

Human Services Interim Committee

January 7, 2014

Good Morning Chairman Damschen and members of the Human Services Interim Committee. For the record, my name is John Vastag with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of North Dakota.

I am here today to give you an update from the Behavioral Health Stakeholders group.

Invitations to an initial stakeholders meeting were sent out on December 20, 2013 to public and private direct care providers; key partners such as law enforcement, schools and public health; Indian Affairs; the Attorney General's office; Judiciary; Third party payers; Long Term Care; Public Sector leaders; the Governor's office; Mental Health Association and UND Medical School.

The invitation is for a meeting on February 6th and 7th of 2014 to frame key issues and prioritize recommendations. We anticipate that the recommendations will call for a transition plan that will cover two to three legislative sessions with the ultimate goal of building stronger Behavioral Health Services in North Dakota.

Prior to the February meeting, we plan to meet with the consultant selected for this committee to determine how we can provide as much information as possible for the consultant so that the result can be as comprehensive as possible.

I would be happy to answer any questions the committee have.

Respectfully submitted

John Vastag

Director of Health and Medical Transformation

Blue Cross Blue Shield North Dakota