

2015 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1273

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB 1273
1/26/2015
Job #22501

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Kenneth M. Torke

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Develop a pilot grant program to integrate the services of licensed social workers in law enforcement agencies and provide an appropriation.

Minutes:

See Testimonies 1, 2

Chairman Weisz opened the hearing on HB 1273.

Rep. Fehr: From District 36 introduced and supported the bill. (See Testimony #1). (Handed out e-mails received [#2])

5:11

Rep. Mooney: With social service work, oftentimes there's confidentiality and privacy issues that come into play, that don't necessarily work real well in the environment of law enforcement agencies. I'm kind of curious if you've given any thought or vision to what that might look like overall.

Rep. Fehr: In fact, one of the obstacles that law enforcement runs into is that every agency, whether we're talking about a private clinic, county social services, a human service center; they have their own rules and regulations and so on. And it becomes a barrier in fact, for law enforcement and others to be able to work in a very smooth manner. Unless there's some exceptions, for example, in emergency situations where it's a life and death matter. There are usually some kind of ways they can work around it. Or, if it's something that's mandated, such as a child abuse report, social workers can generally work more directly with law enforcement. However, if you have a social worker directly on staff of law enforcement, they bypass a lot of the agency rules and regulations, because they are on staff. So they are not in a situation where they are doing private counseling; they may talk to somebody privately, but they are in a different situation than, for example, the counselors working in a private clinic where somebody comes in and seeks their services with the understanding that what they are disclosing is now private, and will be held confidentially. Instead, what you have are workers on an agency who then can work within their staff, and I don't foresee that they would have a lot of barriers to being very easily able to openly discuss concerns as they are working together with their colleagues on staff.

Rep. Mooney: Would these individuals follow to follow the Hay Plan pay schedule?

Rep. Fehr: I don't have an answer to that. If the pay plan that we're talking about is a NDPERS or if it's county-based, that may or may not apply.

Rep. Mooney: On a local level, all county social services have to follow the state pay plan, so I was curious if this particular instance, these particular individuals do not have to follow the same even pay plan? I'm just kind of thinking of the practicality of how that would look.

Rep. Fehr: I suspect it may depend on whether they are county employees working in a sheriff's department vs. city employees working at the police department.

9:15

Chairman Weisz: I believe it would probably only apply if they were working for the social service agency, so the fact that they're a county employee wouldn't matter. They would still be able to set their own salary. Because they're not working as a human service employee.

Rep. Porter: Had you thought about high impact areas of decreased service as being a priority for this type of grant? You get into the larger cities and they have already-established networks and systems using human service centers, using crisis centers, and you get out into the more rural areas, and they have little or nothing until they move that individual into a larger center. Was there any discussion on making these more of a regional position or making them so they had to be in areas where service already wasn't in existence?

Rep. Fehr: I was looking at the highest need, and how they would provide a regional impact. I was thinking in terms of the areas that have the highest growth, the highest turnover and transient personnel, and to see that a small community like Watford City was expressing an interest and saying they could use somebody like that, was encouraging. (See #2)

Rep. Seibel: Who will make the decision who gets these grants?

Rep. Fehr: The grants would be given to the Attorney General's office, so they would make that decision.

Dan Ulmer: Board member of Youth Works, Bismarck and Fargo. Years ago, I helped create the Bismarck Police Youth Bureau. It basically did what this bill does. But we only handled kids in crisis. I think this would help make connections and take care of emergency situations. The thing you need to understand is that police don't perceive themselves as social workers. They are, but they don't like to admit it. It is part of their job, and I think that whatever you can do, especially in areas of high impact, to reinforce that would be well worth it. And I think you want to allow the Attorney General, in conjunction with law enforcement, to at least take a look at it, and see what they can do, realizing of course that it will all depend on the price of oil by the time you get to the end of this thing. I support the bill, along with Youth Works.

16:10

Rep. Porter: Inside of Youth Works, an already-established entity, is there a possibility to redefine this type of grant so it would be more like a Youth Works, with impacts to rural areas, since you have this already established? Since you have kind of the background work established and employees established? Instead of putting it onto cities and counties, put it onto a non-profit that already has the established network, and have them continue to forge the relationships that you've already done with the law enforcement community. Is that someplace else that we should be looking?

Ulmer: You will hear HB 1380 establishes a similar operation to Youth Works in Devils Lake. The beauty of having someone at the department is important. It's a question of making the connection. We run shelters, and we do all sorts of programs. We even have basically an unwed mother's program for kids from 18-22, where we set them up in apartments. We take care of homeless kids. To me, this sort of says that you've got an inside thing. That option should exist if Watford City wants to hire someone to do that. But I also think that one of the problems is a question of "what all do they do?" It could be one helluva overwhelming job if you think of taking care of the kids, folks who are the results of abuse, as well as officers. It's amazing to us how many times police officers would come in and sit down and talk to us, and want to unload and talk to us about how tough it is in their world. I think that option should exist, but we would be more than willing to look at how we could jointly do something.

Rep. Mooney: How is the Youth Works out of Fargo funded?

Ulmer: We are a 501C3 and we do a lot of begging (for money). We are also funded by schools. We do after-school detention for kids. We bring in tutors, so the school funds some. We have some juvenile court money. Most of it is done on grants. The Youth Bureau in Bismarck is funded by the city, county and schools.

Chairman Weisz: Is there any further testimony in support of HB 1273?

Chairman Weisz: Is there any testimony in opposition to HB 1273?

Chairman Weisz closed the hearing on HB 1273.

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB 1273
2/9/2015
Job #23448

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Kenneth M. Towler

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Proposed amendments to a bill to develop a pilot grant program to integrate the services of licensed social workers in law enforcement agencies and provide an appropriation.

Minutes:

Chairman Weisz explained the proposed amendments to HB 1273.

Chairman Weisz: The amendments are pretty simple; basically cutting everything in half on this one, under the guise that maybe that may pick up some support. But this will be a tough sell anyway because it's a new program.

Rep. Seibel: I would recommend an amendment to HB 1273. On line 10, replace \$150,000 with \$75,000. And on line 22, replace \$600,000 with \$300,000.

Rep. Porter: Second.

Chairman Weisz: Any discussion on the amendment?

Rep. Fehr: On line 4, are we going to keep the number of grants at four? Or, since we're cutting the budget in half, are we going to cut the number of grants in half?

Chairman Weisz: The number of grants wouldn't change because we're cutting the amount per grant in half also, so it shouldn't change. It should still be four because four times \$75,000 is \$300,000. So that part wouldn't change. We'd still be looking at offering four grants, but just for half the amount.

Chairman Weisz: Any other questions on the amendment?

Chairman Weisz: Seeing none, all those in favor say "Aye." Opposed?

MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE

Rep. Porter: As I looked at this program and the process of going through where the greatest need is, I guess I kind of felt that this should be more targeted than what it is. I don't think that communities such as Fargo, Grand Forks, Minot or Bismarck, where they have greater mental health and greater access to human service centers and those types of things, are quite as critical as other areas. I think we need to be more specific on the target in order to get these grants. If it were to happen that we were to get it funded out of Appropriations, that they were more targeted to those areas of need.

Rep. Porter: I would offer an amendment: On line 8, after the word "agencies", insert the words, "in communities with populations less than 12,500."

Rep. D. Anderson: Second.

Chairman Weisz: Everyone understands the motion? Basically we're saying we want the grants targeted to the smaller communities. And that would cover most of those communities, except for the big six or eight.

Rep. Porter: It would certainly get the positions out to those areas where there aren't psychiatric capabilities, there aren't physical human service centers with psychologists and psychiatrists and social workers. It would get those positions out where I think in dealing with law enforcement, they would be more critical. My point is to make sure that if we're going to do this kind of as a pilot project, that the big four cities don't just grab the money and run. And they already have the capabilities of doing a lot of what this grant is talking about; that we make sure that it gets out to those places where the need really exists.

Rep. Becker: We have 12 of these to discuss today, and this one stands little chance of moving forward. Should we be prioritizing the 12 so that at least some of them have a chance to go? I feel badly if we cut all 12 of these, and we haven't pushed any of them forward.

Chairman Weisz: This one will have a struggle from the standpoint that it is a new program. But I believe that with cutting the money and restricting it to the smaller communities, I think you have a case to be made that you're targeting communities from the standpoint of, if you can take care of these, then we're saving money on the back end. And I had visited with Rep. Pollert a few days ago, and he's really struggling with the corrections budget. They're full, and there's issues there. On the one hand, anything with additional money is going to be somewhat of a struggle, but I think there are certain bills that can help alleviate costs on the back side. Everything we send down is probably going to be a struggle.

Rep. Seibel: My only concern with the 12,500 limit is, aren't we then cutting out like Williston and Dickinson, who might possibly want to be doing this?

Chairman Weisz: That is correct, but they each do have a regional human service center. They're part of the eight human service center regions, and they're based in Dickinson and Williston. So, they do have resources that aren't available in an Edgeley or Bowman or Grafton or those other smaller communities.

Chairman Weisz: Further discussion on the motion? Seeing none, all those in favor, say "Aye."

MOTION CARRIED ON A VOICE VOTE.

Chairman Weisz: Are there any further amendments? If not, what are the committee's wishes?

Rep. Damschen: I'll move a Do Pass As Amended on HB 1273 and Re-refer to Appropriations.

Rep. D. Anderson: Second.

Chairman Weisz: Any discussion? We have a motion for a Do Pass As Amended and Re-refer to Appropriations.

Chairman Weisz: If there is no further discussion, the clerk will call the roll for a Do Pass As Amended and Re-refer to Appropriations.

MOTION CARRIES YES: 13 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0

Rep. Dick Anderson will carry the bill.

15.0752.01001
Title.02000

Adopted by the Human Services Committee

2/9/15

February 9, 2015

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1273

Page 1, line 8, after "agencies" insert "in communities with a population less than twelve thousand five hundred people and"

Page 1, line 10, replace "\$150,000" with "\$75,000"

Page 1, line 22, replace "\$600,000" with "\$300,000"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 2-9-15
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1273

House Human Services Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: See description below

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Rep. Seibel Seconded By Rep. Porter

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Weisz			Rep. Mooney		
Vice-Chair Hofstad			Rep. Muscha		
Rep. Bert Anderson			Rep. Oversen		
Rep. Dick Anderson					
Rep. Rich S. Becker					
Rep. Damschen					
Rep. Fehr					
Rep. Kiefert					
Rep. Porter					
Rep. Seibel					
<i>VOICE VOTE</i>					
<i>MOTION CARRIED</i>					

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:
page 1, line 10 replace \$150,000 with \$75,000
page 1, line 22 replace \$600,000 with 300,000

Date: 2-9-15
 Roll Call Vote #: 2

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1273**

House Human Services Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: See description below

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar

Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Rep. Porter Seconded By Rep D. Anderson

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Weisz			Rep. Mooney		
Vice-Chair Hofstad			Rep. Muscha		
Rep. Bert Anderson			Rep. Oversen		
Rep. Dick Anderson					
Rep. Rich S. Becker					
Rep. Damschen					
Rep. Fehr					
Rep. Kiefert					
Rep. Porter					
Rep. Seibel					

motion carried *voice vote*

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

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

KMT 2/14/15

after line 8 agency with target population less than 12,500

Online 8, after the word "agencies," insert the words "in communities with populations less than 12,500."

Date: 2-9-15
 Roll Call Vote #: 3

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1273**

House Human Services Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: 15.0752.01001

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Refer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar

Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Rep. Damschen Seconded By Rep. D. Anderson

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Weisz	✓		Rep. Mooney	✓	
Vice-Chair Hofstad	✓		Rep. Muscha	✓	
Rep. Bert Anderson	✓		Rep. Oversen	✓	
Rep. Dick Anderson	✓				
Rep. Rich S. Becker	✓				
Rep. Damschen	✓				
Rep. Fehr	✓				
Rep. Kiefert	✓				
Rep. Porter	✓				
Rep. Seibel	✓				

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment D. Anderson

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1273: Human Services Committee (Rep. Weisz, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1273 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 8, after "agencies" insert "in communities with a population less than twelve thousand five hundred people and"

Page 1, line 10, replace "\$150,000" with "\$75,000"

Page 1, line 22, replace "\$600,000" with "\$300,000"

Renumber accordingly

2015 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1273

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1273
2/12/2015
23791

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Amanda Muecha

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

For attorney general to develop and implement a pilot grant program to integrate the services of licensed social workers in law enforcement agencies; to provide for a report to the legislative management; and to provide an appropriation

Minutes:

Chairman Delzer: Opened hearing on HB 1273

Representative Weisz: This one sets up a pilot program for social workers and law enforcement. The bill is intended to provide smaller communities with services for law enforcement that aren't available there but normally are available in your larger communities where you have regional human service centers to provide social workers to help work with youth issues, delinquency, risk assessment, counseling for law enforcement, etc... This bill is allowing 4 grants at 75,000 dollars each for a total of 300,000 dollars. It is half of what the original bill was. The committee thought it might lessen the loan on law enforcement, helping to maybe direct some of these kids so they don't end up in juvenile court. Some of these it even addresses the costing issues of law enforcement ect. might need so we decided it was worthy of exploring so that is why it is here.

Chairman Delzer: What's the attorney general even got for knowledge of social workers?

Representative Weisz: You want to restate that question?

Chairman Delzer: Where is the law enforcement come in with social services? I don't understand why you would do this through the attorney general's offices compared to the human service department.

Representative Weisz: They were the ones there supporting it from this.

Chairman Delzer: They give support anything that gives them more. Closed the hearing in HB 1273.

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1273
2/18/2015
#24075

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Beckie Strage

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

For attorney general to develop and implement a pilot grant program to integrate the services of licensed social workers in law enforcement agencies; to provide for a report to the legislative management; and to provide an appropriation

Minutes:

[Empty box for minutes]

Chairman Jeff Delzer opens HB 1273.

Chairman Jeff Delzer: This appropriates 300,000 dollars to Attorney General to give to communities less than 12,500. It's basically a grant to some communities. I think we should not deal with this until we have the Attorney General's budget, which will be in the second half. We can take all the money out of it and leave the language, or we can put a do not pass on the bill.

Representative Hogan: My concern is it doesn't talk about how it integrates into any of the existing Human Services systems. I don't know how it fits with existing human service centers, private agencies, etc.

1:52

Chairman Jeff Delzer: It seems broad reaching.

Representative Silbernagel: This is not one of the bills that came forward as a result of a study. There will be some other bills coming, I think we should consider a do not pass on this.

Representative Silbernagel: Motion for a do not pass.

Representative Skarphol: Seconded

Representative Nelson: I line 9 it talks about a population of less than 12,500 people. When bills have a population trigger, will we be using the revised census numbers?

Chairman Jeff Delzer: I think the 1067 strictly dealt with the state aid distribution, and everything else will be off the 2010 census.

Representative Nelson: So that's just in that one area?

Chairman Jeff Delzer: Yes

Representative Nelson: Does that make sense?

Chairman Jeff Delzer: It does in the essence of state aid distribution. I don't know if you want to do that with everyone else, because then you have the legal question of a legal census or estimated census.

Chairman Jeff Delzer: Any further discussion on a motion for a Do Not Pass?

A roll call vote was taken for a Do Not Pass: Yes: 22 No: 1 Absent: 0

Motion carries.

Representative Silbernagel will carry the bill.

Date: 2/18/15

Roll Call Vote #: 1

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1273

House Appropriations Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By: Silbernagel Seconded By: Skarphol

Representatives	Yes	No	Absent	Representatives	Yes	No	Absent	Representatives	Yes	No	Absent
Chairman Jeff Delzer	✓			Representative Nelson	✓			Representative Boe	✓		
Vice Chairman Keith Kempenich	✓			Representative Pollert	✓			Representative Glassheim		✓	
Representative Bellew	✓			Representative Sanford	✓			Representative Guggisberg	✓		
Representative Brandenburg	✓			Representative Schmidt	✓			Representative Hogan	✓		
Representative Boehning	✓			Representative Silbernagel	✓			Representative Holman	✓		
Representative Dosch	✓			Representative Skarphol	✓						
Representative Kreidt	✓			Representative Streyle	✓						
Representative Martinson	✓			Representative Thoreson	✓						
Representative Monson	✓			Representative Vigesaa	✓						
	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>

Totals

(Yes)	<u>22</u>
No	<u>1</u>
Absent	<u>0</u>
Grand Total	<u>23</u>

Floor Assignment: Silbernagel

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1273, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Delzer, Chairman)
recommends **DO NOT PASS** (22 YEAS, 1 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
Engrossed HB 1273 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2015 TESTIMONY

HB 1273

#1
HB 1273
1/26/2015

Testimony on HB 1273 Rep Alan Fehr, District 36

Mr Chairman and members of the Human Services Committee, I am Representative Alan Fehr of District 36.

I am here to introduce HB 1273, which creates a pilot grant program for hiring licensed social workers in law enforcement agencies.

As you know, we have heard many pleas for improving the behavior health systems of care, and we have heard concerns in many ways. We have heard about the high number of contacts at emergency rooms that primarily or secondarily involve behavior health concerns. We have heard that a high percentage of ambulance runs have involved individuals with behavior health issues.

Law enforcement perhaps has the most impact, involving a very wide range of topic areas. I believe that to improve our system of behavior health care, we need a means to identify, intervene, and support individuals in crisis or distress as early as possible. This would require a consideration of how and where behavior health professionals are available and accessible. I believe that we should think about "touch points" for accessing care. I submit that the most prime points are schools, medical clinics, and law enforcement. I believe we need more social workers and counselors in schools, psychologists in primary care clinics, and social workers in law enforcement settings.

Consider the following areas that are common to law enforcement and may involve people needing some form of behavior health assistance:

- Domestic violence
- Suicide
- Homelessness
- Psychotic, irrational, or erratic behavior
- Sexual abuse or assault
- Abuse or neglect of a child or vulnerable adult
- Financial or sexual exploitation
- Victim support

Often when people don't know where to turn for help, they call law enforcement. Currently, we have communities and areas in our state that are experiencing high growth rates and transient populations that have a higher need for support and intervention.

Social workers in a law enforcement setting could be readily accessible to assist law enforcement officers when there are calls for service and officers suspect behavior health concerns. Their involvement could be immediate, if needed, or could take the form of follow-

up after an initial contact. They could accompany officers on home visits and wellness calls. They could participate as trained members of Crisis Intervention Teams. They could facilitate referrals to various social service agencies and follow-up to ensure a smooth transition.

While this concept seems to have merit, I'm not aware of any law enforcement agencies in ND that have licensed social workers on staff in a community outreach program like this. This bill is a request for funding for a demonstration pilot program with funds appropriated through the Attorney General's office. It also requires a report with recommendations to legislative management so that we know the outcome and can consider further steps to integrate behavior health into law enforcement.

The appropriation is to fund a trial in four law enforcement agencies to get good data on how it may be implemented in different settings. As proposed in this bill, each agency would receive \$150,000 for the biennium to hire a social worker. I estimated that a licensed social worker with the necessary professional experience to competently do this job would need a salary of about \$50,000 so that salary plus benefits would be about \$75,000 per year. I did not include an expectation that this funding would cover all expenses. Participating law enforcement may need to cover such things as office space, transportation, administrative support, and miscellaneous office supplies.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 1273. I welcome your questions.

2
HB 1273
1/26/2015

Alan,

I would like to answer your questions as well.

1. I would be interested in getting this position for our agency.
2. Our difficulties seem to be with the overall delivery of service, which most of us have to deal with. I would envision using this worker to be a direct liaison between police and the most likely victims. Typically this would be victims of violent crimes, sex crimes and other abuse, but could also be suspects who were victims (such as possibly the case below). This could be a dual role much like a victim / witness coordinator coupled with the social work side depending on the case load.
3. A good example of the use of this person would be on a case we recently had. In this case a teenage boy abused another child about 4 years younger. Forgive me, but I cannot remember if they were the same family or not. At any rate, we reported to CPS and were advised that it did not meet their criteria for assigning a case worker and there was nothing they could do. I feel that intervention in this case by a social worker, even if prosecution was not needed, would provide more services and ability to prevent a potential future problem. It would also assure proper help for victims when the rest of the system falls short. In addition, I could potentially see an educational component to this position in providing community education on sexual assault, etc... Other situation I could think of right off the top of my head would potentially be related to our school resource officer program.
4. With so many protections in place for the defendant, I would like to see this be the protections for the victim, helping them through the process and providing additional resources that the police just do not have the time to accomplish.

My only question would be to make sure that this social worker was hired by the state or at least the state gave assistance in the hiring as we typically do not have the expertise in this area.

Thank you for your time.

Arthur D. Walgren
Arthur D. Walgren
Chief of Police
Watford City Police Department
PO Box 283
Watford City, ND 58854
701-842-2280

Good afternoon,

Responding for WFPD:

1. Yes

2. The person would review written reports and calls for service (when no report is written) and make recommendations for law enforcement follow-up on cases where there may be criminal exploitation or other wrong doing. The person would also provide referral services to other agencies that could provide services for the client. The person could do follow-up home visits or accompany officers on initial contacts where suspected neglect or self-neglect, abuse or a behavioral health issue is suspected. (Currently reports are forwarded to the Human Service Center or Social Services within a day or two of the incident having occurred. They then prioritize the case file and conduct follow-up if deemed necessary.) With the worker being embedded within the department there will be a more timely response and an increased opportunity to interact with the client.

3. In order: Abuse; neglect; self-neglect; behavioral health; exploitation. Intervention; safe harbor; investigation; follow-on care.

4. I would hope the client would receive more timely and appropriate level of care or treatment; reduction in the cost of services through earlier intervention (I have used the example of a middle aged man that now lives in a nursing home who possibly could have remained living independently had he received early intervention and follow-on care); reduction in the number of times law enforcement or medical responders are called to provide services; a better integration of services between agencies.

Mike

Good morning Representative Fehr

1. I may have misunderstood in our telephone conversation on the training and licensure on the person being licensed in both fields. Currently, in the Fargo area we do invite social workers/ mental health professionals to participate in training that could be beneficial to both. I know that in doing so we get a better understanding of each area of practice and what each area can contribute to finding a solution. It also gives us a personal contact that we can use.

2. We do need to become more innovative in how we address mental and behavioral health to end the cycle we currently have set with some of our clients. LE going to an address multiple times a month is a waste of LE resources if there is not a change in behavior or services. My experience of getting social services or human services involved early and often, even if it is just a 'heads up' message, is that the client has a better outcome. The client develops alternate contacts for resources and calls 911 or LE less often.

3. I agree.

4. Having spoken with some in the field I would agree with you.

5. I would be interested and willing to have my department participate in such a pilot. Looking at some of the programs we are doing in this area: Sheriff Laney's MH professional in the jail; FM Ambulance providing a community paramedic program; the crisis intervention team CIT training program for first responders and care providers; the community collaborative meetings between LE and behavioral and mental health providers, we do have positive results from doing things differently. I believe what you are proposing has merit.

6. I again agree with you that sharing the person would be counterproductive to what we would be trying to establish. I was looking at the probability that sharing would be suggested as a cost savings.

I can go out to the larger group of the Chiefs Association to get feed back from other parts of the state or cherry pick the other 'big' city chiefs to get their opinion.

Happy Holidays

Mike

Mike,

Your comments are the reason I wanted to initiate a discussion before introducing a bill.

1. Being licensed as both a social worker and a LE officer is a lot of training. Some training may satisfy continuing education expectations for both licensures but some training wouldn't, unless we made some other adjustments legislatively. I don't know that I would require a staff social worker to also be licensed as a LE officer but would be a possibility.

2. I have no doubt that, if given the choice, depts now would put their dollars into LE officers, not social workers. Even though there are a lot of BH concerns on the streets, there is no momentum in the direction of hiring behavior health. The status quo is to focus on work on trying to improve inter-agency collaboration. This would be a new approach.

3. Space is limited -- hiring additional staff always makes space more of a challenge. Depts would need to figure out how to deal with this.

4. Pay -- I think their pay would be comparable to what counties pay their social workers, maybe a little higher. I'm expecting this to be an LSW position, which requires a bachelor's degree. There are some social workers who would jump at the challenge to do outreach into the community.

5. I'm proposing a pilot/demonstration project, starting with 4 positions, 2 in the eastern part of the state and 2 in the western part of the state, focusing on areas with rapid growth and highly transient populations. We would need to look at the results to see how to grow and modify the program. For example, we could appropriate \$150,000 for the biennium for each of 4 projects. Interested communities would bid for the funding by proposing how they would implement a law enforcement based, behavior health outreach project in their community. We would study the implementation and results in each community to determine how to proceed in the next legislative session.

6. Trade-off -- I'm not sure about this question. Are you asking about a sharing between law enforcement departments, e.g. a police dept and sheriff's dept, or 2 police depts? I would be cautious about sharing an employee with a county social services or a state human service center because they are so ingrained in regulation that it would be hard for an employee to work flexibly in that environment. I don't think you would get much "bang for the buck."

Alan

From: Michael D. Reitan
[Michael.Reitan@westfargond.gov<mailto:Michael.Reitan@westfargond.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 23, 2014 1:51 PM
To: Fehr, Alan
Subject: RE: contact

Good afternoon

I spoke with Sherriff Paul Laney and Chief Dave Todd, FPD. They thought the idea of having a social worker/ investigator as part of the office would be a good idea to improve communications between law enforcement and social services. Having a person assigned to the department would build a one to one relationship and allow for a coordinated effort to resolve issues.

Issues we are concerned about:

- If the person is licensed as both a social worker and law enforcement officer they would need to maintain two licenses and continued education classes - a lot of training.
- If the department had to pay for a full time employee they would elect to pay for a FTE police officer to work on the street or investigations and not a social worker.
- Space is limited at their facilities and they would struggle to find a place for an additional employee.
- The position would be highly specialized with the two licenses, what would they need to be paid and how would the department keep the person current in each of the disciplines.

If there was one assigned each county (52) and one assigned the top 20 cities there would be an additional 72 FTEs.

If there was a sharing between departments, what would be the trade off in building relationships.

As we think about it over the weekend there may be other thoughts that come up.

Mike

From: Michael D. Reitan
Sent: Tuesday, December 23, 2014 11:06 AM
To: 'afehr@nd.gov<mailto:afehr@nd.gov>'
Subject: contact

Good morning Representative Fehr

I thought I would hit you with an email this morning to make the contact and will follow-up this afternoon after my local meeting.

Mike

Chief Mike Reitan
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mike.reitan@westfargond.gov<mailto:mike.reitan@westfargond.gov>

Representative Fehr

Here is a response from the Valley City Chief of Police.

-----Original Message-----

From: Fred Thompson [<mailto:fthompson@valleycity.us>]

Sent: Monday, December 29, 2014 8:56 AM

Subject: RE: contact

Mike,

In an answer to the posed questions, my responses are:

1. Yes I would be interested in having a State funded licensed social worker on my staff.
2. There are many times a response by an LEO is not the best answer other than for the immediate, initial response. Having the availability of a licensed social worker on staff would mean that this resource could be immediately involved in the situation and in all likelihood, free up the LEO to handle other law enforcement matters. Let's be honest, although LEO's learn their social working skills many times through osmosis, and do a fairly good job at it most of the time, given the resources they have available, they are not trained social workers. Also, many times the time and effort needed to mitigate the problem that the client presents is beyond what the LEO has available to them on a regular basis. I believe that having a trained LSW involved early on could reduce the overall time and effort needed to address the client's particular issue. I also believe that this approach would reduce repeated responses to the same location by LE.
3. I would focus the work of this individual(s) on those folks who need their trained assistance. I know that if I went to my people and asked the question, who could benefit from this resource, they could quickly, and probably off the top of their head name enough individuals to keep the LSW busy for quite some time.
4. If the program worked well I would expect to see reduced police response to particular addresses or to particular individuals thereby freeing up the LEO's for other calls or duties. More importantly I would expect that some of these clients get the focused and individualized assistance that they need to solve their problem(s) completely and not just put a bandage on it until the next response. I would hope to see a reduction in the suicide rate as individuals could be identified as "at risk" early on and

given the assistance they need to eliminate the end of the line outcome. If these things happen, and there are many more possibilities, as a side note, the public would have a better opinion of law enforcement as not being "arrest" oriented. The best solution for many of these individuals is not jail, but focused support and direction and having a LSW on staff just might be a good way to get there.

Thank you,

Chief Fred J. Thompson
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Chief Reitan,

I am awaiting a response from my CIT trained officers so I can get the opinion from the field and the experts in our department dealing with this issue. Having said that, I don't think it can be said any better than Chief Thompson just outlined! Great job Chief! So, pretty much "dido" from me and I'll forward any additional comments after hearing from our CIT officers. Another way I see it working is by truly instituting the CIT model crisis response by trained professionals "in the field," not a day or two after....if even then! I see this "direct contact" LSW, liaison, staff member, whatever we call it, receiving basic training of law enforcement (not formally at the academy, but certainly going through our In-House training), to gain a good knowledge of the reality of police work and then to liaison with Human Services to set up a team or rotation for an LSW to actually come out to the field during a crisis as necessary. Thus, setting up the services needed in a timely manner, thus reducing future calls to LE for our Band-Aid services, thus possibly reducing inmate numbers, etc.

Thanks,
Dan

Dan Donlin
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