

**SB 2128 Testimony**  
**House Human Services**  
**Representative Weisz, Chairman**  
**March 7, 2023**

Chairman Weisz and Members of the Committee, I am Carlotta McCleary, the Executive Director of the ND Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health (NDFFCMH), which is a parent run organization that focuses on the needs of children and youth with emotional, behavioral, or mental health needs and their families. I am also the Executive Director for Mental Health America of ND (MHAND) which is a consumer-run organization whose mission is to promote mental health through education, advocacy, understanding, and access to quality care for all individuals. Today I am testifying as the Chairman of the Behavioral Health Planning Council (BHPC). Members of the BHPC are appointed by the Governor. BHPC's objective is to monitor, review, and evaluate the allocation and adequacy of mental health and substance abuse services in North Dakota. The BHPC has a focus and vision on wellness and recovery that is consumer and family driven. Part of the BHPC's work has been to oversee the implementation of the Human Services Research Institute's (HSRI) report Implementation Plan. We work with HSRI and the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services to provide advice on the implementation process.

The ND Behavioral Health Planning Council (BHPC) is testifying in support of SB 2128, which provides \$1 million of one-time funding for the Department of Health and Human Services to provide a planning grant to a private entity to become a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC). The Behavioral Health Planning Council urges the legislature to have CCBHCs in all eight regions of our state. Currently, North Dakota is

only one of three states (South Dakota and South Carolina) in the United States which do not have at least one CCBHC.

In North Dakota we have over 30,000 adults with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and over 18,000 children with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED). The federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has said that North Dakota is supposed to have a public and private mental health system that is capable of serving all 30,000 adults with SMI and all 18,000 children with SED. From July 2021 to June 2022, North Dakota Human Service Centers served 5,482 adults with SMI, while giving 935 adults with SMI with case management services. During that same timeframe, North Dakota served 1,101 children with SED and provided 135 children with case management services. We clearly have a long way to go to meet those requirements.

CCBHCs are required to serve anyone who requests care for behavioral health, regardless of their ability to pay, place of residence, or age-including developmentally appropriate care for children and youth. CCBHCs are required to provide crisis services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. As such, facilities that are designed as CCBHCs must have adequate staffing, timely and meaningful access to services, care coordination, person-centered, family-centered, and recovery oriented care, meet 21 quality standards, and have consumer representation in governance and appropriate state accreditation. The CCBHCs are required to provide nine core services, either directly or through formal relationships with other providers, including: 1) crisis services, 2) treatment planning, 3) screening, assessment, diagnosis, and risk assessment, 4) outpatient mental health & substance use services, 5) targeted case management, 6) outpatient primary care screening and

monitoring, 7) community-based mental health care for veterans, 8) peer, family support & counselor services, 9) psychiatric rehabilitation services.

As you can see, CCBHCs provide a wide array of services to all North Dakotans with behavioral health needs and can serve the community all day, every day. North Dakota remains in a behavioral health systems crisis and CCBHCs, when established throughout the state of North Dakota, can do a great deal to dig us out of this crisis.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to respond to any questions that you may have.

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