



North Dakota Hospital Association

Vision

The North Dakota Hospital Association will take an active leadership role in major Healthcare issues.

Mission

The North Dakota Hospital Association exists to advance the health status of persons served by the membership.

Health and Human Services Committee August 5, 2010

Chairman Weisz, members of the Health and Human Services Committee, I am Tim Blasl, Vice President of the North Dakota Hospital Association. I am here today to provide you an update regarding mental health issues within the state.

I would like to provide you an update regarding a challenge facing hospitals that provide inpatient psychiatric services.

The Hospitals that provide these services are facing funding issues. The lack of funding has contributed to two inpatient psychiatric units closing in both Dickinson and Williston within the last year. The closure of these two units has increased demand on other providers and a gap in coverage in that part of the state. Please find below a list of current providers providing inpatient psychiatric services.

Specialty Hospitals

Prairie St. John's
Stadter Physic Center
ND State Hospital

Acute Hospitals

St. Alexius Medical Center
MedCenter One
Sanford Health
Trinity
Altru

The North Dakota Hospital Association has been involved in the stake holder meetings that have been held by the ND Department of Human Services. We will continue to be involved to address funding issues and to improve access to mental health services.

Also, our association has formed a legislative committee to specifically study the behavioral health challenges facing hospitals. This group is made up of hospitals that provide psychiatric care and is chaired by Dr. Emmet Kenney, CEO of Prairie St. John's in Fargo. I've listed a few issues below our committee has determined to be issues of further discussion.

- Funding of Care
- Physician Recruitment
- Access to State Hospital
- Telemedicine

It is our goal to modify legislation so our state's mental health system can work with today's needs. The North Dakota Hospital Association will be proactive and assist this legislative committee and the Department of Human Services regarding these issues.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I will be glad to answer any questions.