

2013 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2356

2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Human Services Committee
Red River Room, State Capitol

SB 2356

2/5/13

Recording Job Number: 18273

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature:



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

To provide an appropriation to the department of human services for grants to children's advocacy centers.

Minutes:

Attached testimony

Chairman Lee opens hearing on SB 2356.

Senator J. Lee introduces the bill to the committee.

Senator Poolman, one of the bill's sponsors, expresses her support for the bill.

(0:06:05) Jeanne LeMay, director and a forensic interviewer of the Northern Plains Children's Advocacy Center in Minot, ND, testifies in support of the bill. See attached testimony #1.

(0:11:04) Senator Dever asks if there are appropriations elsewhere in the state budget.

Ms. LeMay states that, yes, this is the additional \$300,000.

Senator Dever asks if the children have to appear in court as well as go through a forensic interview.

Ms. LeMay states that the children also have to testify in court. The recorded forensic video is often submitted as evidence as well.

(0:13:08) Senator Anderson asks her talk about the concept of the advocacy centers and how the children are brought in.

Ms. LeMay states that the children are brought to the centers for the forensic interviews but there are satellite facilities as well. All referrals come from law enforcement or CPS social services.

Chairman Lee offers an example to the committee regarding the importance of having the additional centers.

(0:15:13) Paula Condol, coordinator of the Dakota Children's Advocacy Center in Bismarck, ND, testifies in support. See attached testimony #2.

(0:19:00) Senator Dever references the 1,258 new alleged victims and asks how many alleged perpetrators that involves.

Ms. Condol states that it's usually about $\frac{3}{4}$.

Senator Dever questions that if the purpose of the investigation is to bring it to prosecution, it seems like more people should be jailed for this.

Ms. Condol explains that the main purpose is to make sure the children are safe and okay.

(0:21:26) Anna Frissell, director of the Red River Children's Advocacy Center, serving children and families in Fargo and Grand Forks, testifies in support. See attached testimony #3.

(0:24:39) Senator Larsen inquires about the time frame that they enter the picture/get called in.

Ms. Condol explains that the disclosure time could be a long time, or in crisis situations disclosure could happen very quickly. Law enforcement is the partner in the safety plan and is the only ones that have the authority to remove the children from the situation. The time period differs and sometimes the kind of services involved make a difference.

(0:27:18) Jonathan Byers, on behalf of the Attorney General's offices, testifies in support. No written testimony was provided. He was the special prosecutor that worked on child sexual abuse and briefly explains to the committee why the creation of these advocacy centers has been the best tool to help him do his job the last 20 years.

(0:29:05) Senator Anderson asks Mr. Byers to explain the interview process and how they transition into the courtroom.

Mr. Byers explains that the videotaped interviews done at the advocacy centers can be used in court if the child testifies first or if the child is found unavailable to testify by the court. Often times when the children testify in court they are very intimidated and reluctant to retell their story so it's nice to have the recording of their story at the onsite of the investigation to fall back on. In order to protect the defendant's right to confrontation, the legislature created the process by which there can be a videotaped deposition with the defendant watching through a one way mirror to be used in place of the in court testimony. There are very few cases where the child is not able to testify at all so he always prefers their live in court testimony.

Senator Anderson follows by asking why the attorney general's office gets involved instead of the local prosecuting attorney.

Mr. Byers explains that their involvement is always at the request of the local state's attorney. They want someone who has expertise to get involved to assist in the process.

Senator Dever quotes the statistics from previous testimony and asks how many of the cases went to court and resulted in a conviction.

Mr. Byers states that the last figure he looked at was in the early 2000's where there were approximately 70 sex offenders entering the prisons each year and it is probably higher now. A lot more people get prosecuted because there are children's advocacy centers.

Senator Dever states that he appreciates that the purpose of the centers is the safety of the children.

(0:35:04) Birch Burdick, Cass County State's Attorney, offers a brief story about an abuse case.

(0:40:08) Ina Olson, director of the Turtle Mountain Child Welfare and Family Services Program on the Turtle Mountain Reservation, testifies in support. She did not provide written testimony but discusses the outreach project established through the multi-disciplinary collaboration between her program and the Northern Plains Children Advocacy Center.

(0:41:50) Senator Anderson asks Ms. Olson to explain how the prosecution works on the Reservations.

Ms. Olson explains how they work with the US attorney and the FBI. They are prosecuted federally.

Chairman Lee follows by offering her knowledge on investigations on the Reservations and Ms. Olson states that she is correct.

(0:44:27) Shawna McFarland, Director of Divide County Social Services, testifies in support. See attached testimony #4.

(0:48:43) Senator Larsen asks Ms. McFarland to explain her background to the committee.

Ms. McFarland states that she is a licensed social worker and has done child protection. She further explains her qualifications/training.

(0:50:02) Senator Dever asks if it is safe to assume that there is a strong awareness on the part of law enforcement in social services across the state of the existence of the work of the advocacy centers.

Ms. McFarland affirms this assumption and explains law enforcement's response to the process.

(0:51:21) Tim Hathaway, executive director of Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota, expresses his strong support.

No further questions or testimony. The hearing on SB 2356 is closed.

2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Human Services Committee
Red River Room, State Capitol

SB 2356

2/5/13

Recording Job Number: 18278

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature:



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

To provide an appropriation to the department of human services for grants to children's advocacy centers.

Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

Committee discussion on SB 2356:

Senator Larsen moves Do Pass and rerefer to Appropriations.

Senator Dever seconded.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0, motion passes.

Senator J. Lee is the carrier.

Chairman Lee praises the advocacy center workers by briefly sharing a story with the committee.

Date: 2/5/13
Roll Call Vote #:

2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2350

Senate Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment

Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By Sen. Larsen Seconded By Sen. Dever

Senators	Yes	No	Senator	Yes	No
Chairman Judy Lee	✓		Senator Tyler Axness	✓	
Vice Chairman Oley Larsen	✓				
Senator Dick Dever	✓				
Senator Howard Anderson, Jr.	✓				

Total (Yes) 5 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen. J. Lee

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2356: Human Services Committee (Sen. J. Lee, Chairman) recommends DO PASS and BE REREFERRED to the Appropriations Committee (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2356 was rereferred to the Appropriations Committee.

2013 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2356

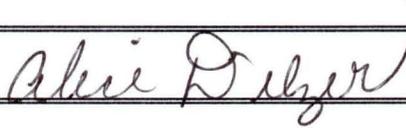
2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Appropriations Committee Harvest Room, State Capitol

SB 2356
02-13-2013
Job # 18863

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

An appropriation to the department of human services for grants to children's advocacy centers

Minutes:

See attached testimony

Chairman Holmberg called the committee to order on Wednesday, February 13, 2013 at 9:00 am in regards to SB 2356. All committee members were present except Vice Chairman Grindberg.

Becky J. Keller - Legislative Council
Lori Laschkewitsch-OMB

Senator Dick Dever, District 32, Bismarck: This bill involves an appropriation to children's advocacy centers. There are three in the state: Fargo, Bismarck, and Minot. The work they do is incredibly important. They work with law enforcement to do the investigations. We have supported these in the past. I encourage your support.

Vice Chairman Bowman: How is this currently funding and is this over and above what is currently funded?

Senator Dever: Others will speak to you about their budget considerations. One difference is now there is an additional center. The problem is growing.

Senator Carlisle: Wasn't this in the governor's budget?

Senator Dever: I think what money might be in the state budget would be in that budget. There are 6 sponsors on this bill.

Senator Judy Lee, District 13: I support this bill. To clarify there is \$700,000 in the budget and this is an additional \$300,000. We began with 2 centers we now have 6 centers including two 2 satellites. We have a moral and ethical obligation to support this.

Michael Bommarito, State Coordinator for the Children's Advocacy Center of ND: Testified in favor of SB 2356 Testimony attached # 1. Folder Testimony attached # 2.

Vice Chairman Bowman: When I grew up spanking was common. I have never regretted in my life my parents doing that. It can be tough to draw the line between discipline and abuse. There is a huge difference between the two

Michael Bommarito: That is a good reason for the CAC. The team can decide together how to move forward when interviewing the child. The interviewer is a mutual party. They can find out the details. That is the benefit as opposed to a situation where a social worker has to talk to the child, then law enforcement may have to interview and the child has to go over the story over and over and the facts get muddy. That is where the CAC helps.

Senator Warner: I am a little confused on your physical location. Do you have an office just for this space?

Michael Bommarito: Each of our centers have a specific physical location. All of them are independently located in their own facility. Some are connected to a local medical center. The satellites share a location to keep down costs. It is a dedicated area that we want to use so we can have the recording equipment, have it be child friendly, and a place where the team can easily cooperate.

Senator Warner: Do you have access to other granting programs for equipment and personnel training?

Michael Bommarito: In the folder we have a breakdown of the funding across the state. We are actively seeking funding from foundations, grants, and private fundraisers. The state appropriation gives us a base foundation upon which we can build.

Senator Mathern: Who is the citizen or mandated reporter to make a report to a licensed social worker if they see abuse? Do they make a report to your agency or the county?

Michael Bommarito: The reports are made to law enforcement or the county depending on the individual. Then if the child needs to be interviewed, the case would be referred to one of our centers.

Senator Mathern: I am thinking some citizens would think they could report to you. If that is the case, how do you handle it?

Michael Bommarito: If our center gets a call, we refer them to the proper county office. We don't take any direct appointment from individuals. We offer no private services when a report is made.

Senator Mathern: Was this specific request made to the governor before that budget was prepared?

Michael Bommarito: No it was not.

Senator Kilzer: The \$700,000 in the executive budget, is that matching or state funds?

Michael Bommarito: That is all state funds.

Senator Kilzer: So you have \$700,000 state funds and you have federal funds? In the year 2012 you had \$123,000 federal funds? And there is no matching with that.

Michael Bommarito: The federal funding is the VOCA grant: Victims of Child Abuse Act funding that comes as a grant through government agencies.

Senator Kilzer: So the \$700,000 is general funds with no match and this is another \$300,000?

Michael Bommarito: Yes.

Kim Jacobson, Director of Trail County Social Services and member of the ND County Social Service Director's Association: I am in favor of SB 2356 and provided Testimony attached # 3. We do not refer all cases to the CAC. It's a discussion between law enforcement and our agency. Please consider a Do Pass.

Jonathan Byers, Attorney General's Office: I am here in support of 2356. Some of you may recall I was hired in 1992 in response to a piece of legislation that was sponsored by Senator Layton Freborg. It created a prosecutor position to specifically work on child abuse sexual case and I have worked on that for 20 years. The CAC is one of the best developments I have seen to help me do my job in those 20 years. Heidi Heitkamp and I were involved in the first children's advocacy center in Bismarck in connection with Med Center One. Our office is in strong support of the North Dakota's Children's Advocacy Centers. This is not new money, this is what we have always done or should have been doing. I have a little story court case where I almost got shot. The defendant decided to shoot me because he got convicted. He only was convicted with the assistance of Paula Condo's testimony. In cases like that, or in rural Adams County in ND, the assistance of all CAC are working on things we always needed to do. They provide the expertise we have not always had. I can't imagine what my job would be like if we took a step back.

Chairman Holmberg: No one has asked for the extra money.

Lori Laschkewitsch: Human services doesn't typically submit OAR because there are so many so that is probably the reason it wasn't an OAR in their budget.

Senator Warner: There must be several thresholds that rise up to a criminal case. Are the CAC used only when it reaches criminal level?

Jonathan Byers: The idea is we want the eyes and ears of the community open so the threshold is pretty low. Social Services and law enforcement look at the case and determine at the investigative stage it would be helpful to have CAC involved, will make that referral. They will do a forensic interview of the child and possibly a medical exam of the child. That gets referred back to the county. The counties each have a child protection team that decides whether services are required or recommended. We used to call it whether the abuse has occurred, now they call it whether services are required or recommended. Then the information is sent to the county state's attorney where they will

decide whether there is a criminal charge on top of that child protection team. When there has been a report that comes in saying possible child abuse occurred, we can discover if it was parental discipline or child abuse.

Paula Condo: I am here and support the bill. I am the center in Bismarck, and we have a satellite in Dickinson. While our numbers have exploded in the last several years, our federal funding has also decreased because of the economic situation federally. Currently none of our satellites are being funded through anything. We are struggling to keep the services in Dickinson and Grand Forks. I don't have money to send staff out there. I don't have money to pay their mileage or time. We want to at least maintain our services right now.

Jeanie Remae, Director of the Children's Advocacy Center in Minot: I am asking and praying for your support of 2356. I am a forensic interviewer. I was amazed at the resilience of little children. I interviewed a girl and her brother. The allegation was the uncle was sexually abusing the 3 year old girl. Then we interviewed the 6 year old. He told me it's his fault and he shouldn't have let the uncle do that to her. So we have children that it is difficult for them to tell us what happened. The forensic interview is very friendly and neutral. We want the child to feel comfortable enough to tell the story. I truly thank you for your support and I ask that you approve SB 2356.

Senator Krebsbach: I have had the opportunity to visit the center in Minot. I left totally impressed with the dedication of the people and professionalism they had. They have extensive training to do this job. I know that in our area the numbers are greatly increasing and Jeanie .

Jeanie Remae: We did 100 interviews this year than we did last year. We did 262 interviews this year.

Vice Chairman Bowman: What are we doing to try to turn the problem around before it happens so that somewhere along the line we can get some help for those people before it happens?

Jeanie Remae: Prevention education is a very big part of what we do. We go to the communities, schools, and service clubs. People are becoming more educated and know our program is there to support families. It is a big issue. We don't directly work or provide services for the alleged offenders, we do follow-up for the family and trauma therapy for the child.

Chairman Holmberg: We will close the hearing. We have committee members absent so we will not take any action on this bill.

Testimony attached # 4 from Kirsten Baesler, Supt of Public Instruction in support of SB 2356.

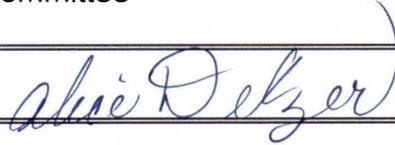
2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Appropriations Committee Harvest Room, State Capitol

SB 2356
02-20--2013
Job # 19265

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A Bill regarding children's advocacy centers (DO PASS)

Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

Chairman Holmberg called the committee to order on Wednesday, February 20, 2013. All committee members were present.

Brady Larson - Legislative Council
Joe Morrissette- OMB

Senator Mathern moved a do pass. 2nd by Senator Krebsbach.

Chairman Holmberg: Seeing no discussion. Call the roll on a do pass on 2356.

A Roll Call vote was taken. Yea: 13; Nay: 0; Absent: 0. Senator Judy Lee from Human Services will carry the bill.

The hearing was closed on SB 2356.

Date: 2-20-13

Roll Call Vote # 1

2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2356

Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken DO Pass

Motion Made By Mathern Seconded By Krebsbach

Senators	Yes	No	Senator	Yes	No
Chariman Ray Holmberg	✓		Senator Tim Mathern	✓	
Co-Vice Chairman Bill Bowman	✓		Senator David O'Connell	✓	
Co-Vice Chair Tony Grindberg	✓		Senator Larry Robinson	✓	
Senator Ralph Kilzer	✓		Senator John Warner	✓	
Senator Karen Krebsbach	✓				
Senator Robert Erbele	✓				
Senator Terry Wanzek	✓				
Senator Ron Carlisle	✓				
Senator Gary Lee	✓				

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Human Services ~~Devel~~

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent: Judy Lee

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2356: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman) recommends DO PASS
(13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2356 was placed on the
Eleventh order on the calendar.

2013 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

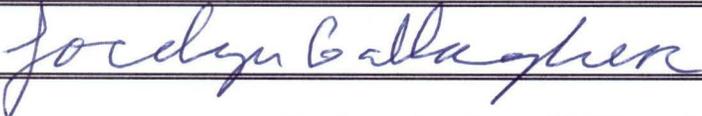
SB 2356

2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Human Services Committee
Fort Union Room, State Capitol

SB 2356
March 13, 2013
Job 19886

Conference Committee



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of human services for grants to children's advocacy centers.

Minutes:

Testimony 1, 2, 3

Chairman Weisz opened the hearing on SB 2356.

Michael Bommarito: State Coordinator for Child Advocacy Center of ND testified in support of the bill. (See Testimony #1)

8:00

Chairman Weisz: How much currently are you getting of state funding today?

Bommarito: We are still at 700,000.

Rep. Mooney: The 300,000 would be in addition to the 700,000?

Bommarito: Yes, that is correct.

8:40

Dr. Arne Graff: Practices for Sanford Health in Fargo, ND testified in support of the bill. (See Testimony #2)

11:56

Rep. Anderson: Is there anyone who has been falsely accused of child abuse and if there has, how was it resolved?

Dr. Graff: There are lots of cases across the country where people are falsely accused. Our job from the medical side is to see if there is an injury and determine if it is a medical cause, accident or non-accident cause. Then coordinating with law enforcement, child protection services, and other agencies to sit down and say this is the best estimate of what happened.

Rep. Anderson: Has it ever happened though?

Dr. Graff: I have been involved with cases where allegations are made and then recant something they said.

Rep. Silbernagel: Is this eighteen and under, is there a specific age group?

Dr. Graff: It typically under the age of 18.

Jonathon Byers: From Attorney General's Office testified in support of the bill.

17:15

Rep. Fehr: Could you talk about the need for the additional 300,000 in appropriations.

Byers: It was just one center when we started but more families are getting the benefit of it.

Rep. Fehr: The centers don't do the follow-on treatment, there needs to be handoff? Can you talk about that?

Byers: Each center operates a bit different and in some there is therapy offered.

19:50

Kristen Hasburgen, Director of Richland County Social Services: Gave verbal support of the bill.

20:54

Sen. Dick Dever: From District 32, Bismarck introduced and supported the bill. If one of my children were abused I would want everything possible to bring the perpetrator to justice. Children's Advocacy Centers does that.

23:35

Kristen Baesler, Superintendent of Public Instruction: Testified in support of the bill. (See Testimony # 3)

Rep. Laning: Did you say your continuing to get 700,000 support from the state when your chart here shows 300?

Bommarito: It was a typo.

Chairman Weisz: Closed hearing.

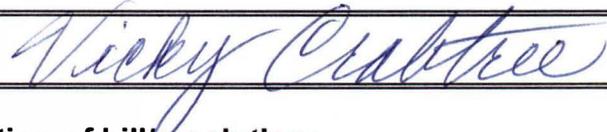
2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Human Services Committee
Fort Union Room, State Capitol

SB 2356
March 26, 2013
Job #20519

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

To provide an appropriation to the DHS for grants to children's advocacy centers.

Minutes:

Chairman Weisz: Let's look at SB 2356. That is money for the AG's office event though it goes to DHS.

Rep. Silbernagel: I move a Do Pass of 2356 and re-refer to Appropriations.

Rep. Mooney: Second.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 12 y 0 n 1 absent

Bill Carrier: Rep. Silbernagel

Date: 2-26-13
Roll Call Vote #: _____

2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2356

House Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment
 Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By Rep. Silbernagel Seconded By Rep. Mooney

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
CHAIRMAN WEISZ	✓	✓	REP. MOONEY	✓	✓
VICE-CHAIRMAN HOFSTAD	✓	✓	REP. MUSCHA	✓	✓
REP. ANDERSON	✓	✓	REP. OVERSEN	✓	✓
REP. DAMSCHEN	✓	✓			
REP. FEHR	A	✓			
REP. KIEFERT	✓	✓			
REP. LANING	✓	✓			
REP. LOOYSEN	✓	✓			
REP. PORTER	✓	✓			
REP. SILBERNAGEL	✓	✓			

Total (Yes) 12 No 0

Absent _____

Floor Assignment Rep. Silbernagel

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2356: Human Services Committee (Rep. Weisz, Chairman) recommends DO PASS and BE REREFERRED to the Appropriations Committee (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2356 was rereferred to the Appropriations Committee.

2013 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2356

2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2356
4/2/13
Job 20780

Conference Committee

Jocelyn Gallagher

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of human services for grants to children's advocacy centers.

Minutes:

Rep. Robin Weisz, District 14: Introduced the bill.

Chairman Delzer: 02:05 How many current centers do we have?

Rep. Weisz: There are three now, they just expanded to the third and this is a reason they are looking for increased funding.

Rep. Williams: The \$700,000 from the AG budget, is that general fund or federal?

Rep. Weisz: My understanding was those were general fund dollars.

Chairman Delzer: We'll need to find out where that resides. It should be in the same spot. How are these granted? Is it equal to all the centers, or based on usage?

Rep. Weisz: There's only one outfit doing this, all three centers are doing the same services. They are in Fargo, Bismarck, and Minot. Minot is the new one. There are also three satellite stations in Dickenson, Grand Forks, and Belcourt. **04:18** talked caseload.

Chairman Delzer: Do you have the total cases for those two years?

Rep. Weisz: Those numbers are 13-15 thousand. I can't speak to if it stayed steady or not.

Chairman Delzer: We'll also need to know if there was an OAR on this.

Rep. Weisz: We did not ask if there had been an OAR. The AG office was the only agency testifying in support.

Chairman Delzer: Further questions from the committee?

2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2356
4/5/13
Job 20943

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Meredith Truholt

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of human services for grants to children's advocacy centers.

Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

Chairman Delzer: This is for children's advocacy center grants. This is an appropriation out of the general fund for \$300,000.

Rep. Pollert moved Do Pass, seconded by **Rep. Wieland**.

Chairman Delzer: The only issue I might have is, does the money currently reside in the attorney general's office?

Lori Laschkewitsch, OMB: It is in the department of human services.

Chairman Delzer: So this is the same place. I think in essence this is the cost to go from two centers to three. There are three satellites. Further discussion? Seeing none, a roll call vote was done. The motion carried 17 Yes, 3 No, 2 Absent. **Rep. Holman** will be the carrier.

Date: 4/5/13
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2356**

House Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment
 Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By Rep. Pollert Seconded By Rep. Wieland

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Delzer	X		Rep. Streyle		X
Vice Chairman Kempenich	X		Rep. Thoreson	X	
Rep. Bellew		X	Rep. Wieland	X	
Rep. Brandenburg	X				
Rep. Dosch		X			
Rep. Grande	X		Rep. Boe		
Rep. Hawken	X		Rep. Glassheim	X	
Rep. Kreidt	X		Rep. Guggisberg	X	
Rep. Martinson	X		Rep. Holman	X	
Rep. Monson	X		Rep. Williams		
Rep. Nelson	X				
Rep. Pollert	X				
Rep. Sanford	X				
Rep. Skarphol	X				

Total Yes 17 No 3

Absent 2

Floor Assignment Rep. Holman

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2356: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Delzer, Chairman) recommends DO PASS
(17 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2356 was placed on the
Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2013 TESTIMONY

SB 2356

Senate Human Services Committee

Testimony In Support of Senate Bill #2356

2-5-13

Madame Chairman and Members of the Committee.

For the record, my name is Jeanne LeMay. I am the director and a forensic interviewer of the Northern Plains Children's Advocacy Center in Minot, ND. I am here today to ask for your support for Senate Bill 2383.

The Northern Plains Children's Advocacy Center is one of the Children's Advocacy Centers in North Dakota that is committed to improving the response to child abuse. We are a community partnership that utilizes a comprehensive multidisciplinary team approach to supporting victims and investigating child abuse. Professionals from social services, law enforcement, prosecution, victim advocacy and the medical and mental health communities meet under one roof so that a child only has to tell of his or her abuse one time. Sensitivity to the needs and abilities of children is the hallmark of Children's Advocacy Centers.

Children's Advocacy Center's were started in Huntsville, AL in 1987 by US Congressman Bud Cramer, (then District Attorney of Madison County, AL), who saw that there must be a better way to help abused children. He, along with a multidisciplinary team, developed the children's advocacy center model to ensure that children are not further victimized by the systems intended to protect them. Since then Children's Advocacy Centers have developed in all 50 states, including three here in North Dakota. The Dakota Children's Advocacy Center, the Northern Plains Children's Advocacy Center and the Red River Child Advocacy Center serve children in all 53 counties of North Dakota, all 5 reservations and children across our borders.

Child abuse happens in North Dakota. In 2012 our Children's Advocacy Centers saw 1258 cases of reported abuse. Every year our centers see children that are raped, beaten, burned and threatened, and in any case of abuse, the child has already experienced a great deal of mental and physical anguish. Children's Advocacy Centers offer environments that are free of intimidation. This welcoming atmosphere makes the situation less stressful for the child and as a result they may be more open to sharing their horrific experiences.

The multidisciplinary team approach is a collaboration of agencies. Together they collect forensic evidence, conduct forensic interviews, complete medical examinations, provide medical and mental health treatment and coordinate advocacy services and legal planning. They also provide case tracking to ensure that kids aren't lost in the system. Most do research and training, and provide technical assistance and consultation to agencies across the state.

There is a specific benefit to the rural communities that do not have experience and training in conducting forensic interviews, providing specialized pediatric forensic exams, assessing the needs of victims and families, providing advocacy resources to support families and assuring resources are available to provide appropriate treatment services.

As such the Children's Advocacy Centers play an important role in issues of public safety, working with our criminal justice, mental health and medical systems to protect our children and families. I urge you to support this bill so that our centers will be able to continue to increase services making our services more readily available to ALL the children in our state.

Madame Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before you today and I will be happy to try and answer any of your questions. Thank You.

Senate Human Services Committee

Testimony In Support of Senate Bill #2356

2-5-13

For the record, my name is Paula Condol. I am the coordinator of the Dakota Children's Advocacy Center in Bismarck, ND. I am here today to ask for your support for Senate Bill 2383.

As has been mentioned Children's Advocacy Centers exist to serve children suspected of being abused and to minimize re-traumatization of those children.

In most cases, our first interaction with a child is at the forensic interview. The forensic interview process is unique because all investigative parties participate in a single interview with the child. One professional interviews the child in a child-friendly room in a way that is neutral and legally sound. Law enforcement, prosecution social services and medical participate in the interview via a closed circuit television. In addition to watching the interview they are able to contribute by communicating with the interviewer to ask specific questions via an ear-piece or during breaks. With all parties involved, the interviewer can gain necessary information to protect the child and assure to that the proper steps have been followed should legal action be necessary.

In addition to the forensic interview, CACs may conduct or refer for specialized forensic medical exams. The primary purpose of the forensic medical exam is to ensure the overall health of the child, while seeing if there are signs of abuse. The exam is not evasive, but more similar to a head-to-toe well-child checkup. These exams are especially important to assure the child they are healthy and well. Children who have been abused often carry the fear of their abuse being visible to everyone around them. Children have asked us if they will still be able to have their own children someday, will everyone at their school know, when am I going to have my baby and even a heartbreaking 6 year old little girl asking "can you see his

finger prints inside me?”. To hear from a medical professional that they are well and that every looks good is often a world of relief to these terrified children. Furthermore for those unlucky few whose bodies may not be okay, the medical exam is a crucial place to educate and provide support to them and their parents through this difficult process that will stay with them their whole lives. It is not easy walking a 12 year old child through pregnancy with her brother’s child or telling an 8 year old that their itchy sores will always be a part of their lives.

As you can imagine the overall investigative process, especially if alleged abuse is confirmed, is a terrifying unknown to the children and their family. This is why our services also include ongoing victim/family advocacy so the parent has someone to whom they can turn with their questions and concerns and specialized trauma-focused mental health services so that the child and family can begin their way on the road to healing. Fortunately these kids can recover; they can go on to have happy, healthy lives. And many times the once scared child who held their head down and cried walks out of a CAC with their head held high saying things like “I will be okay”, “it’s not my fault” and “I am safe now”.

This is what we mean by providing a comprehensive, coordinated and compassionate response to child abuse allegations. Our concern is first, foremost and always the wellbeing of the children, that they are able to tell what may have happened to them, and to get the care they need. That is why I urge you to pass this bill, so our children have a voice that is their own.

Madame Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before you today and I will be happy to try and answer any of your questions. Thank You.

Senate Human Services Committee

Testimony In Support of Senate Bill #2356

2-5-13

For the record, my name is Anna Frissell. I am the director of the Red River Children's Advocacy Center, serving children and families in Fargo and Grand Forks. I am here today to ask for your support for Senate Bill ~~2383~~.

2356

Although Children's Advocacy Center's play an important role in our criminal justice, mental health and medical systems, they are not moneymakers. Currently our centers are funded in large part through grants, donations, and in-kind support. In 2007 the Legislature provided a \$700,000 appropriation for the work of the Children's Advocacy Centers serving North Dakota. At that time we had 2 CACs in North Dakota and saw 631 new cases, offering 1,782 services to children and their families. We now have 3 CACs and 3 satellites/outreach centers and in 2012 we saw 1,258 new cases and offered 17,133 services. At a time when our state is literally busting at the seams, so are our centers and the number of referrals we are getting. We continue to reach out to individuals and the private sector for support, and we have managed to sustain our Centers to meet the growth we have experienced over the past 5 years, but as a work dedicated to the public safety of our state's most vulnerable citizens, we need your help.

The additional \$50,000 appropriation per year, for each center over the next biennium will return our two initial centers to their 2007 funding levels and fund our third center at the same level. Restoring our financial foundation will help us to continue reaching out to our rural counties, supporting our work: to ensure all cases that should be seen by a CAC have that opportunity and not just the most severe cases. Furthermore, this funding will assist our centers to provide education and materials to families in all our counties, mental health and advocacy services (i.e. counseling and reimbursement for family's travel to the center), training of professionals, forensic interviewing services, case management and case review.

#3

We are proud partners of child protection workers, law enforcement officers, prosecutors and mental health and medical professionals of our state, counties and local communities. We greatly appreciate the support and confidence the Legislature has in the services we provide. I am the first to wish our centers could close our doors and go out of business, but until we can do that knowing that NO child in North Dakota needs our help, I ask you for your continued support.

Madam Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before you today and I will be happy to try and answer any of your questions.

Thank You.

Testimony

SB 2356 - Department of Human Services

Senate Human Services Committee

Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, my name is Shawna McFarland. I am the Director of Divide County Social Services. I come here today to provide testimony in support of funding to the North Dakota Children Advocacy Centers (CAC).

I have had the opportunity to work with both the Bismarck and Minot CAC in my positions as an investigator of child abuse and neglect for Three Affiliated Tribes; as a multi-county CPS social worker for Burke, Mountrail and Renville Counties; and now, as the director of Divide County Social Services. The ability to have these resources for the children and families we serve, both on and off of the reservations, in our state is crucial to the health, welfare, and peace of mind of the individuals and family we are working with.

The CAC allows a child to tell their story one time with an interviewer who is an expert in working with children who have been sexually abused or with cases of extreme abuse and or neglect. As a social worker, it provides peace of mind to know that someone who does this type of interviewing daily will be able to walk the child and family through the process. The knowledge that all questions that need to be answered, both legally and for our child welfare purposes, will be only asked once, and the child will not have to retell their story to many different individuals making the CAC a unique and much needed service. The CAC's in North Dakota work well with counties, local, and state law enforcement agencies as well as the FBI. The team effort of the CAC gives families and survivors a unique experience that cannot be duplicated in a county office, even if the person interviewing is trained. I say this as I have been trained as a forensic interviewer through the CAC process, which has assisted me greatly in CPS assessments. However, when it comes to the needs of sexual abuse or legal cases, the ability to have the child interviewed in a facility that is set up to meet the needs, both legally and emotionally, of the child and family is valuable beyond words. So much research has gone into the design of the interview rooms for the children which enables social services staff and law enforcement to participate in the interview in a non threatening way. The support for the family

or non offending family members creates an amazing support team around the individuals served.

Divide County Social Services is partnered with the Minot CAC and here are the statistics for their CAC for the past two years. Last year in 2012, the Minot CAC served 285 individuals. 262 were forensic interviews, and 23 were for "other direct services". In 2011, the Minot CAC served 185 individuals. 160 were forensic interviews, and 25 were "other direct services". This data shows an increase in their number of contacts and forensic interviews by 100. This increase is not surprising as in Divide County alone, the Child Protection Reports more than doubled from 2011 to 2012.

The Children Advocacy Centers statewide need your support as their services benefit counties, reservations, families, and survivors. The state of North Dakota has changed a great deal in the last few years. With the greater population we now have, we are finding a greater need for services. The CAC's work hard to get individuals into be interviewed as quickly as possible. They strive to meet the needs of families in very trying and difficult times. The support needed to maintain these services, and ensure they are available to the level required, with the increases in population and overall need, lies in your hands. I think it is important to remember when the most vulnerable among us need someone to advocate for them, it is the CAC's who steps into that role. They assist children in telling stories most of us as adults would struggle to share while reassuring and protecting the children from undo additional trauma. One of the most important roles we have is to not re-victimize an already victimized child. This is the purpose of the CAC's in our state, and one that I believe is of utmost importance to remember. You can protect children by supporting the CAC's in our state, allowing them to continue to provide their services to the same level with the new demands placed on them, due to the changes in our state. I urge you to vote a do pass on this bill.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Senate Appropriations Committee
Testimony In Support of Senate Bill #2356
2-13-13

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee.

For the record, my name is Michael Bommarito. I am the State Coordinator for the Children's Advocacy Center of North Dakota. I am here today to ask for your support for Senate Bill 2356.

The Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota are committed to improving the response to child abuse. Each CAC is a community partnership that utilizes a comprehensive multidisciplinary team approach to support alleged victims of child abuse. Professionals from social services, law enforcement, prosecution, victim advocacy and the medical and mental health communities meet under one roof so that a child only has to tell of his or her abuse one time. Sensitivity to the needs and abilities of children is the hallmark of all children's advocacy centers.

A child is referred to a children's advocacy center by child protective service or law enforcement in order to streamline the assessment of child abuse and provide appropriate services to the child and family.

In most cases, our first interaction with a child is at the forensic interview. The forensic interview process is unique because all investigative parties participate in a single interview with the child. One professional interviews the child in a child-friendly room in a way that is neutral and legally sound. Law enforcement, prosecution and social services participate in the interview via a closed circuit television. In addition to watching the interview they are able to contribute by communicating with the interviewer to ask specific questions via an ear-piece or during breaks. With all parties involved, the interviewer can gain all necessary information to protect the child and assure to that the proper steps have been followed should legal action be necessary.



In addition to the forensic interview, CACs may conduct or refer for specialized forensic medical exams. The primary purpose of the forensic medical exam is to ensure the overall health of the child, while seeing if there are signs of abuse. The exam is not evasive, but more similar to a head-to-toe well-child checkup. These exams are especially important to assure the child they are healthy and well. Children who have been abused often carry the fear that their abuse is visible to everyone around them. Children have asked us if they will still be able to have their own children someday, whether everyone at their school will know, when their baby will be born and even a heartbreaking 6 year old little girl asking “can you see his finger prints inside me?”. To hear from a medical professional that they are well and that every looks good is often a world of relief to these terrified children. Furthermore for those unlucky few whose bodies may not be okay, the medical exam is a crucial place to educate and provide support to them and their parents through this difficult process that will stay with them their whole lives. It is not easy walking a 12 year old child through pregnancy with her brother’s child or telling an 8 year old that their itchy sores will always be a part of their lives.

As you can imagine the overall investigative process, especially if alleged abuse is confirmed, is a terrifying unknown to the children and their family. This is why our services also include ongoing victim/family advocacy so the parent has someone to whom they can turn with their questions and concerns and specialized trauma-focused mental health services so that the child and family can begin their way on the road to healing. Fortunately these kids can recover; they can go on to have happy, healthy lives. And many times the once scared child who held their head down and cried walks out of a CAC with their head held high saying things like “I will be okay”, “it’s not my fault” and “I am safe now”.

This is what we mean by providing a comprehensive, coordinated and compassionate response to child abuse allegations. Our concern is first, foremost and always the wellbeing of the children and that they are able to tell what may have happened to them, and to get the care they need.

The services of a CAC is a specific benefit to the rural communities that do not have experience and training in conducting forensic interviews, providing specialized pediatric forensic exams, assessing the needs of victims and families, providing advocacy resources to support families and assuring resources are available to provide appropriate treatment services.

As such the Children's Advocacy Centers play an important role in issues of public safety, working with our criminal justice, mental health and medical systems to protect our children and families. That is why we are here to urge you to support this bill so that our centers will be able to continue to increase services making our services more readily available to ALL the children in our state.

I would like to draw your attention to the folders I passed out and sheets titled How We Are Funded and Statistical Report found on the left side pocket. In 2007 the Legislature provided a \$700,000 appropriation for the work of the Children's Advocacy Centers serving North Dakota. At that time we had 2 CACs in North Dakota and saw 631 new cases, offering 1,782 services to children and their families. We now have 3 CACs (one in Bismarck, Fargo and Minot) and 3 satellites/outreach centers (Dickinson, Grand Forks and Belcourt) and in 2012 we saw 1,258 new cases and offered 17,133 services. At a time when our state is literally busting at the seams, so are our centers and the number of referrals we are getting. We continue to reach out to individuals and the private sector for support, and we have managed to sustain our Centers to meet the growth we have experienced over the past 5 years, but as a work dedicated to the public safety of our state's most vulnerable citizens, we need your help.

The additional \$300,000 appropriation will return our two initial centers to their 2007 funding levels and fund our third center at the same level. Restoring our financial foundation will help us to continue reaching out to our rural counties, to ensure all cases that should be seen by a CAC have that opportunity and not just the most severe cases. Furthermore, this funding will assist our centers to provide education and materials to

families in all our counties, mental health and advocacy services (i.e. counseling and reimbursement for family's travel to the center), training of professionals, forensic interviewing services, case management and case review. The sad fact is that without additional funding our centers will not be able to sustain the growth and outreach into the rest of our state.

We are proud partners in the work to provide for the public safety and wellbeing of our children. We greatly appreciate the support and confidence the Legislature has in the services we provide. I am the first to wish our centers could close our doors and go out of business, but until we can do so knowing that NO child in North Dakota needs our help, I ask you for your continued and increased support.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before you today and I will be happy to try and answer any of your questions.

WHO WE ARE

#2

The Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota (CACND) is a network of Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) working to ensure that every child in North Dakota alleged to be a victim of abuse has access to a multidisciplinary team approach to investigation, treatment and care in a safe, child focused environment.

A Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) is a child-focused, community-oriented, safe facility in which members of a multidisciplinary team (MDT), including child protection, social services, law enforcement, prosecution, victim advocacy and the medical and mental health communities, work together to provide a comprehensive, coordinated and compassionate investigation and intervention of child abuse allegations.



Accredited Members of the National Children's Alliance

The National Children's Alliance is a nation-wide not-for-profit membership organization whose purpose is to empower local communities to provide comprehensive, coordinated and compassionate services to victims of child abuse. The NCA accredits Child Advocacy Centers based on nationally recognized standards.



Dakota Children's
Advocacy Center
SANFORD
HEALTH



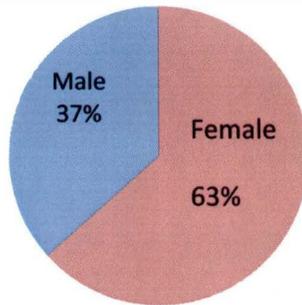
RED RIVER
CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY CENTER

Helping Kids, Rebuilding Lives, Strengthening Communities.

WHO WE SERVE

Gender

One in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused before the age of 18. In fact, more than one in ten of all substantiated child abuse and neglect referrals to social service agencies nationwide are victims of sexual abuse.



2162 children

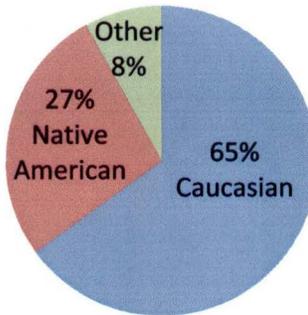
seen in 2012

1258 new cases

Over

17,100 services

offered in 2012

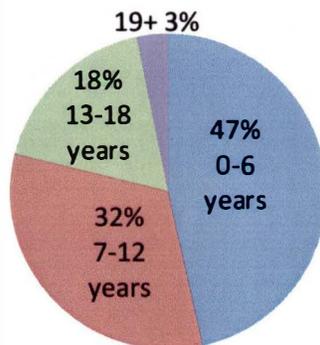


Race

Child abuse knows neither ethnic nor cultural bounds. The Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota serve the children of all 53 Counties and 5 Reservations in our state.

Age

Though child abuse affects children of all ages, the majority of children seen at the Children's Advocacy Centers throughout North Dakota are under the age of 9.



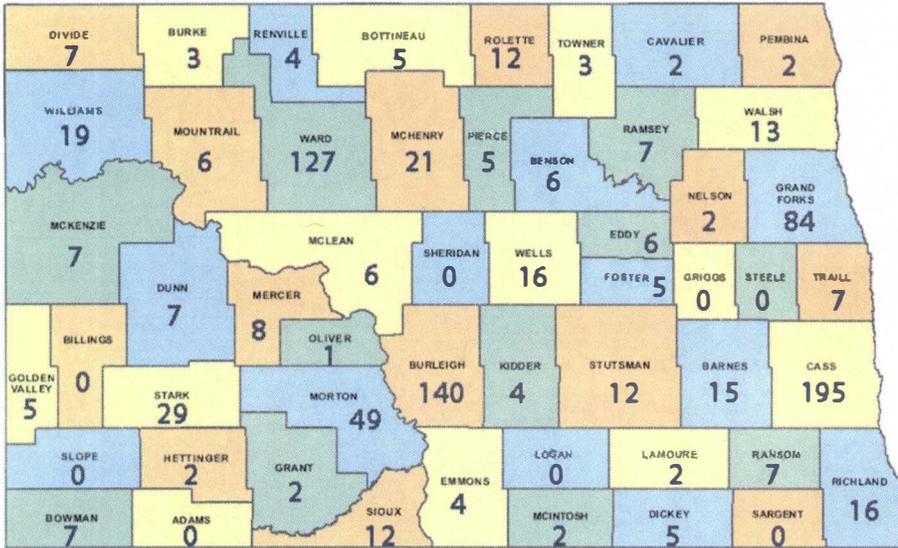
2004

Multidisciplinary Team

meetings in 2012

Helping Kids, Rebuilding Lives, Strengthening Communities.

WHERE WE SERVE



Children Served per Area 2012

Tribal Lands

Sisseton-Wahpeton	5
Spirit Lake	67
Standing Rock	13
Three Affiliated	29
Turtle Mountain	29

The Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota serve the children of all 53 Counties and 5 Reservations in our state and are an integral part of each county's ability to respond to child abuse allegations and to provide essential services needed to ensure the health and wellbeing of North Dakota's suspected child abuse victims. Each Center coordinates investigations and provides medical exams, interviews and mental health support to children who are referred to them when there are allegations of child abuse.

CACND Member CACs

Northern Plains
Children's Advocacy Center
Jeanne LeMay, Director
 PO Box 3239
 Minot, ND 58702
 (701) 852-0836

Red River
Children's Advocacy Center
Anna Frissell, Director
 100 S. 4th Street #302
 Fargo, ND 58103
 (701) 234-4580

Sanford Health Dakota
Children's Advocacy Center
Paula Condol, Coordinator
 200 E. Main St. #301
 Bismarck, ND 58501
 (701) 323-5626

BELCOURT Outreach
Services

GRAND FORKS Satellite
 216 Belmont Road
 Grand Forks, ND 58201

DICKINSON Satellite
 128 First Street W
 Dickinson, ND 58601

Helping Kids, Rebuilding Lives, Strengthening Communities.

HOW WE SERVE

Attention to the needs and abilities of children is the hallmark of the Children's Advocacy Center model to ensure that children are not further victimized by the systems intended to protect them. From the initial allegation of abuse, the Multidisciplinary Team approach allows the child an opportunity to talk with a single interviewer in a child friendly, neutral setting, thus protecting the child from being unnecessarily interviewed by multiple people from each specific field. If abuse is suspected, the team continues to work together to guide the investigation, treatment, management and possible prosecution of the case to ensure the greatest level of protection and care for the child and his/her family.

Our Values

The CAC model and NCA Standards of Accreditation

Multidisciplinary Teams
Cultural Competency
Forensic Interviews
Family-Victim Advocacy
Medical Evaluations
Therapeutic Intervention

Case Review
Case Tracking
Child Appropriate & Friendly
Organizational Capacity
Vibrant Membership
Training and Technical Assistance

Our Vision

*Every child in North Dakota alleged to be a victim of abuse
having access to a Children's Advocacy Center
for investigation and intervention.*

FORENSIC INTERVIEWS

Specially trained Forensic Interviewers work with the MDT to ensure children are not interviewed unnecessarily and allow them to do so in a child friendly, legally sound and neutral setting.

FAMILY ADVOCACY

Advocacy focuses on the needs of the children and non-offending caregiver(s), providing needed support and information along with a compassionate, listening ear.

MEDICAL EVALUATION

Specialized medical evaluations are offered to ensure the health and safety of each child, identify any evidence of abuse, and refer for additional care as needed.

MENTAL HEALTH CARE

Specialized trauma-focused mental health services are offered to the child and family to help them cope with the trauma and to assist them through the healing process.

CASE REVIEW AND TRACKING

MDT members meet regularly to share information and make decisions regarding the investigation, possible prosecution, and ongoing care of the child and family.

PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

CAC's provide a vital community service by offering prevention, education and community awareness presentations on relevant and vital child safety issues.

Helping Kids, Rebuilding Lives, Strengthening Communities.

OUR HISTORY

Children's Advocacy Centers were established in the 1980's to coordinate the individuals and agencies involved in the investigation, prosecution and treatment of child maltreatment cases and provide support for the child victim and their non-offending family members.

Prior to the CAC model, professionals from the child protection, investigative, legal and medical systems would interview the child separately and repeatedly in police stations and other environments designed for adults. Many times these interviews were done solely to meet the diverse and conflicting requirements of the agencies involved, rather than the needs of the child. Successful prosecution was rare. The victims seldom received the support and treatment needed.

The heart of the Children's Advocacy Center is a multidisciplinary team made up of six core disciplines: social services, law enforcement, medical, prosecution, advocacy and mental health, who strive together to make the process as comfortable and helpful as possible for the child.

North Dakota History:

1991: Task Force created in Fargo to identify how to best serve sexually abused children

1996: Task Force created in Bismarck to identify how to best serve sexually abused children

1997: Dakota Children's Advocacy Center established in Bismarck in partnership with Medcenter One

1998: Dakota CAC becomes a Full Member of the National Children's Alliance

2002: Task Force created in Fargo to start a CAC

2004: Red River CAC becomes an Associate Member of the National Children's Alliance
State Chapter of the National Children's Alliance formed

2005: Legislation passes that defines a Children's Advocacy Center and state funding is granted
Dakota CAC becomes an Accredited Member of the National Children's Alliance

2006: Task Force created in Minot
Red River CAC becomes an Accredited Member of the National Children's Alliance

2007: Northern Plains CAC becomes an Associate Member of the National Children's Alliance

2010: Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota hires its first full-time Coordinator
CACND registers as a Nonprofit 501(c)(3) Corporation in North Dakota
Dakota CAC gains Reaccreditation with the National Children's Alliance

2011: Northern Plains CAC becomes an Accredited Member of the National Children's Alliance
Red River CAC gains Reaccreditation with the National Children's Alliance

2012: CACND becomes an Accredited Chapter of the National Children's Alliance

Helping Kids, Rebuilding Lives, Strengthening Communities.

STATISTICAL REPORT

2007 vs. 2012

Total Numbers of Clients Receiving Services

	2007	2012
TOTAL	1048	2162

Number of New Alleged Victims

	2007	2012
TOTAL	631	1258
Female	417	805
Male	214	453

Number of New Alleged Offenders

	2007	2012
TOTAL	525	698
Female	68	92
Male	457	606

Alleged Victim/Client Age Group

	2007	2012
0-6	306	585
12-Jul	208	407
13-18	117	226
19+	0	40

Alleged Offender Age Group

	2007	2012
Under 13	47	62
13-18	84	123
19+	323	507
Unknown	71	6

Alleged Maltreatment(s)

	2007	2012
Drug Endangered	44	24
Neglect	55	164
Physical Abuse	97	214
Sexual Abuse	546	876
Witness to Violence	34	52
Other	0	94

All Services Rendered in Year

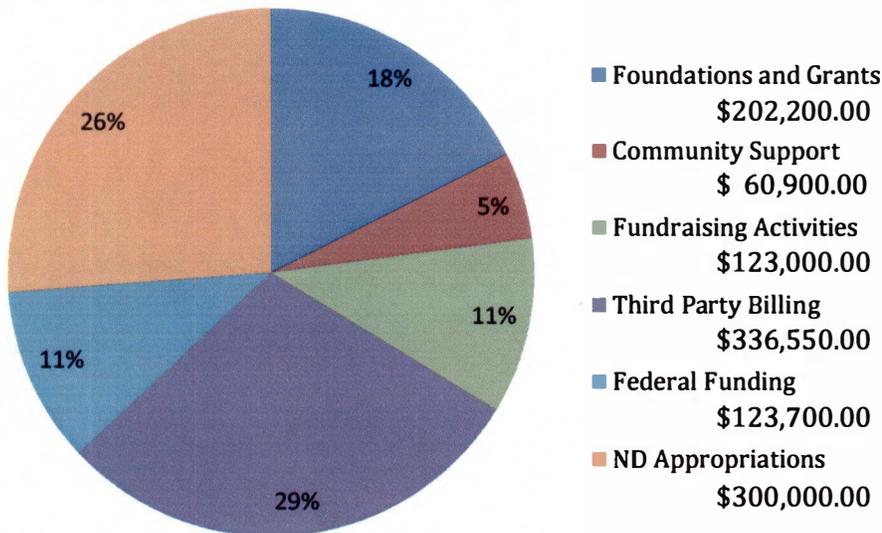
	2007	2012
Forensic Interviews	451	933
Multidisciplinary Team Meetings	NR	2004
Medical Services	369	419
Mental Health Services	69	1918
Mental Health Referrals	362	296
Victim/Family Advocacy	631	11563
TOTAL	1882	17133

Helping Kids, Rebuilding Lives, Strengthening Communities.

HOW WE ARE FUNDED

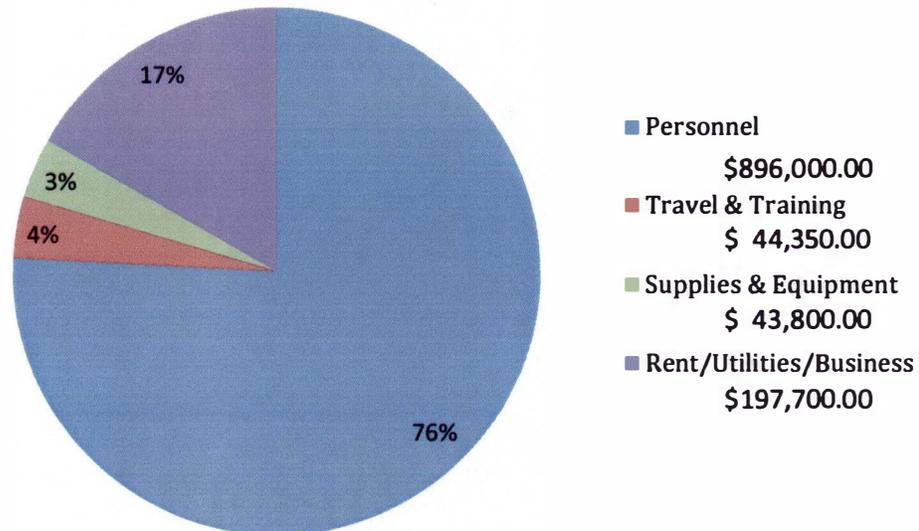
2012 Combined Budgets

Revenue



As not-for-profit organizations Children's Advocacy Centers are dependent on the generosity of the communities we serve. Partnerships with the Federal Department of Justice - Victims of Child Abuse Act, the North Dakota Department of Human Services - Children and Family Services, community foundations, as well as private corporations and individuals, allows us to serve our state's most vulnerable victims - our children.

Expenses



To ensure the greatest level of care and protection to abuse survivors, Children's Advocacy Centers offer many direct, personal and on-going services. It is no wonder that the largest portion of our budget is for direct service personnel while minimizing overhead without diminishing quality of service.

In 2012 the Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota administered **17,133 direct service to 2,162 children** with a statewide, combined budget of **\$1,180,000**. That is an amazing average **\$545 of care** to every child being served, with each child receiving, on average, **8 services at \$70/service**.

CACND truly understands the value of every dollar we receive as well as the value of every child we see. We are committed to doing the most good possible with every dollar entrusted to us.

Helping Kids, Rebuilding Lives, Strengthening Communities.

North Dakota Senate Appropriations Committee
February 13, 2013
Testimony regarding Children's Advocacy Center Grants
Senate Bill 2356
Kim Jacobson, Director – Traill County Social Services

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, my name is Kim Jacobson. I am the Director of Traill County Social Services and member of the ND County Social Service Director's Association. I speak in support of SB 2356, which would provide grants to the North Dakota Children Advocacy Centers (CAC).

Throughout my career with Traill County Social Services, I have had the opportunity to collaborate with the Fargo-based CAC. My first visit to the CAC occurred my first day on the job. During that encounter and many thereafter, I have personally observed the quality work of the CAC and effectiveness of this service model in meeting the needs of victimized children and their families.

Traill County Social Services and the Traill County Sheriff's Department regularly utilize the CAC. Together, we have collaborated with the CAC on the assessment/ investigative phases of complex cases of alleged sexual abuse and severe abuse/ neglect. The CAC has offered specialized medical examinations, a team approach to interviewing, and expert testimony in court proceedings. This has allowed us to offer comprehensive service to the child and family, but in the least intrusive manner. The ability to have these resources for the children and families is crucial to the health and welfare of the individuals and families.

The CAC's are located throughout North Dakota with locations in Fargo, Grand Forks, Minot and Bismarck. In 2012, the CAC has collectively served 1258 new individuals and 2162 individuals. Additionally, the experts at the CAC are readily available to local agencies for technical assistance and offer expert testimony as needed in court proceedings.

Through state appropriations, counties access the CAC without incurring a fee for service. This is a very effective model for providing quality service for very difficult and complex cases of alleged sexual abuse and severe abuse/neglect. It is essential that these services be continued.

On behalf of counties and the citizens we serve, I request continued financial support for Children's Advocacy Centers. Please consider a "Do Pass" of Senate Bill 2356. Thank you for your time and attention in this matter. I would be happy to address any questions.

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ON SB 2356
SENATE APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE
February 13, 2013
By: Kirsten Baesler, Superintendent
701-328-4570
Department of Public Instruction**

Chairman Holmberg and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kirsten Baesler and I am the Superintendent of Public Instruction. I submit the follow written testimony in favor of SB 2356 to provide an appropriation to the Department of Human Services for grants to children's advocacy centers.

The Children's Advocacy Centers provide a valuable and essential public safety service to the children, families and communities of our state. Without a doubt our children are our most precious resource while also our most vulnerable. The world is an increasingly more dangerous place. Reading the newspaper or watch the evening news and you will see that no longer are our streets, playgrounds, malls or even schools safe as they once were. And worse yet, far too many of our kids are not safe at their neighbors', friends' or even their own homes.

As an educator I know the heartaches of trying to keep our kids safe, especially when abuse is suspected. Our teachers and school administrators are mandated by law to report any suspected abuse. But what comes of these reports? What further trauma befalls our kids while these allegations are investigated? Students are called out of class to be questioned by a county social working in the

principal's office, or visited at home by a sheriff in full uniform wearing a gun. And then we expect these children to tell the truth and then go on their way.

This is why the Children's Advocacy Model was started, why we have them in North Dakota and why we need to do all we can to ensure every child in need of their services has that access. As a parent, an educator and as a mandated reporter, I am glad our children have access to the CACs in North Dakota and ask you to pass this bill in support of their great work. I am sure we can all sleep a little better at night knowing that the Children's Advocacy Centers are there for our kids, listening to them, giving them voice and helping the rebuild their lives.

#1
4 pages

House Human Services Committee
Testimony In Support of Senate Bill #2356
3-13-13

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Michael Bommarito. I am the State Coordinator for the Children's Advocacy Center of North Dakota. I am here today to ask for your support for Senate Bill 2356.

The Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota are committed to improving the response to child abuse. Each CAC is a community partnership that utilizes a comprehensive multidisciplinary team approach to support alleged victims of child abuse.

A child is referred to a children's advocacy center by child protective service or law enforcement in order to streamline the assessment of child abuse and provide appropriate services to the child and family.

In most cases, our first interaction with a child is at the forensic interview. The forensic interview process is unique because all investigative parties participate in a single interview with the child. A trained professional interviews the child in a child-friendly room in a way that is neutral and legally sound. Law enforcement, prosecution, social services as well as medical and mental health professionals participate in the interview via a closed circuit television. In addition to watching the interview they are able to contribute by communicating with the interviewer to ask specific questions via an ear-piece or during breaks. With all parties involved, the interviewer can gain all necessary information to protect the child and assure to that the proper steps have been followed should legal action be necessary.

In addition to the forensic interview, CACs may conduct or refer for specialized forensic medical exams. The primary purpose of the forensic medical exam is to ensure the

overall health of the child, while seeing if there are signs of abuse. The exam is not evasive, but more similar to a head-to-toe well-child checkup. To hear from a medical professional that they are well and that everything looks good is often a world of relief to these terrified children. Furthermore for those unlucky few whose bodies may not be okay, the medical exam is a crucial place to educate and provide support to them and their parents through this difficult process that will stay with them their whole lives.

As you can imagine the overall investigative process, especially if alleged abuse is confirmed, is a terrifying unknown to the children and their family. This is why our services also include ongoing child/family advocacy so the parent has someone to whom they can turn with their questions and concerns. Furthermore, specialized trauma-focused mental health services are offer so that the child and family can begin their way on the road to healing. By working together we can guide the parent to an array of services to help these kids recover and go on to have happy, healthy lives.

This is what we mean by providing a comprehensive, coordinated and compassionate response to child abuse allegations. Our concern is first, foremost and always the wellbeing of the children, that they have the opportunity to tell if someone has hurt them and to get the care they need.

In the process of helping these children and families, we also provide a valuable service to the communities we serve, especially when compared to communities not served by a Children's Advocacy Center. I would draw your attention to the following stats from various national studies.

	CAC	non-CAC
Coordinated investigations ¹	81%	52%
Team forensic interviews ¹	28%	6%
Cases were regularly reviewed ¹	56%	7%
Interview was recorded ¹	52%	17%
Medical exam ²	48%	21%
Location of interview ¹		
CAC	83%	0%
CPS Office	2%	22%
Police Station	0%	18%
School	5%	19%
Home	4%	16%
Medical facility	6%	15%
	CAC	non-CAC
Kids' experiences ³	not at all/ very scared	very scared
Cost of Investigation ⁴	\$2,900	\$3,950 +36%

Children’s Advocacy Centers work. We provide a better, fairer and cheaper investigation while minimizing the retraumatization of the child and ensuring the child receives all necessary services.

In 2007 the Legislature provided a \$700,000 appropriation for grants to support the work of the Children’s Advocacy Centers serving North Dakota. At that time we had 2 CACs in North Dakota and saw 631 new cases, offering 1,782 services to children and their families. We now have 3 CACs (one in Bismarck, Fargo and Minot) and 3 satellite/outreach centers (Dickinson, Grand Forks and Belcourt) and in 2012 we saw 1,258 new cases and offered 17,133 services. At a time when our state is literally busting at the seams, so are our centers and the number of referrals we are getting. We continue to reach out to individuals and the private sector for support, and we have managed to sustain our Centers to meet the growth we have experienced over the past 5 years, but as a work dedicated to the public safety of our state’s most vulnerable citizens, we need your help.

The additional \$300,000 appropriation will return our two initial centers to their 2007 funding levels and fund our third center at the same level. Restoring our financial foundation will help us to continue reaching out to our rural counties, to ensure all cases that should be seen by a CAC have that opportunity and not just the most severe cases. The sad fact is that without additional funding our centers will not be able to sustain the growth and outreach into the rest of our state.

We don't live in a perfect world, but as long as children are preyed upon by those who would do them harm, the services of a Children's Advocacy Center truly is the best we can offer our children. Please help us to be there for them.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before you today. I am joined this afternoon by the Directors of our three centers and we are all happy to answer any questions you may have.

#2

House Human Services Committee
Testimony In Support of Senate Bill #2356
3-13-13

Good Afternoon

My name is Dr. Arne Graff and I practice for Sanford Health, in Fargo, ND, where my subspecialty is Child Abuse Pediatrics. I am here to speak in favor of Senate Bill 2356. My role is to provide consultation for children in the state of North Dakota who are suspected of experiencing abuse which may include physical abuse, such as head trauma, fractures, burns or bruising, sexual abuse, neglect or other. Our department sees children, 0-18 years of age, at clinics and hospitals, both in Fargo and in Grand Forks, but is also involved with the training of medical, law enforcement, social services and public groups on the area of child abuse.

Over the past 15 years I have witnessed the numbers of children seen go from 50 in a year to almost 600 this past year, in our clinic. And in addition I have been involved in another 400 plus case reviews for medical, law enforcement or social services for suspected child maltreatment cases that don't end up having medical exams at that time or who have died.

Because the long term effects of child maltreatment include mental health, including PTSD, depression and anxiety, development delays, learning delays, long term relationship impairment and significant physical illness, including chronic obstructive lung disease, asthma, diabetes, heart disease and other diseases, the care for these children is not simply a "quick fix" by seeing a doctor or mental health provider. The evaluation, coordinated care and follow-up requires multiple agencies to be involved and a single agency to coordinate this care. That is the role of the Children's Advocacy Centers. Prior to their leadership role, the care was fragmented, incomplete and primarily focused on prosecution. That approach had the potential for a child to never receive the care to heal both the physical or mental health injuries, as well as the potential to allow the recurrence of abuse and neglect to occur, as that child grew up and became a parent. It also didn't allow families to heal their wounds, since there is often much pain that the caregivers experience with their injured child. With the Children's Advocacy Center coordination, the care has become focused on how to help both the child and family to function in a healthier manner. Certainly, the coordination of the multiple groups that work together has also made the chance of successful prosecution, better. They have also brought the multiple agencies to a point of understanding the approach and needs of the other agencies, in the care of the child. This has promoted better cooperation and ultimately better care for everyone involved.

Children, in our state, comprise approximately 22% of our population, but are 100% of our future. By supporting the work the Children's Advocacy Centers provide, we will continue to see a higher quality of care and healthier long term outcomes for the victims of abuse and neglect.

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ON SB 2356
HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

March 13, 2013

By: Kirsten Baesler, Superintendent

701-328-4570

Department of Public Instruction

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2 pages

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

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