Resources Division
Representative Pollert, Chairman
January 22, 2009

Chairman Pollert, members of the House Appropriations Human Resources Committee, I am Marilyn Rudolph, Director of Northwest Human Service Center(NWHSC) in Williston and North Central Human Service Center (NCHSC) in Minot for the Department of Human Services (DHS). I am submitting this testimony to provide an overview of the budget for both centers.

Northwest Human Service Center

Northwest Human Service Center serves Divide, McKenzie and Williams counties. Outreach offices are located in Crosby, Tioga and Watford City.

Caseload / Customer Base

- Northwest Human Service Center provided services to 1,263 consumers in SFY 2008; 883 adults and 379 children were served. This is an increase since last biennium. We are serving more individuals covered by insurance. This may be a result of high employment in the oil industries.
- Northwest Human Service Center provided Vocational Rehabilitation services to an additional 332 consumers in 2008.

Program Trends

- The challenge facing Northwest Human Service Center is recruitment of professional and paraprofessional staff. We now

have two vacant PhD level psychologist positions. One position has been vacant since February 2008. The second was vacated November 1, 2008. We have worked with DHS Human Resources to advertise to no avail. Currently, we are utilizing nine hours a week of psychological services from a recently retired psychologist. Licensure requires a psychologist participate on our multidisciplinary diagnostic team. We have partnered with West Central Human Service Center to provide tele-staffing with one of their psychologists for multidisciplinary staffing, which worked well; however, we cannot offer the full psychological evaluation service with this limited arrangement. We have also had a Mental Health Technician position vacancy since May of 2008. This is a job coach position. The work is demanding and is often shift work. Often eligible applicants can work for more money per hour in less demanding positions. We have found that applicants who have ties to western North Dakota are more likely to accept positions here. As I stated in 2007, recruiting and retaining skilled staff in a very competitive market will be a major challenge.

Accomplishments

- A successful venture has been the Peer Support model administered by Western Sunrise, the consumer run, non-profit corporation. This model has provided the basis for peer training and support for 12 matches in Region I and two support groups weekly. This model has been extended to Region II and VI to date. Region II, Minot, has 24 matches and four support groups. Region VI, Jamestown, is serving 64 people in recovery groups. The Recovery model promotes peer support, self help and employment as pillars of

support to prevent exacerbation of serious mental illness and hospitalization. This model is cost effective and sustainable.

Overview of Budget Changes

Description	2007 - 2009 Budget	2009 - 2011 Budget	Increase / Decrease
Northwest HSC	7,476,823	8,562,127	1,085,304
General Funds	4,279,976	4,881,955	601,979
Federal Funds	2,851,727	3,328,518	476,791
Other Funds	345,120	351,654	6,534
Total	7,476,823	8,562,127	1,085,304
FTE	44.75	44.75	0

- Salary changes include:
 - The Governor's salary package recommendation requires \$512,678 total funds with \$392,469 being from the general fund.
 - The cost to continue the July 2008 4% salary increase for 24 months versus the current 12 months of funding requires \$84,216 total funds with \$68,998 being from the general fund.

- Changes in operating include:
 - Travel increased \$54,549. Prior to North Central's move to its new location the director slept in space at the center that was not being used. Now she is using a motel when traveling. Administrative travel has been increased \$12,276. Usage and Department of Transportation rate increases account for the additional \$42,273.

- Building rent increased \$34,069. The yearly maximum lease adjustment for the center's Williston office has been increased from \$10,000 to \$20,000 per year to allow for increases in utilities, taxes, insurance and building maintenance and upkeep. The rent for the center's outreach office in Watford City has increased by \$50 per month. Until earlier in this biennium the center had been receiving space in Crosby rent free from the county. Due to the county's need for additional space the center is now renting space elsewhere in town for \$250 per month.
- Grants increased \$424,279. The demand for services for Seriously Mentally Ill clients account for \$209,306. Inflationary increases are \$194,526 of which \$140,512 is general fund.
- Federal funds from Medical Assistance and other federal sources have increased \$476,791. Other funds increased \$6,534.

North Central Human Service Center

North Central Human Service Center serves seven counties:

Bottineau, Burke, McHenry, Mountrail, Pierce, Renville and Ward.

Outreach is provided in New Town, Rugby, Bottineau and Stanley.

Caseload / Customer Base

- North Central Human Service Center provided services to 3,215 individuals in SFY 2008. (2,464 adults and 75 children were served.)
- North Central Human Service Center Vocational Rehabilitation served 802 individuals in 2008.

Program Trends

- North Central Human Service Center has requested \$1,458,307 as part of the Global Behavioral Health Initiative to procure a crisis residential unit to serve individuals identified as seriously mentally ill. We have had a contractual agreement with Trinity Hospital to provide hospitalization and stabilization to individuals with serious mental illness. Many of these individuals were then sent to the North Dakota State Hospital. In 2007, Trinity admitted 291 individuals with a total of 1,164 days hospitalized. The cost of hospitalization far exceeds our ability to pay. Sending these individuals to the North Dakota State Hospital exceeds the capacity of the State Hospital. Our intention is to contract for an eight bed facility with skilled staff to stabilize and transition individuals in the community. This will alleviate the burden on the private community hospital and reduce the stressed capacity at North Dakota State Hospital.

Accomplishments

North Central Human Service Center Addiction Services has achieved a high level of diversification in their offering of treatment options.

The Matrix model is an evidence-based intensive evening outpatient program. This program requires specific training and competency. North Central Human Service Center's Matrix program has been certified by the Matrix Institute on Addictions.

An innovative approach to rural services is the Outreach Program for Aging Services. Outreach is the establishment of eligibility for Aging Services programs such as Meals on Wheels and health and wellness programs. We provide information and referral services to seniors (individuals 60 or over) in their homes. The goal is to provide connection for seniors to available services. The coordinator manages referrals and assigns QSP's (qualified service providers) to go into homes in the seven county region.

Overview of Budget Changes

Description	2007 - 2009 Budget	2009 - 2011 Budget	Increase / Decrease
North Central HSC	16,894,368	20,923,799	4,029,431
General Funds	8,755,623	12,098,437	3,342,814
Federal Funds	7,285,751	7,976,026	690,275
Other Funds	852,994	849,336	(3,658)
Total	16,894,368	20,923,799	4,209,431
FTE	116.78	117.68	1.00

- Salary changes to the budget include:
 - The Governor's salary package recommendation requires \$1.3 million total funds with \$1.0 million being from the general fund.
 - The cost to continue the July 2008 4% salary increase for 24 months versus the current 12 months of funding requires \$197,825 total funds with \$180,101 being from the general fund.
 - Additional changes in the salary area are a result of the addition of one FTE for a DD Case Manager. The budget for this position is \$100,626 of which \$50,313 is from the general

fund. The realignment of staff to meet client needs total \$234,044 of which \$163,830 is general funds. North Central employs a temporary part-time psychiatrist with a budget of \$56,016, as well as one counselor position from Bottineau to provide services in that area with a budget of \$38,760, and staff to provide necessary coverage at the center's transitional living facility with salaries of \$26,448. General funds for these temporary positions are \$84,857.

- The budget for operating expenses has increased \$39,932 or 2.3%.

- Grants increased \$2,211,526.
 - The cost to continue the current services for Seriously Mentally Ill clients is \$305,893.
 - Inflationary increases are \$408,959 of which \$387,170 is general fund.
 - Additional community based services for the Seriously Mentally Ill, designed to fill gaps in the continuum of care, increase payment to the local hospital, and assist the state hospital to manage its patient census is budgeted for \$1,458,307 of which \$1,358,307 is general fund.

- General funds increased by \$3,342,814, with \$1,055,295 related to salaries, benefits and the one FTE in Developmental Disabilities. Inflationary increases for service providers and the development of community based services for the Seriously Mentally Ill have \$1,745,478 in general fund budgeted. The remaining \$542,041 is related to ongoing costs to continue operations.

- Federal Funds from Medical Assistance and other federal sources have increased \$690,275. Other Funds decreased \$3,658.

This concludes my testimony on the 2009 – 2011 budget request for Northwest Human Service Center and North Central Human Service Center. I would be happy to answer any questions.