

68th North Dakota Legislature
Senate Appropriations Sub-Committee
January 25, 2023

Good afternoon, Chairman Dever and members of the Committee. My name is Trina Gress, I am a Vice President of Community Options. We support SB 2012 however ask that you do make a few considerations for the 1915i section.

On January 15, 2021, ND received notice that the 1915i Medicaid state plan amendment was approved by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Community Options became an enrolled 1915i provider on 11/15/2020 and we provided our first service on 5/24/2021. We remained the only active provider until 11/24/2021. The primary service Community Options offers is care coordination. However, we would like to offer a broader range of services, but we are unable to due to the lack of providers. Not enough providers enrolled to offer services in all allowable categories is causing clients to not receive the wrap around services 1915i SPA was intended to provide.

There is an emphasis put on community-based services, yet the state has struggled to gain enough providers for 1915i SPA. Why? It could be the administrative burden of applying and compliance measures, it could be the payments rates are not high enough, or it could be that the billing and tracking of each 15-minute unit is cumbersome. Regardless of the reasons why, the state of North Dakota needs more providers to offer 1915i services.

In conclusion, Community Options supports SB 2012, however we recommend your consideration in the following suggestions:

1. Add staff in the Behavioral Health budget to administer and lead provider outreach and recruitment.
2. Launch a marketing campaign to existing community based providers to engage interest.
3. Request the department to change the 15-minute billing rate to a daily or monthly rate to reduce the administrative billing burden.

Thank you for your time, are there any questions?

Sincerely Submitted,

Trina Gress

701.319.8871
trinag@coresinc.org