

Testimony
House Bill 1100 - Department of Human Services
House Human Services
Representative Robin Weisz, Chairman

January 9, 2019

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Pamela Sagness, Director of the Behavioral Health Division of the Department of Human Services (Department). I appear today to provide testimony in support of House Bill 1100.

House Bill 1100 provides authority for the Behavioral Health Division (Division) to establish a non-refundable application fee for administration and enforcement of licensing and certification activities. North Dakota Century Code section 50-06-01.4. requires the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Behavioral Health Division to establish quality assurance standards for the licensure of substance use disorder program services and facilities. Currently providers are reviewed and licensed at no cost to the providers.

The Division currently licenses 92 substance use disorder treatment programs, three opioid treatment program, and six psychiatric residential treatment facilities. Currently opioid treatment programs are re-licensed annually. The Division is required to re-license substance use disorder treatment programs and psychiatric residential treatment facilities every two years; however, Section 2 of House Bill 1103, if passed, would change the substance use disorder treatment licensing requirement from every two years to every three years. This change is reflected in the fiscal note. In addition, the 8 human service center application fees were not included in the fiscal note.

The administration of licensing activities includes the review and initial licensing of new programs, ongoing reviews of all licensed programs and ongoing review of

inquiries and conducting investigations. In general, the licensing process includes an onsite visit which includes a visit of the facility and review of policies, files and charts. A licensure report is provided to the program and if needed, corrective action plans are provided if conditions are found in the review. At times, multiple onsite visits are necessary to ensure compliance with corrective action plans or to conduct investigations. The Division also provides ongoing technical assistance to programs based on each program's needs.

This concludes my testimony, and I am happy to answer any questions.