

PRIDE MANCHESTER HOUSE

a residential treatment home

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July 22, 2014

Honorable Rep. Chuck Damschen, Chairman

Legislative Management, Human Services Committee on Behavioral Health

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Susan M. Gerenz, director of Pride Manchester House for the last 18 years and co-chair of the ND Coalition of Residential Providers.

I have been asked to provide information and trends re: youth access to services in our state, availability and best practices for delivery of services.

I have provided you a document, "Snapshot of ND Youth in Out of State Facility Placements" which I will summarize. During May of 2014, **54 ND youth were placed out of state**, and per report, the numbers are currently higher. This is of great concern for it is our belief that ND youth should be served in ND, closer to their families, schools, and home communities. In addition, **these youth are placed out of state for an average of 11 months**, with one youth out of state for 42 months, as compared to **the ND average length of stay of approximately 6 months**. The largest percentage of youth placed out of state are those in 2 categories:

- 1) **Youth with sexualized/perpetrator behaviors (34%)**
- 2) **Youth with both mental illness and intellectual disabilities (30%)**

It is critical that the continuum of care in ND be expanded to allow for effective treatment of these youth and their families. There are existing entities in ND that may be able to provide these services, such as the State Developmental Center, the ND State Hospital, Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF), Residential Child Care Facilities (RCCF), and other public/private providers.

Additionally, a significant trend has been seen for the last 2-3 years at Pride Manchester House, who serves the 5-13 yr. old children in our state. **Children who have been exposed to polysubstances in utero** and their environment now comprise 60 % of the children referred for placement. These are primarily children exposed to (not using) methamphetamine, prescription drugs, heroin, alcohol, and many other combinations. These children are incredibly difficult to treat because of the changes in their brain, physical, and emotional development as a result of polysubstance exposure and require a vastly different approach to treatment due to explosive/aggressive behaviors.



Pride Manchester House is a residential treatment home for children in North Dakota who are diagnosed with emotional disturbance. Manchester House is operated by Pride Incorporated.



Recommendations for reducing the out of state placements include:

- 1) **Expand outreach/transition services** and include as an allowable expense under Medicaid/insurance coverage. This service has been provided by Pride Manchester House since 1999, (with funding primarily through the donation account), and is nationally recognized as evidence based best practice.
- 2) Provide for an **in state level of care assessment** to ensure the child is receiving the level of care required and reduce placement out of state due to immediate access issues.
- 3) Expand the continuum of care to include **alternatives to traditional residential care** through home and community based options and less restrictive environments. Note, this is currently underway through the **“Hope Home” model** with a partnership between Pride Manchester House and the Dept. of Human Services.

Other issues pertinent to improving behavioral healthcare for ND youth include:

- a) Provide **reimbursement for therapeutic leave** for youth in placement to utilize supported home and community based visits. Currently, there is no payment allowed when a child is on a home visit (even though there is a bed hold) and is in need of transition services to promote a successful discharge and less likelihood of recidivism.
- b) Provide **intensive staff training** to promote skill building in treating these complex youth, with reimbursement **allowed under direct care costs, not administrative costs**.
- c) Continue to support strategies that promote **staff recruitment and retention** in behavioral health care.
- d) Provide **certificate of need services through a ND based entity**, rather than an out of state entity (currently Tennessee) who may not fully understand ND continuum of care.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for your dedication and hard work on behalf of ND youth and their families!

I would be happy to address any questions or comments from the committee.

On behalf of Pride Manchester House and the Coalition of Residential Providers, thank you for the opportunity to meet with you today.

SNAPSHOT OF ND YOUTH IN OUT OF STATE FACILITY PLACEMENTS:

May 2014

54 CHILDREN in out of state Residential Facilities

41 males = 76%

13 females = 24%

Age:

13 & under = 13 (24%)

14 & above = 41 (76%)

Average Range = 8 – 18 years old

Referring Region:

Fargo = 14 (26%)

Bismarck = 11 (20%)

Dickinson = 8 (15%)

Williston = 7 (13%)

Grand Forks = 6 (11%)

Jamestown = 5 (9%)

Devils Lake = 3 (6%)

Minot = 0 (0%)

Diagnoses:

ADHD = 40

Abuse/Neglect = 28

Sexualized Behavior = 25

Mood Disorder = 19

Oppositional Defiant Disorder = 14

Bipolar = 14

Conduct Disorder = 13

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder = 12

Disruptive Behavior Disorder = 12

Reactive Attachment Disorder = 11

Pervasive Developmental Disorder = 9

Depression = 8

Anxiety Disorder = 6

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome = 3

Autism Spectrum = 3

Paraphilia = 3

Learning Disorder = 3

Psychosis = 2

Schizoaffective Disorder = 2

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder – 2

Adjustment Disorder = 2

Traumatic Brain Injury = 2

Cognitive Disorder = 1

Impulse Control Disorder = 1

Eating Disorder = 1

Motor Tic Disorder = 1

Somatization Disorder = 1

Schizophrenia = 1

Schizophreniform = 1

IQ Range = 60-109

Prior Placements: Range = 0-12

Average Number of Prior Placements = 3

Placement Facility:

Mille Lacs (MN) = 13

Cleo Wallace (CO) = 7

Northwood (MN) = 7

Gerard (MN) = 7

Mesabi (MN) = 5

Acadia (MT) = 4

St. Cloud Children's Home (MN) = 3

Black Hills (SD) = 2

New Trails (MN) = 2

Copper Hills (UT) = 2

Indian Oaks (IL) = 1

Yellowstone (MT) = 1

Out of State Length of Stay: Range = 0 -42 months

Average Length of Stay in Out of State Facilities = 11 months

ND Average Length of Stay = 6 months

Pride Manchester House: 2013 & 2014