

SECTION 14. AMENDMENT. Section 50-06-37 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

50-06-37. Developmental disabilities system reimbursement project.

The department of human services, in conjunction with developmental disabilities service providers, shall develop a prospective or related payment system with an independent rate model utilizing the support intensity scale.

1. The department shall establish a steering committee consisting of representatives from all interested providers and department representatives. The steering committee shall guide the development of the new payment system including assisting a consultant to conceptualize, develop, design, implement, and evaluate a new payment system.
2. The department shall contract with a consultant by September 1, 2011, to develop, in collaboration with the steering committee, the payment system and the resource allocation model tying funding to support intensity scale assessed needs of clients aged sixteen and older and to a state-approved assessment that assesses needs of clients younger than sixteen years of age.
3. After the prospective or related payment system rates are developed, the new rates must be tested on a sampling of clients and providers, the sample to be determined by the steering committee, allowing sufficient time to capture provider cost, client-realized need, and service provision data. The consultant shall provide the appropriate sampling number to sufficiently test the rates, types of services, and needs of clients with the intent to include as many providers as fiscally feasible.
4. The department shall contract with a team of support intensity scale assessors by September 1, 2011. The team shall begin assessing immediately the identified client pilot group identified by the consultant contracted in subsection 2.
5. Once testing is complete, the data must be analyzed by the consultant and the consultant shall make any needed rate adjustments, resource allocation modifications, or process assumptions.
6. Beginning in June 2012, the department and the steering committee shall report development activities and status information to an interim legislative committee.
7. Implementation of any system developed under this chapter may not occur before the implementation of the department's new medicaid management information system.