

January 26, 2021

Dear Chairman Wiesz and Members of the Human Services Committee,

My name is Mata Peterson Licensed Graduate Social Worker and Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor (MN). I own Life Transformations Outpatient Substance Use Disorder Clinic in Breckenridge, (MN). We have not been able to utilize the SUD vouchers for our clients who do not qualify for Medicaid, have no insurance or have private insurances that have high deductibles, due to being on the MN side. Since our facility is located on the border of MN and ND it would make sense for people from ND to be able to access services in MN and utilize the SUD vouchers if they qualify. Currently we are the only facility in Breckenridge/Wahpeton area that can offer SUD Services to ND residents. Many of the people that we are attempting to serve would need to travel up to an hour away or more to access services. This is a huge financial burden to the clients and transportation is a huge issue.

The focus has been on getting services to rural areas, yet MN facilities are not able to offer help to ND residents unless they have private insurance or they pay out of pocket. This is a huge disservice to the community. Clients may have to go without services and continue to struggle with their addictions.

I support clients being able to utilize SUD vouchers as a way to access care and treatment in both MN and ND.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Mata M. Peterson', written in dark ink.

Mata M. Peterson LGSW, LADC
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