

68th North Dakota Legislature
Senate Appropriations Sub-Committee
January 26, 2023

Good afternoon, Chairman Dever and members of the Committee. My name is Trina Gress, I am a Vice President Community Options. We support SB 2012 Behavioral Health budget.

A bit of history, the 2017 and 2019 North Dakota legislative body passed funding and legislation which created a new sections in ND Century Code and provided funding to implement Free through Recovery (FTR) and Community Connect. This has been one of the best things for the citizens of ND. These two programs have impacted thousands of clients lives over the last few years.

Community Options is one of many providers which serve Free through Recovery and Community Connect clients. These two programs change lives. Let me share a few stories.

Client A – A Community Connect client suffered two strokes, went through a divorce, and was struggling with his mental health. His Care Coordinator listened without judgement and assisted him in organizing appointments. He now has an apartment and a part time job and is doing well.

Client B was pending revocation, but because of the FTR program and his Care Coordinator assisted him in securing a fulltime job and his 1 year of sobriety the judge decided to dismiss it. While in the FTR program this client learned how to stop pushing off his responsibilities and talk to people without getting nervous.

In conclusion, Community Options supports SB 2012 for the Behavioral Health Budget. Thank you for your time, are there any questions?

Sincerely Submitted,

Trina Gress

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