

May 18, 2016

Health Care Reform Committee

Chairman Keiser and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kurt Snyder and I am the Executive Director of the Heartview Foundation. In 2006 Heartview employed less than 10 staff. Over the past 10 years we have grown to employ over 70 employees and on August 3rd 2015 we opened second site which a 16 bed residential center in Cando, ND. We employ a very diverse staff including a psychiatrist, psychologists, nurses, addiction counselors, social workers, and mental health counselors.

The demand for behavioral health services in ND has outpaced the private and public provider's ability to meet demands. In many parts of the state, individuals with behavioral health needs are extremely underserved or services do not exist.

The Medicaid Expansion population has very significant behavioral health needs. Medicaid Expansion currently makes up 28% of our payer source in our Bismarck location. However, they make up 41% of our residential utilization. This speaks volumes about the level of impairment and overall service needs.

In Cando, 43% of our admissions have been Medicaid Expansion. I have attached a map that shows admissions to our Cando facility from across the state.

Finally, I want to point out that Medicaid Expansion has shifted some of the burden off of the public human service system and has allowed private providers to help meet demand. Previously, this population was uninsured and they were totally dependent upon the public system for services. I also want to make the connection with the criminal justice system. It was recently reported that 2 out of 3 judges have sentenced individuals to prison terms in order for them to access treatment services. Medicaid Expansion is a critically important part of the solution to the overcrowding in our jails and prison.

Thank you,

Kurt Snyder, Executive Director

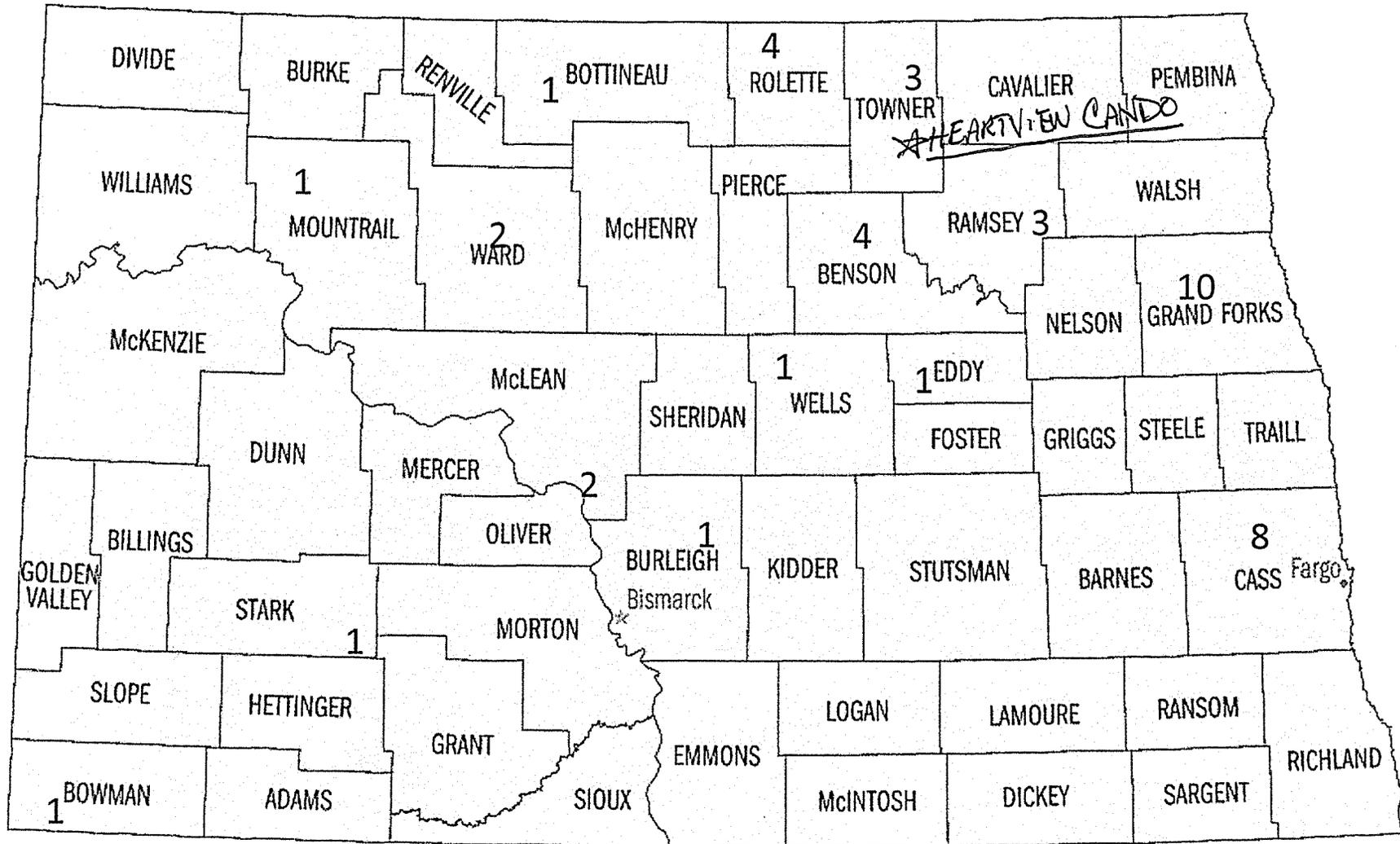
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MINNESOTA TO THE EAST



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