



Upper Missouri District Health Unit

“Your Public Health Professionals”

DIVIDE COUNTY

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Crosby, ND 58730
Phone 701-965-6813
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MCKENZIE COUNTY

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201 5th St. NW Suite 1100
Watford City, ND 58854
Phone 701-444-3449
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MOUNTRAIL COUNTY

Memorial Building
P.O. Box 925
18 2nd Ave SE
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Phone 701-628-2951
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WILLIAMS COUNTY

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Testimony

House Bill 1012

Senate Appropriations—Human Resources Division

March 17, 2025

Good morning, Chairman Dever 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. Mill levy funds about 1/3 of the UMDHU budget.

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. Our telehealth line has increased from \$500 to \$3000 in 2024 and has already billed out \$1500 for January and February 2025.

Local public health works with many partners to address community needs and helps 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.