

Senate Human Services Committee

HB 1402

Rep. Alisa Mitskog

March 8, 2021

Chairman Lee and Committee Members,

My name is Alisa Mitskog, I represent District 25.

HB 1402 is a bill that would allow for out of state substance use treatment programs and providers in underserved areas to be eligible for reimbursement through the substance use disorder voucher program pursuant to the rules adopted by the department.

The issue came to my attention due to the lack of providers in Wahpeton. Currently, individuals that need to go undergo substance use disorder treatment in the Wahpeton area and want to utilize the SUD vouchers must utilize Southeast Human Services providers in Fargo.

The challenge with this is access and transportation. Grants for transportation are available and transportation is contracted through a local taxi company. It is questionable if this is cost effective and a good use of public dollars. In one week, it cost \$960.00 to transport one individual to Fargo for 3 different days of treatment. An average intensive outpatient treatment program can run 12 weeks of 3 session per week, one can do the math to figure out this is costly.

The solution in the Wahpeton area is to allow for individuals to be able to access services from providers across the river in Breckenridge, MN.

The Wahpeton-Breckenridge area is unique that the clinics are in Wahpeton, the hospital is in Breckenridge as well as the substance use disorder treatment provider. The Twin Towns, as they are referred to, work together to provide health care for the region.

I would ask the committee to consider passing HB 1402 that would allow for including out of state providers in the SUD Voucher program.