

**Testimony
Department of Human Services
Budget Section
Senator Gary A. Lee, Chairman
September 29, 2016**

Chairman Lee, members of the Budget Section, I am Maggie Anderson, Executive Director for the Department of Human Services (Department). I am here today to request Budget Section approval, pursuant to North Dakota Century Code Section 25-04-02.2, to authorize public use of the Collette Fitness Center at the Life Skills and Transition Center (LSTC) campus in Grafton.

As the Department was reviewing programs, services, and operations, questions came up regarding the operation of the Collette Fitness Center. After discussion with the State Risk Management Division and the North Dakota Attorney General's Office, the Department made the decision to close Collette Fitness Center to the public until we could request Budget Section approval.

Section 25-04-02.2 sets forth, that subject to approval of the Budget Section, the LSTC may provide, at a rate established by LSTC, any service not otherwise authorized by law under contract with a governmental or nongovernmental person. Budget Section may approve the provision of service only after determining that the service is not otherwise being provided by either the private or public sector.

Collette Fitness Center opened to the public in September of 1990. It is the Department's understanding that Budget Section toured LSTC in 1992 and Superintendent Lunski provided an overview of the services provided by Collette Fitness Center. During the Department's review of operations

and services, we were unable to locate any documentation regarding Budget Section approval.

LSTC's vision is supporting people to be members of their community. The reverse integration with Collette Fitness Center has been valuable to LSTC and is viewed as a community setting that Department clients and community members utilize. LSTC utilizes the facility for its scheduled campus recreation programs and the recreation/leisure day program. Collette Fitness Center has the ability to offer the following services to the public, including individuals with disabilities: indoor pool, therapeutic pool, weight room, gym, indoor walking area, cardio studio, racquetball court, a stage, fitness classes, and swimming classes.

A local private business does offer weight lifting, cardio equipment and fitness classes and has not indicated that the business would be affected or in opposition if Collette Fitness Center reopens.

If Budget Section approves the public use of Collette Fitness Center, the Department would be responsible for the operation of the Collette Fitness Center and the risks involved.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions.