



HEARTVIEW

A NEW LIFE

701-222-0386

www.heartview.org

Testimony of Kurt Snyder

Heartview Foundation

In Support of HB 1012

Senate Appropriations Committee- Human Resources Division

March 26, 2025

Chair Dever and members of the Senate 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. In January, we officially launched outpatient services, started accepting walk-in evaluations (no appointment needed), and expanded access to medication for opioid use disorder on the third floor of St. Joe's Plaza 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 scholarships and 28 addiction counseling trainees. This provided a major boost to the pipeline and number of addiction counselors seeking and obtaining a license.

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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.

IMD Waiver

Heartview opposes the state pursuing an IMD waiver. Heartview has four residential facilities, a total of 61 beds available that are not considered IMD. Heartview has developed a service delivery system that is rooted in community outpatient services. In order to fully serve our clients' needs, Heartview focuses on wrap-around services instead of residential beds. Each client is treated as an individual with unique needs, so this may include medication assisted treatment, outpatient services, mental health services, and/or residential care. At any given time, we have over 600 individuals in our services, only 61 of which are in residential care. Residential care is and can be very important in the overall service delivery system, but when provided in absence of community-based services, it is incredibly disruptive to the lives of individuals and is ineffective care.

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.