Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Voucher
2015 Legislative Session: SB 2048

Enrolled Senate Bill 2048
SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES - REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of $750,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of human services for the purpose of establishing and administering a voucher system to address underserved areas and gaps in the state's substance abuse treatment system and to assist in the payment of addiction treatment services provided by private licensed substance abuse treatment programs, for the period beginning July 1, 2016, and ending June 30, 2017. Services eligible for the voucher program include only those levels of care recognized by the American society of addiction medicine, with particular emphasis given to underserved areas and programs. The department of human services shall ensure that a private licensed substance abuse treatment program accepting vouchers under this Act collects and reports process and outcome measures. The department of human services shall develop requirements and provide training and technical assistance to a private licensed substance abuse treatment program accepting vouchers under this Act. A private licensed substance abuse treatment program accepting vouchers under this Act shall provide evidence-based services. Before July 1, 2016, the department of human services shall provide a report to the legislative management regarding the rules adopted to establish and administer the voucher system to assist in the payment of addiction treatment services provided by private licensed substance abuse treatment programs.

Fall 2015: Department of Human Services Behavioral Health Division developed administrative rules.

November 2015: Communication plan was developed to ensure stakeholder feedback and participation.

November 2015: Public notice and enactment of the communication plan.

December 2015: Public hearing and feedback period completed.

2015-2016: Ongoing updates to key stakeholders in regard to the SUD Voucher (i.e. public and private SUD providers, Treatment Providers Coalition, ND Board of Addiction Counselors, Addiction Counselors Association).

Spring 2016: Development of training and guidance documents for providers and administrators.

Spring/Summer 2016: Provider engagement, application, and training.

July 2016: Launch of SUD Voucher.

The Department has completed the entire rulemaking project with the exception of filing the necessary documents with Legislative Council by February 1, 2016, due to the budget allotment process. The Department, in order to comply with budget allotment process, was carefully reviewing the voucher system funding along with all programs and services. The Department’s allotment includes a reduction to the voucher funding; however, since funding remains for the voucher, the Department must continue to establish and administer a voucher system. If the extension to adopt administrative rules is granted by the Administrative Rules Committee, the Department intends to adopt rules by July 1, 2016.