

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STUDY POTENTIAL REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ITEMS

Senate Bill No. 2243 (2013), attached as an [appendix](#), provides for a Legislative Management study of behavioral health needs. The study must include consideration of behavioral health needs of youth and adults, and the scope of the study must include consideration of access, availability, and delivery of services. The bill authorizes the Legislative Council to contract for consulting and coordination of study services to assist the Legislative Management in conducting the behavioral health study. The Human Services Committee has been assigned responsibility for this study for the 2013-14 interim. The committee approved a motion at its July 2013 meeting, requesting to spend up to \$100,000 to hire a consultant to assist with the this study. The Chairman of the Legislative Management has authorized the committee to spend up to \$45,000 for the consulting services.

If the committee chooses to proceed with hiring a consultant, the timeline could be as follows:

1. Release a request for proposal (RFP) and receive proposals in November and December 2013;
2. Review proposals and hire a consultant in January 2014;
3. Receive updates on consultant study activities January through June or July 2014;
4. Receive the consultant's final report in June or July 2014;
5. Develop committee recommendations in September or October 2014; and
6. Present a final report to the Legislative Management in November 2014.

Potential items to be included in an RFP for a consultant to assist with the behavioral health study include:

1. Identify stakeholders of the behavioral health system.
2. Identify the need for behavioral health services by geographic area of North Dakota.
3. Assess the availability and adequacy of supports, services, and facilities to meet the need for behavioral health services in the state by:
  - a. Identifying the services, supports, and facilities available in the state by geographic area;
  - b. Identifying gaps in coverage;
  - c. Identifying differences in adequacy of access, availability, and delivery of services for youth with behavioral health needs and adults with behavioral health needs;
  - d. Assessing the availability of prevention and early intervention services for behavioral health in North Dakota;
  - e. Identifying areas of treatment needing improvement, taking into account new evidence-based practices leading to effective recovery; and
  - f. Assessing the impact of population changes in North Dakota on behavioral health service systems.
4. Assess the availability of insurance coverage for behavioral health care in North Dakota.
5. Assess the adequacy of communications between the public and private systems of behavioral health services.
6. Assess the adequacy of integration of the physical health care and behavioral health care systems in North Dakota.
7. Develop a plan based on specific goals and objectives to improve behavioral health services in North Dakota.
8. Provide recommendations to implement the plan to improve behavioral health services in North Dakota. Recommendations should identify the entity responsible for implementing the recommendation and necessary legislative changes.

ATTACH:1