

ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS

This memorandum provides information regarding the actions taken 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. The schedule below identifies each recommendation and the action(s) taken or proposed to address the recommendation.

Recommendation	Action(s) Taken or Proposed
<p>The 2015 Legislative Assembly shall increase funding for adult and youth substance abuse services, including detoxification.</p> <p>The 2015 Legislative Assembly shall authorize use of telemedicine for crisis assessment and remove barriers for full utilization.</p>	<p>Section 3 of bill draft [15.0230.01000] 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.</p> <p>Section 5 of bill draft [15.0230.01000] includes an appropriation of \$175,000 to the Department of Human Services for the purpose of expanding telemedicine services at human service centers and federally qualified health centers. 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.</p>
<p>The 2015 Legislative Assembly shall increase funding for equipment for critical access hospitals to create e-psychiatry.</p>	<p>Section 4 of bill draft [15.0230.01000] includes an appropriation of \$175,000 to the Department of Human Services for the purpose of providing grants to critical access hospitals to establish e-psychiatry services.</p>
<p>The 2015 Legislative Assembly and the Department of Human Services shall create an oversight system for licensing boards utilizing public health as the overseer.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>The 2015 Legislative Assembly shall change definition of behavioral health professional in North Dakota Century Code to include all qualified professionals.</p>	<p>Section 1 of bill draft [15.0232.01000] 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.</p>
<p>The 2015 Legislative Assembly or the Department of Human Services shall create reciprocity language for behavioral health professionals.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>The Department of Human Services shall train law enforcement as first responders using mental health first aid.</p>	<p>Section 6 of bill draft [15.0230.01000] 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.</p>
<p>The 2015 Legislative Assembly shall change North Dakota Century Code to reimburse all qualified behavioral health professionals.</p>	<p>Section 1 of bill draft [15.0230.01000] 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>

Recommendation	Action(s) Taken or Proposed
<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>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 [15.0230.01000] directs the Department of Human Services to develop an outcomes-based data system in conjunction with the North Dakota University System.</p> <p>Section 7 of bill draft [15.0230.01000] 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 [15.0230.01000] directs the Legislative Management to consider studying judicial issues relating to behavioral health during the 2015-16 interim.</p>