Testimony before the Long-Term Care Interim Committee
September 18, 2008
Senator Dever, Chairman

Chairman Dever, members of the committee, I am Dr. Mariah Tenamoc, Research Lead for the Department of Human Services' Decision Support Services unit. I appear before you today to provide information about:

1. The Aging 2020 Project, a project undertaken in the Department of Human Services to study the intergenerational impact of a rapidly aging population on eligibility programs and service delivery for North Dakota older citizens through year 2020 and beyond.

2. Long-term care trends and a map of demographics and of anticipated service needs.

3. The number of licensed qualified service providers by region compared to recent years and areas of the state where the number of providers is inadequate.

The second and third items are included in the plan for the Aging 2020 project. I will briefly describe the plan for the three-phase project and then walk you through some attachments provided in support of the project.

Primary goals of the project are two-fold. First, to identify, compile, and analyze past and current administrative data as well as census data to show the current picture of programs administered by the State of North Dakota, Department of Human Services. Second, to produce comprehensive data documentation for State government policy and program professionals about the intergenerational dynamics of the emerging issues related to about eligibility programs and service delivery.

The Department of Human Services' Aging 2020 project is a three phase project with a timeline of three years. In its first phase, staff from the Department's Decision Support Services unit is compiling a report that includes the need for the study; solutions - what a few other states are doing; a literature review; a review of previous studies and surveys related to the aging population in North Dakota; demographic analyses on aging and disabilities by state, by urban/rural/frontier, by region, and by selected counties; administrative data analyses across Divisions and programs in the Department of Human Services; and implications and recommendations.

Analyses of administrative data will show trends in eligibility programs and service delivery. They will demonstrate the present picture and, in some cases, provide information on estimated projections to the year 2020. A report of the first phase will be available in mid Summer 2009.

During the second phase, a survey of working and retired North Dakota adults will be designed, implemented, and analyzed. Previous surveys conducted in the state relating to the aging population will be reviewed prior to designing the new 2010 survey. The survey will elicit information that will create a picture of what may be expected as the population over age 60 increases by over 30 percent by the year 2020. Emphases will include demographics, economics, and geography at three levels: 1) North Dakotans who have left the workforce, 2) North Dakotans who are caregivers to their aging parents, and 3) North Dakota adults, both working age and older, who remain in the workforce. In addition, the survey may include adults who have left the state but have siblings and parents who continue to live in North Dakota. These non residents will be

questioned regarding their relationship to older North Dakotans and their potential involvement in future care giving activities. The compilation and analysis of these data will be available in Spring 2010.

In the third phase, an intergenerational aging summit will be held to highlight research to date and examine more fully how policies and programs may be improved to meet the demands of an aging population. This summit in Spring 2010 will include staff from the Governor's office, legislators, other policy makers, state agencies' staff, applied academic researchers, data analysts, and representatives of the target populations. The 'working' summit will result in a proceedings document that will include copies of the data and presentations from the summit, and summaries of workgroup activities, with recommendations and proposed 'next steps.' The proceedings document will be available in July 2010.

Challenges and solutions cannot necessarily wait for an extended period of time. Several efforts are, or can be, put into place as the state prepares for the changing population dynamics over the next 12 to 20 years. Following are descriptions of two action items.

First, an Annotated Planning Document is currently being compiled that itemizes and outlines strategies which expand on programs already in place in North Dakota or are in addition to what is currently being done or planned. A cursory review of strategies that are being adopted by other states who are, or have already, put together task forces to look at challenges and solutions related to rapidly aging populations, reveal a number of potential ideas for consideration in North Dakota. Identified strategies will complement the June 2008 Report for North Dakota Legislative Council: Interim Workforce Committee prepared by Thomas

Miller and Associates on *Workforce System Policy and Implementation: Options and Recommendations*.

A second action item will be to collaborate with other state agencies to form a ND State Government Population/Program Data Group to track changes in population dynamics and impacts to programs. This group will continue to meet throughout the years of rapid population change and will include data analysts across departments.   The data group will greatly enhance access to data by policy and program professionals. There will be less fragmentation and redundancies in data use, providing a central body with knowledge of, and access to, desired data. The data group will assess capacity and skill sets of data analysts to determine and assign roles and responsibilities of group members in carrying out the mission of the group. The group will develop a comprehensive database to track population characteristics and needs, as well as the effect of major policy and program initiatives. There will be an increased capacity for use and analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data. An analyst from the research unit of DHS is attending a weeklong statistical training at the U.S. Census Bureau. She will return and train others in the strategies and techniques learned. This will enhance the ability to drill into census information for more specific data. A goal of the group will be to expand access to information for all users by developing user friendly dissemination plans.

Review of Handouts
ATTACHMENT A: Timeline
ATTACHMENT B: Outline – 4 pages
ATTACHMENT C: Sample Fact Sheet
ATTACHMENT D: Demographics of an Aging Population – 5 pages
- Page 1: Map – Percent of ND Population Age 60 and Over, 2000
- Page 2: Map – Percent of ND Population Age 60 and Over, 2010
- Page 3: Map – Percent of ND Population Age 60 and Over, 2020
- Page 4: Percent of ND Population by Age Category: 2000-2030
- Page 5: Counties with Highest Percent of Persons Age 85+

ATTACHMENT E: Qualified Service Providers – 3 pages
- Page 1: Qualified Service Provider (QSP) and Consumers of QSP Services Data
- Page 2: Map – Qualified Service Providers in Each County in 2008
- Page 3: Map – Qualified Service Providers, 2006, 2007, 2008

ATTACHMENT F: Trends in Long Term Care

That concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.