

Interim Judiciary Committee**October 11, 2012****Testimony of Dallas Carlson, Director, ND BCI****➤ Challenges of the investigation of synthetic drugs:**

Synthetic drugs have become an epidemic in North Dakota. There have been deaths associated with these drugs being sold as harmless bath salts. Investigation of these drugs has been challenging. The manufacturers and distributors of these synthetic drugs seem to keep one step ahead of law enforcement. When an arrest is made, searches are done, and evidence seized it seems within days the distributors have a new supply to sell. This new supply will have a slight compound change that is no longer unlawful in North Dakota. Because of the huge amount of money made selling these synthetic drugs the manufacturers can employ a number of chemists to stay ahead of changing laws. One example is BCI did a search and seized a large inventory of these drugs from a business. Records show this business was making up to \$10,000.00 per day profit selling these synthetics. Within a couple of days the business had restocked its shelves and selling again. Proposed new legislation will assist greatly with our investigations.

Currently there is no field test for law enforcement to use for these drugs.

Lack of cooperation from suspects is a bigger problem with these than other drugs because these drugs are being marketed as not being harmful or illegal.

➤ New challenges in law enforcement: (Speaking in generalizations not specific cases)

Housing for new employees; This is a continued issue. Rent and home prices are very high.

Drugs in general continue to be a challenge. A never ending customer base, new types of drugs, and to a certain extent sentencing is a few challenges. With the influx of people into ND brings a larger supplier of illegal drugs to ND. We have people coming from all over the country to North Dakota. With this influx brings a larger variety of drugs. These people bring with them their drug of choice and share that with others creating new habits for users. Meth is being cooked in a much more variety of methods also. Traditionally there was one type of meth cook in ND, now there are cooks coming from all over and bringing their method of cooking with them. ND still receives the vast majority of meth shipped from CA and Mexico but there is more being cooked here than in the past.

In western ND our drug task forces are being overworked and stretched very thin. We are very much in a reactive mode. The local PD's and SO's are responding to a larger number of bar fight, domestic, and party calls than they were 2 years ago. Once at these calls drugs are usually found. Once these drugs are found our task forces are called to deal with the problem. The local law enforcement then responds to other calls waiting. The task force

then deals with the drug issue at hand. This scenario repeats itself numerous times. Because of this type of scenario the task forces cannot do traditional buys and surveillances.

Organized theft rings are also becoming problematic. We have had groups from eastern ND stealing copper statewide and selling it as scrap. Drug trafficking organizations have discovered North Dakota as a money making spot. These organizations are typically from TX and Mexico. Oil field equipment and property theft; heavy equipment theft such as skid steer loaders have become a target of theft. These skid steer's will be sold in Mexico or to other companies that do not care if they are stolen. Pipe and drill bits are also a target of theft. Drill bits can be resold to companies in TX, CO, and WY. Pipe is also sold to other companies at a reduced price.

BCI continues to be utilized more by agencies in western ND. Because of the influx of people the local agencies are responding to more calls for assistance. Because the local law enforcement is busier, BCI becomes busier. BCI is assisting with more investigations such as GSI, theft, shooting and stabbing calls, etc as the locals do not have time for all the investigations. Because BCI is an assisting agency for this type of service our agents are also working more with less time off.

➤ **BCI STATISTICS**

(Monday October 8, 2012):

Concealed Weapon Licenses:

- Currently, the State of ND has issued **20,907** concealed weapon licenses.
- Since January of 2011, BCI has processed **16,295 applications** (new and renewals).
- Of those 16,295 applications, **9,750 of them were new applications** (6,277 renewals).

Offender Registration:

- Currently, the State of ND has 2,041 registered offenders (this does not include the reservations). (12/31/09 - 1432 registered, 12/31/10 – 1493 registered)
- Since January 2011, this has been an increase of 352 offenders (who have stayed in ND).
- Since January 2011, there have been 245 offenders who have come to ND, registered and then left the state.
- **Since January 2011, BCI has processed 4,820 changes** (addresses, jobs, etc).

Criminal history checks:

In 1999 BCI processed 9,121 record check requests from the public.

In 2011 BCI processed **37,444** record checks.

➤ **ND/MT study of the impact on law enforcement in the Bakken Region showed;**

1.	A2-17	POPULATION	Approximately 8% increase since 2005
2.	A2-17	SERVICE CALLS	Overall 135% increase in calls for service since 2005. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• McKenzie Sheriff +152%• Williston Police +320%,• Killdeer Police +394%,• Stanley Police +22%
3.	A2-26	ARRESTS	Arrests increased: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• McKenzie Co Sheriff +340%• Williams Co Sheriff +213%,• Mountrail Co +264%
4.	A2-29	VIOLENT OFFENSES	Violent offenses increased: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dickinson Police +364%,• Minot Police +46%,• Williams Co Sheriff +850%,• Williston PD +280%

I believe we are experiencing the new “norm” for North Dakota. With this new norm come more challenges. BCI will need to grow with the growth of the state. Part of this growth will be the request for more agents and equipment to keep up. BCI will have to become more specialized. Recently BCI agents received training in oil field trends and crimes from an expert from CO. BCI may also have to delegate an agent to concentrate on organized and/or oil field crimes.