

Testimony
Information Technology Committee
September 25, 2014
Licensing Management System Update
North Dakota Department of Health

Good morning, Chairman Weisz and members of the Information Technology Committee. My name is Kenan Bullinger, and I am the Director of the Division of Food and Lodging for the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH). The Department was asked to provide an update on the status of a new information management system project we were granted authority to purchase during the last legislative session. The following is a recap of the activities we have undertaken to pursue the purchase of this new information management system:

- On December 12, 2013, the Interim Administrative Rules Committee gave final approval to increase license fees to assist in the purchase of this new information management system.
- Over the next several months, we contacted various IT vendors to discuss our needs and specifications for development of the new system. We also communicated with all local city and county health units to solicit their input on their needs for such an information management system.
- Throughout the summer of 2014, we scheduled webinars and videoconferencing meetings with vendors to review and assess their capabilities and experience in developing a system that will meet our licensing, electronic inspection and data management needs. We contacted several other states to obtain information about their systems, how those systems have worked, which vendors they used and how responsive those vendors were to their needs.
- In August 2014, specifications for the new system were finalized and submitted for review and approval by staff from the Information Technology Department.
- On September 8, 2014, the Food and Drug Administration notified the NDDoH it would receive a \$100,000 federal grant (no state match) to assist in purchase of the new information management system.
- On September 15, 2014, the NDDoH submitted an RFP (Request for Proposal) to the Office of Management and Budget for their review. At this time, we do not know what the release date of the RFP will be.
- The deadline for accepting proposals will be approximately mid-October, 2014.

- The NDDoH intends to award the contract during the first week in November 2014.

The new information management system will allow the Division of Food and Lodging to:

- Transmit annual license renewals electronically to licensees
- Renew license fees electronically via credit or debit cards
- Conduct inspections electronically
- Transmit inspection reports to the office electronically
- Generate work lists for each inspector based on an annual renewal schedule
- Efficiently receive, track and respond to consumer complaints
- Post inspection results on the NDDoH website

A number of these new information technology capabilities will address several recommendations from a recent programmatic audit of the Division of Food and Lodging conducted by the N.D. State Auditor's Office.

This concludes my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.