

ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS

This memorandum provides information regarding the actions taken or proposed to implement recommendations for the 2015 Legislative Assembly included in the consultant's final report for the study of behavioral health needs of youth and adults in North Dakota and the report prepared by the Behavioral Health Stakeholders Group.

The schedule below identifies each recommendation made by the consultant and the action(s) taken or proposed to address the recommendation.

Recommendation	Action(s) Taken or Proposed
The 2015 Legislative Assembly shall increase funding for adult and youth substance abuse services, including detoxification.	Section 3 of bill draft [15.0230.02000] includes an appropriation of \$3 million to the Department of Human Services for the purpose of expanding adult and youth substance abuse services, including detoxification services.
The 2015 Legislative Assembly shall authorize use of telemedicine for crisis assessment and remove barriers for full utilization.	Section 5 of bill draft [15.0230.02000] includes an appropriation of \$175,000 to the Department of Human Services for the purpose of expanding telemedicine services. A Health Care Reform Review Committee bill draft [15.0079.02000] that is being recommended to the Legislative Management expands insurance coverage of telemedicine. The bill draft limits the mandate of coverage to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) uniform group insurance plan for the first two years, directs PERS to study the impact of the bill during that two-year period, and directs PERS to introduce at the 2017 legislative session a bill to extend the mandate of coverage to the private market.
The 2015 Legislative Assembly shall increase funding for equipment for critical access hospitals to create e-psychiatry.	Section 4 of bill draft [15.0230.02000] includes an appropriation of \$175,000 to the Department of Human Services for the purpose of providing grants to establish e-psychiatry services.
The 2015 Legislative Assembly and the Department of Human Services shall create an oversight system for licensing boards utilizing public health as the overseer.	Section 1 of bill draft [15.0231.01000] directs the State Health Council to develop a plan during the 2015-16 interim to provide for administration and implementation of uniform licensing and reciprocity standards for licensees of the Board of Addiction Counseling Examiners, Board of Counselor Examiners, North Dakota Board of Social Work Examiners, State Board of Psychologist Examiners, State Board of Medical Examiners, and North Dakota Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Board. The Health Council shall evaluate whether regional, national, and international licensing and reciprocity standards are adequate for licensure in the state.
The 2015 Legislative Assembly shall change definition of behavioral health professional in North Dakota Century Code to include all qualified professionals.	Section 1 of bill draft [15.0232.02000] amends the definition of qualified mental health professional in North Dakota Century Code Section 25-03.2-01(8) to more closely align with the definition in Iowa code.
The 2015 Legislative Assembly or the Department of Human Services shall create reciprocity language for behavioral health professionals.	Section 1 of bill draft [15.0231.01000] directs the State Health Council to develop a plan during the 2015-16 interim for the administration and implementation of uniform licensing and reciprocity standards for licensees of the Board of Addiction Counseling Examiners, Board of Counselor Examiners, North Dakota Board of Social Work Examiners, State Board of Psychologist Examiners, State Board of Medical Examiners, and North Dakota Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Board. Sections 2 through 7 of the bill draft direct the respective licensing boards to participate with and respond to requests from the Health Council relating to administration and implementation of uniform licensing and reciprocity standards for licensees of the boards.
The Department of Human Services shall train law enforcement as first responders using mental health first aid.	Section 6 of bill draft [15.0230.02000] includes an appropriation of \$25,000 to the Highway Patrol for the purpose of providing mental health first aid training for state and local law enforcement personnel.

Recommendation	Action(s) Taken or Proposed
<p>The 2015 Legislative Assembly shall change North Dakota Century Code to reimburse all qualified behavioral health professionals.</p> <p>The 2015 Legislative Assembly shall create an independent appeals process for consumers increasing oversight and accountability.</p> <p>The Department of Human Services shall seek to maximize federal funding for visiting nurses and other 0-5 prevention programs.</p> <p>The 2015 Legislative Assembly or the Department of Human Services shall change regulations to accept electronic documentation, including release of information documents.</p> <p>The Department of Human Services shall assist First Link/211 in obtaining access to provider information.</p> <p>The Department of Human Services shall partner with universities to build an outcomes-based data system.</p> <p>The 2015 Legislative Assembly shall create an interim committee to look at Department of Human Services structure changes and provide oversight to the current human service center system, including defining core services throughout the system.</p> <p>The 2015 Legislative Assembly shall create an interim committee to study judicial issues, including 24-hour hold, termination of parental rights, and court committals.</p>	<p>Section 1 of bill draft [15.0230.02000] directs the Department of Human Services to adopt rules entitling licensed marriage and family therapists to payment for behavioral health services provided to recipients of medical assistance.</p> <p>North Dakota Administrative Code Chapter 75-01-03 identifies the current appeals process of the Department of Human Services. The Department of Human Services is currently reviewing the chapter and plans to update the chapter to ensure the process is clearly identified.</p> <p>This recommendation does not require legislation.</p> <p>Representatives of the Department of Human Services have confirmed the department will accept electronic documentation.</p> <p>This recommendation does not require legislation.</p> <p>Section 2 of bill draft [15.0230.02000] directs the Department of Human Services to develop an outcomes-based data system.</p> <p>Section 7 of bill draft [15.0230.02000] directs the Legislative Management to consider studying the structure of the Department of Human Services during the 2015-16 interim.</p> <p>Section 8 of bill draft [15.0230.02000] directs the Legislative Management to consider studying judicial issues relating to behavioral health during the 2015-16 interim.</p>

The schedule below identifies each recommendation made by the Behavioral Health Stakeholders Group and the action(s) taken or proposed to address the recommendation.

Recommendation	Action(s) Taken or Proposed
<p>Establish four adult mental health assessment centers in the four largest communities in North Dakota. Train critical access hospitals to triage behavioral health issues including access to telemedicine to the mental health assessment centers. Establish a Hennepin County "like" model.</p> <p>Establish a children/adolescent assessment network or centers in each region to incorporate attendant/shelter care.</p> <p>Involve key behavioral health partners in one region to develop discharge planning protocols including the establishment of outcome measures.</p> <p>Expand numbers of licensed addiction counselors by establishing a stipend program for licensed addiction counselor interns that would be forgiven if the licensed addiction counselor practices in the state for four years.</p> <p>Expand licensed addiction counselor training slots by providing stipends for organizations that offer training.</p>	<p>Section 1 of bill draft [15.0277.01000] includes an appropriation of \$6 million to the Department of Human Services for the purpose of establishing an adult and youth mental health assessment network.</p> <p>Section 1 of bill draft [15.0277.01000] includes an appropriation of \$6 million to the Department of Human Services for the purpose of establishing an adult and youth mental health assessment network.</p> <p>Section 2 of bill draft [15.0277.01000] includes an appropriation of \$175,000 to the Department of Human Services for the purpose of establishing a pilot project involving law enforcement, health care providers, and other related organizations in one region to develop planning protocols for discharge or release of individuals with behavioral health issues.</p> <p>Section 2 of bill draft [15.0278.01000] establishes a licensed addiction counselor internship loan program. Section 4 includes an appropriation of \$1 million to establish an addiction counselor internship loan program revolving fund.</p> <p>Section 5 of bill draft [15.0278.01000] includes an appropriation of \$200,000 to the Department of Human Services for the purpose of providing grants to private entities that provide clinical training experiences for individuals pursuing licensure as addiction counselors.</p>

Recommendation	Action(s) Taken or Proposed
<p>Establish a student loan buydown program for licensed behavioral health clinical staff.</p> <p>Provide basic training in schools on behavioral health issues for teachers and child care providers using the mental health first aid model.</p> <p>Establish preschool screening and assessment, including evaluation of outcome data on behavioral health screening tools done with Health Tracks and Healthy Steps to monitor referral patterns and unmet needs. Prepare recommendations to establish routine standardized screening using evidence-based practices throughout the state to routinely screen all 2, 3, and 4 year olds at primary care sites.</p> <p>Continue the study of behavioral health needs within the state and track changes implemented during the 2015 Legislative Session.</p>	<p>Section 1 of bill draft [15.0278.01000] establishes a student loan repayment program. Section 3 includes an appropriation of \$180,000 to the State Board of Higher Education for the purpose of administering a grant program to assist with the repayment of student loan incurred by behavioral health professionals.</p> <p>Section 3 of bill draft [15.0277.01000] includes an appropriation of \$50,000 to the Department of Public Instruction for the purpose of providing mental health first aid training for teachers and child care providers.</p> <p>Section 4 of bill draft [15.0277.01000] directs the Legislative Management to consider studying mental health screening and assessment programs for children during the 2015-16 interim.</p> <p>Section 5 of bill draft [15.0277.01000] directs the Legislative Management to consider studying behavioral health needs during the 2015-16 interim.</p>

The Behavioral Health Stakeholders Group also suggested the following revisions to bills presented to the Human Services Committee at its August 28, 2014 meeting:

- Amend Section 1 of bill draft [15.0230.02000] relating to payment for behavioral health services provided by licensed marriage and family therapists to include licensed professional clinical counselors;
- Delete Sections 4 and 5 from bill draft [15.0230.02000] relating to grants for e-psychiatry and telemedicine services;
- Remove Section 8 from bill draft [15.0230.02000] relating to a Legislative Management study of judicial services regarding behavioral health and prepare a separate resolution draft directing the Legislative Management to consider studying judicial issues relating to behavioral health during the 2015-16 interim;
- Amend bill draft [15.0231.01000] relating to an oversight system and reciprocity language for behavioral health licensing boards to establish that licenses be issued within 30 days; and
- Amend bill draft [15.0232.02000] relating to the definition of qualified mental health professional to include licensed marriage and family therapists.

A resolution draft [15.3026.01000] to direct the Legislative Management to consider studying judicial issues relating to behavioral health, including 24-hour hold, termination of parental rights, and court committals, during the 2015-16 interim, has been prepared.

The Behavioral Health Stakeholders Group also suggested the Human Services Committee consider a bill drafting the definition of mental health professional/personnel in other sections of North Dakota Century Code. Bill draft [15.0285.01000] has been prepared to amend Section 25-03.1-02 relating to commitment procedures and Section 32-03-48 relating to judicial remedies, including damages and compensatory relief.