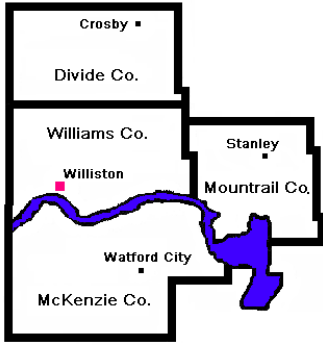


# Upper Missouri District Health Unit

*"Your Public Health Professionals"*



**DIVIDE COUNTY**

Divide County Courthouse  
P.O. Box 69  
200 Main Street N  
Crosby, ND 58730  
Phone 701-965-6813  
Fax 701-965-6814

**MCKENZIE COUNTY**

P.O. Box 1066  
201 5th St. NW Suite 1100  
Watford City, ND 58854  
Phone 701-444-3449  
Fax 701-842-6985

**MOUNTRAIL COUNTY**

Memorial Building  
P.O. Box 925  
18 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave SE  
Stanley, ND 58784  
Phone 701-628-2951  
Fax 701-628-1294

**WILLIAMS COUNTY**

110 W. Bdwy, Ste 101  
Williston, ND 58801-6056  
Phone 701-774-6400  
Fax 701-577- 8536  
Toll Free 1-877-572-3763

## Testimony

### House Bill 1012

### House Appropriations—Human Resources Division

January 27, 2025

Good morning, Chairman Nelson and members of the committee. I am Javayne Oyloe, Executive Officer of Upper Missouri District Health Unit (UMDHU). I have worked in public health for nearly 29 years. UMDHU provides local public health services to Divide, McKenzie, Mountrail and Williams Counties.

I am in support of the mission of the Public Health Division and the funding needed. Local public health made a request through the DHHS budget that was presented to Governor Burgum for an additional \$2 million in state aid which would bring the total to \$10 million. Although the additional funding wasn't in the governor's budget, state aid is needed to meet the local needs in our communities. State aid makes up 10% of the UMDHU budget for about \$335,000 per year.

Each community has a few stories where local public health provided a safety net for local needs. For instance, when oil activity ramped up in our area UMDHU approved 1100 septic permits up from around 40 per year. Recently there was an active TB case where a group of our nurses and emergency response employees and a couple state employees helped to screen a couple hundred people in the community.

With a younger average age and the addition of new cultures in NWND Upper Missouri has adapted to meet the needs. We assist people who speak other languages with the use of interpreters, update records from other countries and assist schools often without reimbursement for these tasks.

Local public health works with many partners to address community needs and help to diminish healthcare costs by assisting with Medicaid and Medicare clients, the uninsured, provide outreach and after-hours clinics and meet people where they're at. There are times when we are the only provider people see. We help connect people to services and programs. We also help to allow the elderly to stay in their homes. UMDHU works very closely with partners from the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Tribes. The Public Health Division depends on us to be engaged with our communities every day with programs like WIC, disease prevention, septic systems, reproductive health, child passenger safety, emergency preparedness and tobacco and substance misuse prevention.

Local public health appreciates your support that helps us to maintain our role as a community safety net.