Testimony
Department of Human Services
Human Services Interim Committee
Representative Chuck Damschen, Chairman
June 19, 2014

Chairman Damschen, members of the Human Services Committee, I am Alex C. Schweitzer, Director of Field Services and Superintendent of the Life Skills and Transition Center of the Department of Human Services. I am here today to testify on the programs and services of the Life Skills and Transition Center.

Life Skills and Transition Center (LSTC) Programs:

The LSTC provides services for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities (Intermediate Care Facility-DD/ID). The LSTC provides residential services, which include medical and clinical programming, vocational services, and outreach services.

Residential Services at the LSTC include:

- **Secure Services Program** – serves individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities who have sex offending behaviors and for other individuals from the campus that require a more secure living environment. These individuals require long-term care.

- **Health Services Program** – serves individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities who are totally dependent on staff to complete daily cares and have medical concerns that require nursing staff accessibility 24 hours per day. Also, in this program are a small

number of individuals diagnosed with profound developmental disabilities and dual sensory disabilities (vision and hearing). These individuals require long-term care.

- **Behavioral Services Program** – serves individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities who also have psychiatric diagnoses and significant challenging behaviors. Some of these individuals may also have less severe medical needs.

- **Youth Transition Services Program (YTS)** - serves young people with intellectual disabilities between the ages of 16-25 who have difficulty finding housing and services in the community. The LSTC provides short-term services to these individuals until a community placement can be found.

Vocational Services at the LSTC include:

- **Work Activity Program** - serves individuals at vocational work sites throughout the campus and in the community. Special emphasis is placed on individualizing work and activities for each resident's particular need and to integrate them into community work sites whenever possible.

Outreach Services at the LSTC include:

- **Independent Supported Living Arrangement Program (ISLA)** – LSTC staff support individuals in local community housing so they can live independently.

- **Professional Services Institute** – LSTC provides outreach services for the community. Behavioral health care has been the initial focus area, but the LSTC, is receiving more requests to address complex health care needs statewide.

    - **Outreach Program** – the Clinical Assistance, Resource, and Evaluation Service (CARES) team provides support services in the community to prevent admissions and readmissions and to assist in transitioning people from the LSTC.

    - **CARES Clinic** – the CARES Clinic is a team of professionals who specialize in providing services for people with disabilities who live in the community. Examples of services provided are physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, adaptive equipment services, dental services, and medical services.

    - **Intellectual Disabilities Behavioral Health Service** – this is a team of applied behavioral analysts who deliver behavioral assessment and intervention services to people with developmental and intellectual disabilities throughout North Dakota.

Life Skills and Transition Center Census:

The transition goal, by July of 2015, is to reach a campus population of 60 adults in the ICF-DD/ID program and 10 youth in the YTS. In addition, the goal is to serve 13 adults in the ISLA program in the Grafton community.

As we continue transition, the people remaining at the LSTC, have higher acuity and require significant behavioral, clinical and medical interventions.

See attached total Adult DD/ID Population 2000-2014 by Transition Target table.

LSTC Census as of June 15, 2014:

Adult ICF-DD/ID	ICF/YTS	Total LSTC	NDSH	Total LSTC/NDSH	ISLA
68	14	82	4	86	10

Life Skills and Transition Center Budget:

Description	**2013-2015 Budget**
Salary	45,132,229
Operating	9,064,205
Capital Improvements	973,495
Total	55,169,929
General Fund	26,070,850
Federal Funds	26,099,079
Other Funds	3,000,000
Total	55,169,929
FTE	392.55

Life Skills and Transition Center Buildings:

The attached handout is a map of the LSTC campus. The LSTC campus buildings are utilized for residential living and programming, administration and support, and leased building space.

Total square footage on the campus is 1,323,511, with 801,253 square feet of pedestrian tunnels.

Residential Living and Programming: (Blue Key on Map)

- Cedar Grove Building (Residential Living/Clinical Services)
- Maplewood Building (Residential Living/Clinical Services)
- Health Services Building (Residential Living/Medical Services)
- Chapel Building (Religious Services)
- Collette Fitness Center (Recreational/Leisure)
- Physical and Occupational Therapy Building (Rehabilitation Services)
- Sunset Building (Work Activity)
- Laundry Building (Work Activity)

Administration and Support: (Red Key on Map)

- Professional Services Building (Administrative Offices)
- Central Receiving Building (Receive and Store Supplies)
- Vehicle Maintenance Building (General Trades Shop)
- Powerhouse Building (Utilities/Heat Distribution)
- Food Services Center (Food Services/Conference Center)
- Cottage 2 and 5 (Family Accommodations)

Leased Building Space: (Yellow Key on Map)

- Midway Building (leased to Tri-County Crisis Intervention)
- Health Services Building (part of 1st floor leased for Veterans Clinic)
- Professional Services Building (2nd floor of building leased to Migrant Health Services, part of 3rd floor to ND Industrial Securities Commission and part of 1st floor to the NDDOT)
- Prairie View Building (Walsh County Head Start, Teddy Bear Child Care and Data Dynamics)
- Sunset Building (Anne Carlson Center, Catholic Charities and Protection and Advocacy of ND)
- New Horizons Building (Child Care Provider)
- Cottage 1 (leased to private provider of DD/ID services)
- Cottage 3 (leased to a private provider of DD/ID services)
- Cottage 6 (leased to ISLA consumers)

The LSTC currently receives lease payments of $69,615.86 per year from the above listed entities.

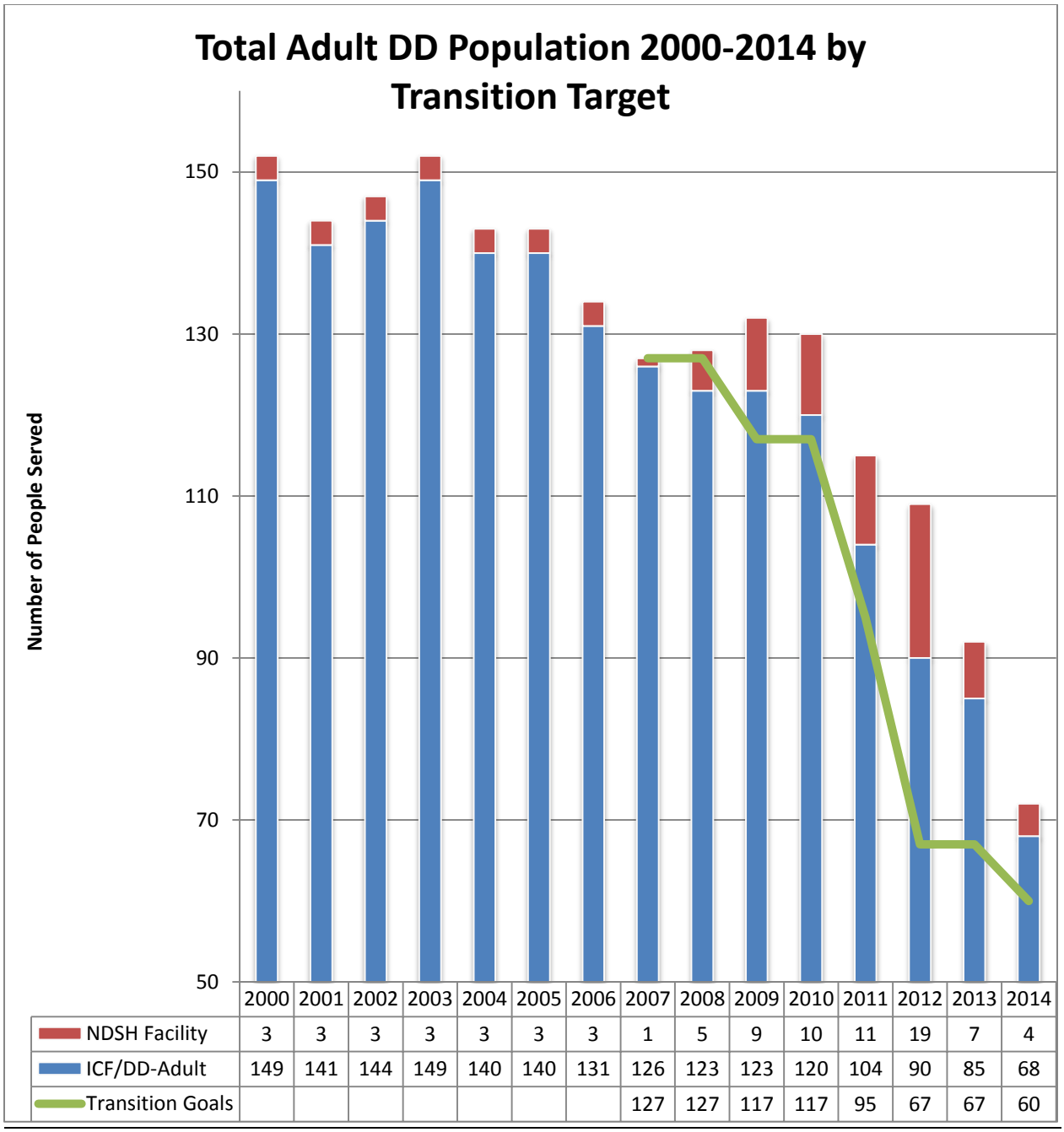
Unused and Underutilized Buildings: (Green Key on Map)

- New Horizons Building (vacant space)
- Cottage 4 (vacant space)
- Pleasant View Building (slated for demolition)
- Refectory Building (slated for demolition)

The current emphasis of the LSTC is to lease space to community entities in the New Horizons Building. Also, as we continue to transition residents our emphasis will be to fill space that will become available in the Health Services Center and the Professional Services Building.

A committee of local community leaders is considering a legislative request to purchase and develop the Prairie View Building into affordable rental housing for the community. If this rental project becomes a reality, the current tenants from the Prairie View Building would be relocated to the New Horizons Building.

I would be happy to answer any questions.


Total Adult DD Population 2000-2014 by Transition Target
Number of People Served
150
130
110
90
70
50
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014
NDSH Facility 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 1 5 9 10 11 19 7 4
ICF/DD-Adult 149 141 144 149 140 140 131 126 123 123 120 104 90 85 68
Transition Goals 127 127 117 117 95 67 67 60