

Chairman Carlisle and members of the committee, for the record my name is Jaclyn Hall and I am the Executive Director of Ruth Meiers. Ruth Meiers is a transitional living and community based service center located in Bismarck, ND.

In 2015, Ruth Meiers provided 34,694 nights of shelter to men, women and children. 23% of those we served were coming to our facility from incarceration – either county jail or the state penitentiary. These individuals find themselves with additional barriers to overcome as they transition to independence.

Currently, Ruth Meiers works in partnership with the DOCR and the Human Service Center to support individuals coming out of incarceration with Serious Mental Illness or with a Sex Offense and have no place to go once they are released. This

partnership is working, with tracked success since it began almost two years ago.

Today, I am here to urge this committee to consider ongoing funding to support agencies like Ruth Meiers that provide transitional support to all incarcerated individuals with nowhere else to go. With a warm hand off approach from incarceration to independence, we can reduce the number of individuals who return to incarceration due to lack of supportive services.

I appreciate your time and the work you are doing to reduce recidivism for those incarcerated. I look forward to working together to create meaningful impact. This completes my testimony and I will stand for any questions.