



INTERIM HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
TINA BAY, DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
DIVISION

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NORTH
Dakota | Human Services
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DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES REIMBURSEMENT PROJECT

- History
 - HB 1517 2009 legislative session – mandated the Department to study the DD payment methodology.
 - SB 2043 2011 legislative session – instructed the Department, in conjunction with DD providers, to develop a prospective or related payment system utilizing the Support Intensity Scale (SIS).
 - New methodology implemented on April 1, 2018.
 - April 2019, Department contracted with a vendor (Optumas) to complete a year end review of the new methodology.

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- February 2020, Optumas finalized year end review.
 - Key findings from their review:
 - Medically fragile residential habilitation rates: increase the program support component to represent the hours of nursing relative to the hours of direct support professionals for each acuity tier.
 - Absence factor: remove the 4% absence factor applied to every base residential rate and replace it with a 30-day personal assistance retainer policy.
 - Vacancy factor: add a 2% vacancy factor to the residential and ICF rate to account for vacancy costs.

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- Key findings continued:
 - Day Services, residential habilitation, ICF services:
 - System-wide changes in SIS scores.
 - The decrease in the unit cost for day service is likely the result of the conversion from an hourly rate to 15-minute increments.
 - Overall rate change necessary to mitigate ongoing SIS score growth.

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- Steering committee met and recommended a smaller subcommittee review the results of the Optumas work.
 - Three components to subcommittee work:
 1. Multiplier (SIS changes)
 2. Billable units in day services
 3. Group/non group settings

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- Goal was to have subcommittee review completed by mid April and report to steering committee at the end of April and changes would go into effect July 2020.
- Due to COVID pandemic, subcommittee work was put on hold.
- Subcommittee reconvened June 2020. Finalized review and will present to steering committee in September.