

HEARTVIEW

A NEW LIFE

701-222-0386

www.heartview.org

Testimony of Kurt Snyder

Heartview Foundation

In Support of HB 1012

House Appropriations Committee- Human Resources Division

Jan. 27, 2025

Chair Nelson and members of the House Appropriations Committee- Human Resources Division:

My name is Kurt Snyder and I am the Chief Executive Officer of the Heartview Foundation. I would like to express Heartview Foundation's support of HB 1012, specifically for the Behavioral Health Division. The Heartview Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit substance use treatment facility in North Dakota that was established in 1964. We currently have over 180 employees and offer a wide array of community-based services as well as 61 residential treatment beds. Our four locations in Bismarck-Mandan, Cando, and Dickinson, each have 16 beds or fewer and can serve individuals with Medicaid and Medicaid Expansion.

Mental health and substance abuse are growing issues, 17% of Americans had a substance use disorder in 2022. Heartview greatly benefits from the Behavioral Health Division's work in North Dakota, and we would like to focus our testimony on the major programs which benefit our clients.

SUD Voucher

In 2024, Heartview served 369 individuals with the SUD voucher program. Of those, 256 did not have other insurance and did not qualify for Medicaid or Medicaid Expansion. Heartview has several staff members who work directly with clients to ensure they are covered by private health insurance or apply for Medicaid or the SUD voucher. This program is vital to filling gaps of service and reducing barriers to care.

Opioid Settlement Funds

The Governor's recommendation includes \$8 million to be distributed by the opioid settlement fund committee. During the last distribution period, Heartview received two grants. The first was for \$426,000 to expand outpatient services in western North Dakota. We officially launched outpatient services and expanded access to medication for opioid use disorder this week on the third floor of St. Joe's Plaza in Dickinson. We have hired three additional addiction counselors and are now offering both residential and outpatient services in Dickinson. The second grant was for the Training Academy for Addiction Professionals (TAAP), which consists of Heartview and 15 other clinical training sites, received \$613,000 to provide scholarships and a living wage for addiction counselor trainees. The goal of the grant was to fund 10 scholarships and 10 training positions. However, TAAP was able to fund 15

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Bismarck, ND 58501

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Cando, ND 58324

30 7th Street West, 4th Floor
Dickinson, ND 58601

scholarships and 28 addiction counseling trainees. This provided a major boost to the pipeline and number of addiction counselors seeking and obtaining a license.

Medicaid/Medicaid Expansion Rates

Approximately 67% of Heartview patients in residential and day treatment (Heartview's highest levels of care) utilize Medicaid or Medicaid Expansion. Heartview is the largest substance abuse treatment center in North Dakota eligible to accept Medicaid and Medicaid Expansion and the program has been invaluable for us to serve the increased need in our state. No changes to Medicaid and Medicaid Expansion rates are currently included in this bill; Heartview supports a continuation of past rates for behavioral health needs.

Other Programs

With a growing addiction problem in North Dakota, it is imperative that access to addiction treatment is readily available. A strong state behavioral health division is invaluable to support the services available in North Dakota. Heartview also supports:

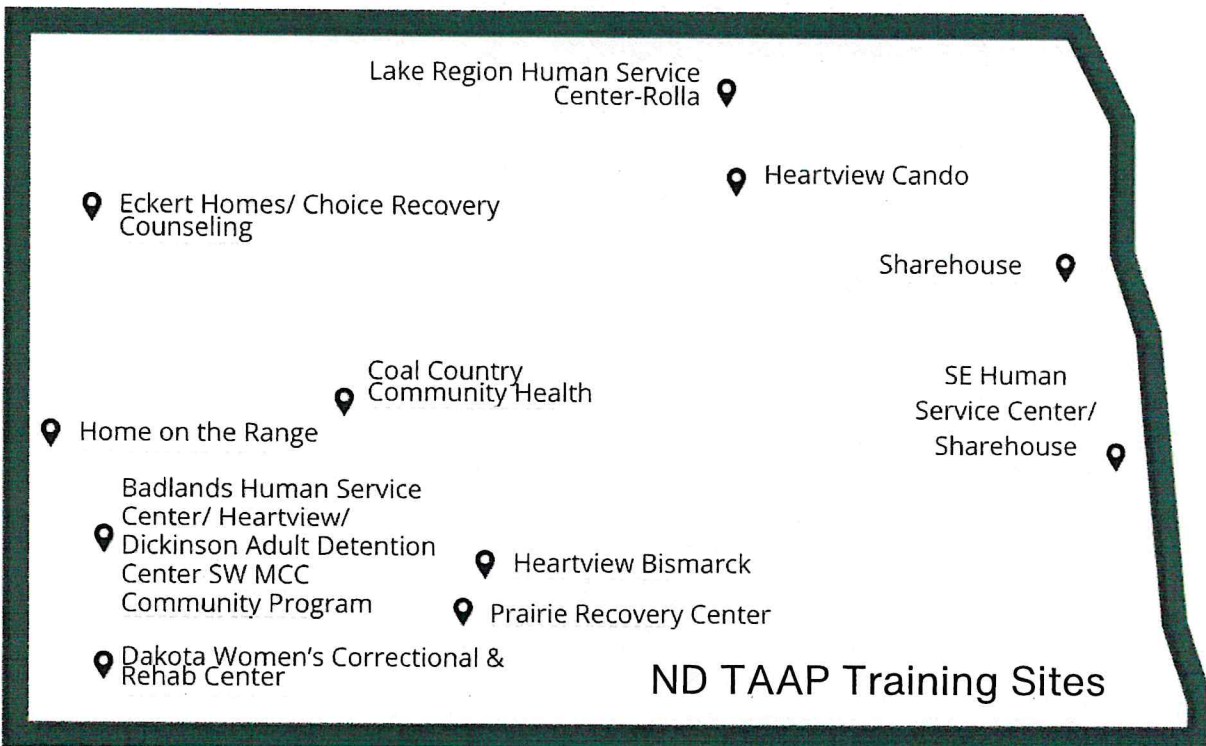
- Community Connect and Free Through Recovery- Peer support services can be an important piece of recovery
- Human Services Research Institute (HSRI)- Heartview supports HSRI and the Division of Behavioral Health's strategic plan, especially efforts to recruit and retain qualified behavioral health workforce.
- Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics and the State Hospital- These programs provide a much-needed safety net for low-income individuals in crisis, as well as for individuals with mental health needs beyond our capacity.

Heartview Foundation encourages the committee to support the Behavioral Health budget to best serve North Dakota citizens. We are always willing to answer questions and any legislators who would like to learn more about Heartview are invited to call us to set up a tour. Thank you for your commitment to addressing the substance abuse crisis in our state.



North Dakota Training Academy *for* Addiction Professionals

TAAP is a consortium of addiction counseling agencies in North Dakota collaboratively working together to offer quality learning experiences for licensed addiction counselor trainees in the state. The consortium aims to enhance education and opportunities available to individuals pursuing careers in addiction counseling by pooling resources, expertise and networking connections among participating agencies.



- ✓ Combines coursework & clinical experience
- ✓ Variety of training sites available
- ✓ Commitment to education & training
- ✓ Open application cycle
- ✓ Unique program designed to ensure trainee success

TAAP aims to prepare
addiction counselor trainees
for real life careers in the
addiction field



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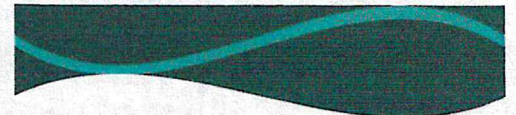


Training Academy for Addiction Professionals

OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND GRANT

Project Report

AS OF DECEMBER 2024



NDTAAP

North Dakota Training Academy
for Addiction Professionals

The TAAP Consortium is increasing North Dakota's workforce by training the next generation of addiction counselors.

	PROJECTS	DETAILS	OUTCOME
15 Academic Scholarships	Scholarships awarded between \$1,700-\$10,000	OSF funded for one class to one year of school	Goal to be met Aug. 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DSU, UMary, UND, MSU, BSC, USD, & GCU
28 Paid Trainees	Clinical trainees have completed, are active or will be starting prior to June 20, 2024	OSF funded 10 training positions	Goal to be met June 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remaining 16 training positions paid by partner organizations
16 Clinical Training Sites	Increase the number of TAAP Clinical Training Sites	Creates opportunity for trainees to train near home	Goal Met June 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active application to increase training sites
19 Additional Clinical Supervisors	Increase the number of Clinical Supervisors	Provided 15 clinical supervisors for training students	Goal Met June 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical Supervisors supporting ND workforce
250 College & High School Students	Visit 4 college campuses and 10 high schools	Presented addiction workforce education to HOSA-Future Health Professionals	Goal Met October 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HOSA Fall Leadership Conference 22 high schools 4 colleges/universities

Path to Addiction Counseling Licensure

Enrolled Junior/Senior
College Student



Bachelor's Degree
Graduate



Non-Degree
Seeking Student



Dual Licensure
Professional



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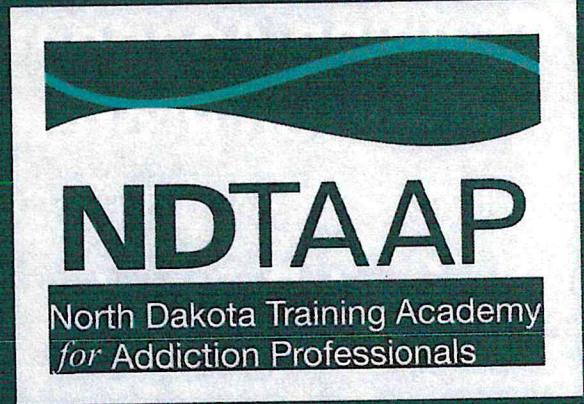
www.ndtaap.org

Training Academy for Addiction Professionals

OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND GRANT

Statewide Program

5 YEAR PROJECTION



The TAAP Consortium is increasing North Dakota's workforce by training the next generation of addiction counselors.

PROJECTS	DETAILS	OUTCOME	
20 TAAP Consortium Trainees	TAAP will increase the number of trainees from 10 to 20 trainees per year	TAAP will achieve 28 trainees this OSF Funding cycle	Goal to complete 20 licensed addiction counselors in ND each year
25 Trainees in the 5 other regional ND Consortiums	Provide funding to each of the other 5 ND Consortiums	TAAP distributes \$100,000 to each consortium for trainee living wage	Provide inclusive funding for addiction counselor trainees in the state—goal of other consortiums have an additional 25 trainees complete
50 Additional Clinical Supervisors	Increase the number of Clinical Supervisors	Clinical supervisors paid \$200 per week for full time and \$200 per week for part time	Recruit additional 50 clinical supervisors through financial incentive

Investment

OSF Funding Heartview Partners



Future Funding Needed

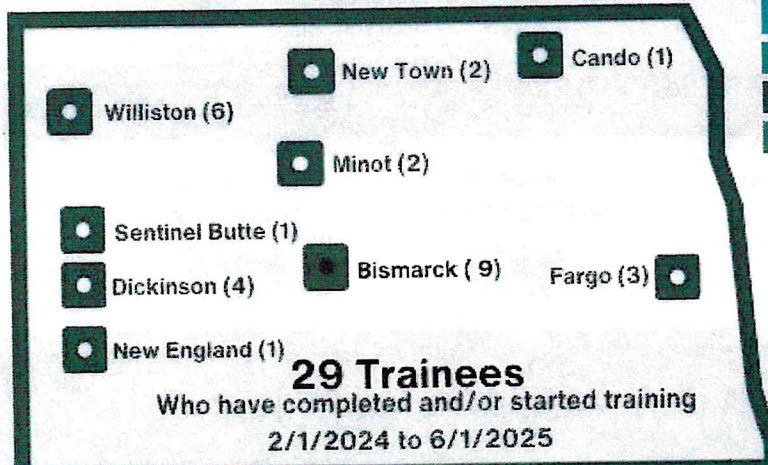
\$1.5 M/Year

- TAAP to increase paid trainee positions by 10 (total = 20)
- TAAP to award 20 scholarships ranging from \$1700-\$10,000
- Fund the 5 other ND consortiums to support addiction counselor trainees (5 trainees per consortium)
- Additional administrative support
- Additional funding for clinical supervision support

RESULT

North Dakota **ADDING 40** licensed addiction counselors in the workforce per year.

The Board of Addiction Counseling Examiners are currently licensing 25 NEW licenses per year.



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