

House Bill 1014
House Appropriations Committee
Honorable Jeff Delzer, Chairman
Human Resources Section
Honorable Jon Nelson, Chairman

Testimony Of The North Dakota Association Of Community Providers
January 7, 2021

The North Dakota Association of Community Providers (NDACP) is the membership organization of agencies licensed to provide home and community based services to North Dakotans with developmental disabilities. The North Dakota Protection and Advocacy Project (P&A) has jurisdiction to ensure the legal rights of the people we serve.

We appreciate the collaborative attitude of P&A during the COVID-19 emergency and their commitment to helping us protect both the safety and individual rights of the people we serve. A hard, confrontational approach would have consumed valuable resources and undermined the well being and safety of the people we serve safe.

NDACP salutes the partnership and commitment to quality services demonstrated by P&A and the DD Division in streamlining the investigation of allegations of abuse, neglect and exploitation (ANE). P&A demonstrated leadership to focus their resources on cases most in need of outside assistance and support, while allowing the majority of allegations to be investigated and dealt with proactively by providers. Pilots of these new procedures are underway, and rules and policies may need to be adjusted, but we wish to report initial success in this collaboration. Best of all, the ANE process is poised to focus on improving the quality of future services.

Among many other efforts, these serve as parts of the admirable legacy of work by P&A Executive Director, Teresa Larsen, and her service to North Dakotans with disabilities.

I would be happy to answer any questions today or in the future, and have inserted my contact information below.

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