

**Health Services Committee
Health Care Data Chapter 23-01.1
Tuesday – January 10, 2012
Testimony from the Data Committee of the State Health Council**

Good morning, Chairman Lee and members of the Health Services Committee. My name is Marlene Kouba and I am the chair of the State Health Council.

The Health Care Data Committee of the State Health Council has been working to revise the charge and direction of the Health Care Data Committee since the meeting with you on October 26, 2011.

We have developed some preliminary language and we are continuing to work with the Department of Health to delineate the best approach for our actions. We want to give the staff an opportunity to identify the best and most effective way to put the information available together. This will provide you, the Department of Health and our researchers in public health the best opportunity to improve the health and health care of all North Dakotans.

The general approach we are taking moves away from the comparison of charges and costs for various health-care services to an analysis of information that will help us make better decisions in health-care planning. Information on the comparison is and will be available through the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services as they attempt to capture the costs and quality of care in the accountable care organizations, which are envisioned in the current changes, that are underway at the federal level.

Thank you very much for your attention. It is our wish that we continue to stay involved with you and come together by this summer with some proposed legislation along these lines. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Marlene Kouba, Chair
North Dakota State Health Council and
Secretary of the Health Care Data Committee