

Testimony
House Bill 1072 – Department of Human Services
House Appropriations – Human Resources Division
Representative Pollert, Chairman
January 23, 2017

Chairman Pollert and members of the House Appropriations Committee – Human Resources Division, I am Brad Brown, Director of West Central Human Service Center (WCHSC) and Badlands Human Service Center (BLHSC) for the Department of Human Services (Department). I am here today to provide an overview of the programs and services that make up the budget request for the WCHSC and BLHSC.

West Central Human Service Center (WCHSC)

WCHSC is the second largest human service center in North Dakota serving the highest overall volume of individuals. This human service center provides community behavioral health and safety net services to individuals who live in McLean, Sheridan, Mercer, Oliver, Burleigh, Kidder, Morton, Grant, Sioux and Emmons counties, in Region VII. This region is comprised of 188,229 residents (24.8% of the state's population) as estimated by the 2015 U.S. Census Bureau.

Program Trends/Program Changes

WCHSC serves adults, adolescents and children with an array of different service needs from individuals with severe and persistent mental illnesses and substance use disorders to individuals with developmental disabilities. WCHSC substance use disorder services continue to train and move forward with the Recovery Management philosophy and Dual Disorder Capability in Addiction Treatment (DDCAT). This will allow for additional client's to be served on an integrated basis center wide.

WCHSC has reduced inpatient behavioral health hospitalization stays with the addition of four beds to the Crisis Residential Unit (CRU) that includes a Withdrawal Management service within a social detox setting. This has resulted in a residential bed utilization increase for our region. WCHSC CRU was also utilized for admissions from other regions within the State allowing those regions to have access to residential beds. In addition, WCHSC Youth Residential Services (YRS) accepts referrals from all regions across the State for adolescent substance use disorder residential treatment.

WCHSC maintains involvement in adult and adolescent drug courts, the jail diversion program, consultation with local law enforcement, and providing mental health assessments and psychiatric services for the County Jail. In addition, WCHSC works in collaboration with Burleigh County Detention Center for identification of needs and assessment of inmates prior to their release to assist with lowering recidivism rates and to coordinate behavioral health services, housing, insurance, and other recovery capital needs. In a similar manner, WCHSC has a release and integration program with the North Dakota State Penitentiary which identifies the behavioral health needs of inmates reintegrating into our region. The human service center participates in the Region VII Mental Health and Justice Coalition to provide strategies to problem solve service delivery and recidivism rates.

WCHSC provides several training opportunities. In conjunction with the University of North Dakota (UND) Medical School, WCHSC continues to function as a psychiatric residency training site. Over the past two years WCHSC has assisted with training six psychiatry residents. This has historically assisted with recruitment of psychiatrists both at WCHSC and within the State. WCHSC has implemented an internship coordination process that has allowed training for 15 interns majoring in Counseling,

Psychology, and Social Work. These interns apply from across the State and Nation to include UND, University of Mary, Minot State University and Florida State University. WCHSC is also part of the Missouri Valley Training Consortium and was able to train seven addiction counselor trainee's over the past two years some of which have been hired as full-time employees of the Department.

WCHSC has struggled with the impact of workforce shortages in the clinical area of psychiatry, psychology, and licensed addiction counselors. Recently WCHSC was able to recruit and fill two vacant prescriber positions with a Nurse Practitioner and a Psychiatrist. The new Psychiatrist holds an Adolescent Specialty and is available for adolescent consultation to all human service centers. WCHSC presently has two vacant psychology positions. This has a significant impact on the number of psychological service hours available to be scheduled with our core populations.

WCHSC will discontinue contracted services at Heritage House, a seven bed sober living residential setting for clients with substance use disorder and will refer to other sober living environments that have become available in Region VII. WCHSC will reduce the contract amount with Youth Residential Services (YRS) a seven bed adolescent residential setting for substance use disorders, based on 2015-2017 current cost of services. The acupuncture services at WCHSC will be discontinued. WCHSC will also reduce the contract amount with Pride, Inc. that provides respite care for clients in the Partnerships program, based on current cost of services.

Division	2017-2019 Executive Budget					State Fiscal Year 2016 Actual	
	Salary/Wages and Operating Expenses	Grants & Contracts	Total	HSC FTE's	HSC Temporary Staff	# of Contract Provider Staff *	# of Individuals Served
Behavioral Health	14,873,519	6,975,128	21,848,647	73.50	1.00	86.00	4,426
Developmental Disabilities	3,359,342		3,359,342	19.00	1.00		1,521
Vocational Rehabilitation	2,479,345	8,376	2,487,721	15.00			373**
Child Welfare	713,431	25,125	738,556	3.50		1.00	
Aging Services	688,824		688,824	4.00			
Administration	3,387,124		3,387,124	22.60	0.88		
Total	25,501,585	7,008,629	32,510,214	137.60	2.88	87.00	
* This number is a combination of full and part-time staff.							
** VR applicant data is for FFY 2016							

Overview of Budget Changes – West Central Human Service Center

Description	2015 - 2017 Budget	2017 - 2019 Executive Budget	Increase/(Decrease)
HSCs/Institutions	32,885,898	32,510,214	(375,684)
General Fund	19,170,544	17,729,445	(1,441,099)
Federal Funds	12,168,734	12,941,371	772,637
Other Funds	1,546,620	1,839,398	292,778
Total	32,885,898	32,510,214	(375,684)
Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	137.60	137.60	0.00

Budget Changes from Current Budget to Executive Budget:

The overall budget decreased by \$375,684 and can be mainly attributed to the following:

- \$497,667 in total funds, of which \$407,985 is general fund needed to fund the Governor's compensation package for state employees.
- \$251,328 in total funds, of which \$226,229 is general fund needed to sustain the employee increases approved by the last Legislative Assembly.
- The salary underfunding changed from \$342,626 to \$567,813, which is a net change of (\$225,187).
- \$114,117 in total funds, of which \$66,485 is general fund for a temporary Developmental Disabilities Case Manager to meet the required client to staff ratio of 60:1.
- A decrease of \$26,041 in Travel due to the Department-wide process used to develop the Department's savings plan.
- An increase of \$22,794 for Supply/Material-Professional for the increased number of tests processed by lab and testing supplies for addiction clients.
- A decrease of \$22,600 in Office Equipment and Furniture. Office Equipment and Furniture will be replaced as needed.
- A decrease of \$20,057 in Rentals/Leases – Building/Land due to changes in housing assistance within the addiction programming.
- A decrease of \$32,265 in IT-Communications based on historical cost and actual expenditures.
- A decrease of \$22,000 in Medical, Dental and Optical due to a decrease in purchasing of medication and medication supplies as a result of clients receiving healthcare coverage through the Affordable Care Act (ACA), including Medicaid Expansion.

- Grants, Benefits and Claims decreased by \$973,999 and is mainly attributed to the following:
 - A decrease of \$708,883 to discontinue services at Heritage House, a seven bed transitional living facility for clients with chemical dependency as other housing options have opened up in the Bismarck community. West Central Human Service Center will provide case aide services in the client's place of residence.
 - A decrease of \$259,498 for Youth Residential Services based on current cost of services, and a 1% inflationary increase in the second year of the biennium.
 - A decrease of \$33,000 to discontinue acupuncture services as a therapeutic intervention.
 - A decrease of \$26,945 for respite care contract for clients in the Partnerships program based on current cost of services, and a 1% inflationary increase in the second year of the biennium.
 - A decrease in addiction case aide services of \$20,059 due to changes in addiction programming and housing assistance.
 - An increase of \$92,695 due to four additional crisis beds approved by the 2015-2017 Legislative Assembly for chemical dependency and transitional living residential services in January 2016, and a 1% inflationary increase in the second year of the biennium. This additional funding is needed to cover a 24 month period of time.

Attachment: [West Central Human Service Center Fact Sheet](#)

This concludes my testimony on the 2017-2019 budget request for West Central Human Service Center. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Badlands Human Service Center (BLHSC)

BLHSC provides community behavioral health and safety net services to individuals who live in Golden Valley, Billings, Dunn, Stark, Slope, Hettinger, Bowman and Adams counties, in Region VIII. This region is comprised of 48,705 residents (6.4% of the state's population) as estimated by the 2015 U.S. Census Bureau.

Program Trends/Program Changes

BLHSC serves adults, adolescents and children with an array of different service needs from individuals with severe and persistent mental illnesses and substance use disorders to individuals with developmental disabilities. BLHSC is one of several HSCs that do not have an inpatient behavioral health hospital within the region and has to rely on resources up to 100+ miles in distance depending on the location of the referral and the availability of statewide inpatient behavioral health beds. BLHSC utilizes the Residential Care Center (RCC) to admit and stabilize adult clients with behavioral health needs who present with acute symptoms of mental illness and substance use. Over the past two years BLHSC has experienced growth in the use of the 15 bed facility.

BLHSC Developmental Disabilities unit provides Case Management to eligible individuals through either the infant development program which brings early intervention services into a family's home, or a range of adult day support and residential services for individuals with a diagnosis of an intellectual disability. Region VIII is experiencing an increase among infant births, the largest since the 1980's with 700 babies expected to be

born between 2016 and 2017. The Early Intervention unit is mirroring those statistics with increased numbers resulting in the second largest number of referrals across the State. With the current numbers being served, expected growth, and those awaiting eligibility determination; this unit's services will remain in high demand.

BLHSC Child Welfare Services unit provides region wide services that include regulatory duties for licensing foster care homes and facilities, and licensing early child care facilities and providers. They provide program supervision and technical assistance for foster care services, child protection services, and family preservation services, they also provide early childhood childcare licensing. Since 2013 BLHSC Child Welfare unit has experienced a 46% increase in foster care cases and a 68% increase in Child Protective Services assessments. To assist with the continued growth in services in Region VIII, the Executive Budget includes an additional .5 FTE for Child Welfare Services.

BLHSC Outpatient Services unit provides outreach services throughout Southwest ND to rural communities that function with limited professional and community supports. The outreach services continue to serve the rural population and have at times been greeted with requests for additional providers. BLHSC continues to work with stakeholders throughout Region VIII to establish networking and explore options for additional rural supports through technology and staff resources.

BLHSC continues to partner with local law enforcement, jail, the courts, and probation and parole to provide services to clients with mental illness and substance use disorders that are involved with the local correctional system. BLHSC is piloting the Bond Hearing Pilot project in conjunction with Southwest District Court. This collaborative effort began in January

2016 in which the Judge determines who, amongst the individuals incarcerated for substance use charges, is likely to desire substance use disorder treatment. During the hearing, part of their bond agreement is to meet with a BLHSC staff at the jail to discuss resources in the community for receiving their substance use disorder assessment. Upon release they are given three business days to report back to the court regarding their follow up status. Southwest District Court Judge reports an effective success rate from this program that has generated favorable and positive results in regards to compliance results for individuals participating in treatment and become non-repeat offenders.

BLHSC has struggled with the impact of workforce shortages related to psychiatric, licensed addiction counselor (LAC) and psychology coverage. BLHSC has only one psychiatrist and this is also the only psychiatrist in the entire region. LAC positions are currently staffed; however, two positions remained open for a significant amount of time, which required additional staff time and consultation with licensed staff from WCHSC. In the area of psychology BLHSC has one vacancy that has been open for over one year. This has a significant impact on the number of psychological service hours available to be scheduled with our core populations.

The acupuncture services at BLHSC will be discontinued. BLHSC will discontinue the transportation contract with Stark County Council on Aging that was used for adult clients at the RCC. The Direct Care staff at RCC will be utilized to meet future transportation needs.

	2017-2019 Executive Budget					State Fiscal Year 2016 Actual	
Division	Salary/Wages and Operating Expenses	Grants & Contracts	Total	HSC FTE's	HSC Temporary Staff	# of Contract Provider Staff *	# of Individuals Served
Behavioral Health	8,055,842	365,781	8,421,623	40.20	2.80	6.00	1,437
Developmental Disabilities	1,522,407		1,522,407	9.00			618
Vocational Rehabilitation	935,491		935,491	5.00			87**
Child Welfare	494,427		494,427	2.50			
Aging Services	456,898		456,898	2.50			
Administration	1,819,635		1,819,635	13.50			
Total	13,284,700	365,781	13,650,481	72.70	2.80	6.00	
* This number is a combination of full and part-time staff.							
** VR applicant data is for FFY 2016							

Overview of Budget Changes – Badlands Human Service Center

Description	2015 - 2017 Budget	2017 - 2019 Executive Budget	Increase/(Decrease)
HSCs/Institutions	13,859,553	13,650,481	(209,072)
General Fund	8,431,713	8,551,771	120,058
Federal Funds	4,441,884	3,975,582	(466,302)
Other Funds	985,956	1,123,128	137,172
Total	13,859,553	13,650,481	(209,072)

Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	72.20	72.70	0.50
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Budget Changes from Current Budget to Executive Budget:

The overall budget decreased by \$209,072 and can be attributed to the following:

- \$261,257 in total funds, of which \$225,646 is general fund needed to fund the Governor's compensation package for state employees.
- \$142,882 in total funds, of which \$133,956 is general fund needed to sustain the employee increases approved by the last Legislative Assembly.
- The salary underfunding changed from \$186,279 to \$299,309, which is a net change of (\$113,030).
- A decrease in Salaries-Other of \$326,788 mainly attributed to no longer providing oil-impact dollars for staff.
- An increase of \$92,300 in total funds, of which \$69,003 is general fund for the transfer of a 0.5 FTE Social Worker III to meet increased demand in child protective services and institutional abuse and neglect reports.
- The remaining decrease in Salaries and Wages, totaling \$113,707, is a combination of increases and decreases needed to sustain the salary of 72.7 FTE.
- A decrease of \$70,062 in Travel due to the Department-wide process used to develop the Department's savings plan.
- A decrease of \$13,302 in IT-Communications based on historical cost and actual expenditures.
- Grants, Benefits and Claims decreased by \$49,531 and is mainly attributed to the following:
 - A decrease of \$31,800 to discontinue acupuncture services as a therapeutic intervention.

- A decrease of \$15,954 to no longer contract for transportation services as transportation will be provided by human service center staff.

Attachment: [Badlands Human Service Center Fact Sheet](#)

This concludes my testimony on the 2017-2019 budget request for Badlands Human Service Center. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.