

HB 1012
NDACP Testimony
Senate Appropriations Committee
Hon. Ray Holmberg , Chairman
March 10, 2021

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, greetings, and thank you for this opportunity. I am Bruce Murry, Executive Director of the North Dakota Association of Community Providers (NDACP.org). NDACP is the membership organization of 30 licensed providers of services to North Dakotans with developmental disabilities (DD). We serve about 90% of people with DD in North Dakota.

As a registered lobbyist (#330) for NDACP, I would like to introduce several board members who will give in-person, video, or written testimony from their respective areas of expertise:

- Julie Erickson, CEO of Grand Forks Growth and Support Center, Grand Forks;
- Scott Anderson, Program Service Director for Development Homes, Inc., Grand Forks;
- Lorena Poppe, CEO of Poppy's Promise, Bismarck, NDACP Vice President;
- Scott Burtsfield, CEO of Vocational Training Centers (VTC), Fargo;
- Brooke Austin, CEO of Community Living Services, Fargo, who in turn will introduce at least two people currently receiving services proposed for elimination:
 - Jackie Krei of Fargo, and Jackie Long of Fargo;
- Donna Byzewski, LBSW, MS, Guardianship Division – Intellectual Disabilities Director, Catholic Charities North Dakota, Fargo
- Tom Newberger, CEO of Red River Human Services Foundation, Fargo; and
- Jon Larson, CEO of Enable, Inc., Bismarck, our NDACP President.

NDACP has a relatively modest legislative platform for the 2021-2023 biennium, in recognition that uncertain times face the energy and agricultural sectors in our state.

- Maintenance of the House's restoration of approximately eleven million dollars (\$11,000,000) to provider rates for residential habilitation and intermediate care facilities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ICFID), but also,
 - Maintenance of the Governor's proposed two million, four hundred thousand dollar increase (\$2,400,000) to day support services such as individual employment, group employment, and prevocational services, with a matching reduction to Intermediate Care Facilities for people with Intellectual Disabilities (ICFID) and residential habilitation;
- Restoration of \$240,000 in funding for mandated DD provider accreditation with the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL);
- Inflationary increases to DD providers of 3% each year of the 2022 - 2023 biennium, especially due to economic and wage pressures in various communities;

- Maintaining the House’s appropriation of up to \$250,000 to NDDHS to financially stabilize DD providers disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 emergency – especially In Home Support providers who suffered the greatest losses;
- Restoration of all cuts to Section 11 State General Fund services to people with DD who don’t qualify for the DD Medicaid Waiver;
- Fully fund the 1915(i) Medicaid Amendment with special attention paid to ensure it remains accessible to people with DD/ID, and review of the proposed World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule threshold score of 50 – a very severe score;
- Fully fund reforms and behavioral health initiatives from the Life Skills and Transition Center;
- Retention of a substantial state tax credit to employers who hire North Dakotans with developmental disabilities and mental illness, in HB 1405 (2021). HB 1405 received a unanimous do-pass recommendation from Senate Finance and Taxation Committee on March 9, 2021.

Many members also support restoration of funding for recreation and leisure centers with consideration of serving additional communities; a close review of the infant development and Part C budgets to ensure timely services can be brought to bear to minimize developmental delays; and strengthening of rates in related home and community based services to North Dakotans with other kinds of disabilities – QSP services under Aging Services and for brain injury, as well as 1915(i) Medicaid Amendment behavioral health services.

NDACP is persuaded that building a new State Hospital as proposed in HB 1012 makes sense to move more mental health services to the community. It is difficult to move beyond brick and mortar legacies built by generations past, but it is probably time.

Many of you know we have welcomed Angela Dinius as Workforce Development Director for NDACP. She and I are both happy to answer any questions that may arise about NDACP, its members’ services to people, and our priorities. Our contact information is below.

Thank you for your kind attention.



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