

MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION
SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

40005

2007 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

SCR 4005

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SCR 4005

Senate Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 1-16-07

Recorder Job Number: 1183

Committee Clerk Signature

Mary K. Monson

Minutes:

Senator J. Lee opened the hearing on SCR 4005, a concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the feasibility and desirability of establishing a transition to independence program for young adults with mental illness. All members were present.

Senator Tim Mathern (District 11, Fargo). See attached testimony #1 supporting SCR 4005.

Sandra Leyland (Executive Director, Fraser Ltd.) Attached testimony #2 in support.

She offered information that her 20 yr. old daughter is in the State Hospital and has been there since Dec. 14. Her daughter started this process in October when she decided that she no longer needed her medication. She was in and out of local institutions five or six times before going to the State Hospital. After graduation last May, there were no programs in place for her. What was there for her was her family, some private therapists, human service center, if she chose to use them, but she wants to be a normal 20 yr. old. There are crises beds available through the center, there are institutions, but there is nothing in between.

Senator Dever asked if part of the problem was that the services up to the age of 18 are done through the school system.

Ms. Leyland replied that all the school districts are mandated to support these children through the age of 21 or 22, depending on birthday. Although they are mandated to support these

children, the services and staff and financial resources are not there. There needs to be programs and individuals supporting those transition years.

Senator Dever said his point was that while in school, the school has the responsibility. When they are done with school then nobody has the responsibility.

Senator J. Lee said that once the child chooses to graduate, the school no longer provides programs. Once the student graduates, the school is unable to continue with programs. If they do not choose to graduate, they could continue to have services until the age of 21.

Senator Heckaman offered that she worked with emotionally disturbed students. Her experience is that students with emotional disturbances do not always follow along the track that other kids do in high school. Some won't be ready to graduate until they are 21. Others with emotional disturbances follow along the track well and have met the high school requirements by the time they are 18. If they are not in need of further transition services and the parents determine they do not want further services, then we end up with a gap.

There was no opposing or neutral testimony.

The hearing on SCR 4005 was closed.

Senator Heckaman moved a **Do Pass** on SCR 4005. Seconded by Senator Pomeroy.

Roll call vote 6-0-0. **Passed.** Floor carrier is Senator Heckaman.

Date: 1-16-07
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4005

Senate HUMAN SERVICES Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By Sen. Heckaman Seconded By Sen. Pomeroy

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman	✓		Senator Joan Heckaman	✓	
Senator Robert Erbele, V. Chair	✓		Senator Jim Pomeroy	✓	
Senator Dick Dever	✓		Senator John M. Warner	✓	

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen. Heckaman

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4005: Human Services Committee (Sen. J. Lee, Chairman) recommends DO PASS
(6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4005 was placed on the
Eleventh order on the calendar.

2007 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

SCR 4005

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SCR 4005

House Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 6, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 2897

Committee Clerk Signature

Judy Schrock

Minutes:

Chairman Price: We will open the hearing on SCR 4005

Senator Tim Mathern, District 11 Fargo: See attached.

Sandra Leyland, Executive Director for Fraser Ltd.: See attached testimony.

Representative Conrad: There is a concern for children coming out of foster care and not getting the needs met.

Susan Haugland Director of Mental Health Association: I am asking your support for SCR 4005. We need to help the children until age 21.

Chairman Price: Anyone else to testify for SCR 4005? If not we will close the hearing on SCR 4005.

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SCR 4005

House Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 19, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 5267

Committee Clerk Signature

Judy Schock

Minutes:

Chairman Price: Take out SCR 4005 for discussion and action. I think the biggest thing here is transition out of foster care.

Representative Kaldor: I move a do pass consent to calendar, seconded by **Representative**

Schneider. The vote was taken with 11 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 absent. **Representative**

Schneider will carry the bill to the floor.

Date: 3/19
Roll Call Vote #:

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. "Click here to type Bill/Resolution No."

House HUMAN SERVICES SCR 4005 Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken As Pass - Consent to Calendar

Motion Made By Rep. Kaldor Seconded By Rep. Schneider

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Clara Sue Price - Chairman			Kari L Conrad		
Vonnie Pietsch - Vice Chairman			Lee Kaldor		
Chuck Damschen			Louise Potter		
Patrick R. Hatlestad			Jasper Schneider		
Curt Hofstad					
Todd Porter					
Gerry Uglem					
Robin Weisz					

Total (Yes) 11 "Click here to type Yes Vote" No 0 "Click here to type No Vote"

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Rep. Schneider

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 19, 2007 2:14 p.m.

Module No: HR-51-5663
Carrier: Schnelder
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4005: Human Services Committee (Rep. Price, Chairman) recommends DO PASS and BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR (11 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4005 was placed on the Tenth order on the calendar.

2007 TESTIMONY

SCR 4005

SCR 4005
Human Services Committee
January 16, 2007

Madam Chairman Lee and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tim Mathern. I am the Senator from District 11 in Fargo and introduced SCR 40005. The resolution asks us to study the transition period of persons who have mental illness and are moving from a child oriented system of services to an adult system of services.

I put the resolution together in response to community providers and advocates who noted young adults falling through the cracks between the many services available. From our community meetings the problems were evident as noted in the resolution but the solutions were more elusive. It seemed best if we study the need versus starting a new program at this time. The study might lead us to solutions we just do not recognize or that may be available in some areas of the sate but not in others.

We have others here to testify to address the more specific situations before us.

I ask for your Do Pass recommendation on SCR 4005.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Testimony

Senate Bill 4005

Human Services Committee

Senator Lee, Chairman

January 16th, 2007

Madam Chairman, members of the Human Services Committee, I am Sandra Leyland, Executive Director for Fraser Ltd. Fraser is a non profit organization in Fargo, North Dakota that serves adults with developmental disabilities and children with special needs. I am also the mother of two children adopted twelve years ago through the Adults Adopting Special Kids (AASK) program. Both children have mental health issues which have allowed me to witness first hand North Dakota's mental health system for children and young adults. I am here today in a professional capacity and as a private citizen in support of Senate Bill 4005.

Three years ago I received a call from a teacher for the emotionally disturbed (ED) in the public school system. She was struggling to find employment training for an 18 year old young lady that had attempted suicide three times. Due to her illness the young woman would often talk about her mental health condition with co-workers and would eventually be discharged from employment because of the discomfort this created in the work place.

Many other skills were present but without learning the soft skills or social skills this young person would not graduate and be employable, or able to live independently.

The teacher was wondering if Fraser could build a program that would provide skill development in the critical areas of social skills, medication & behavior management, problem solving skills and other need areas. This thirty year veteran of an ED classroom

felt passionately that this young woman and others like her needed an opportunity to learn the skills often not found in a classroom, if they were to live an independent, quality life similar to their peers.

Approximately five weeks later the Skills Enhancement Training (SET) program was underway. The purpose of this program is to teach youth ages 12 to 21 how to cope with their emotional and mental health disabilities. It is intricately connected to the community professionals of the youth we support.

Funding for this summer program did not come easy. Without a doubt our biggest difficulty in raising funds was convincing local foundations, grantors and private donors of the immense and unique needs of these children. It continues to lose an average of \$25,000 each year depending on our success in obtaining in kind donations. Our cost for this eleven week preventative program is approximately \$3500/child. Compared to daily fees for in patient services that can range up to \$1000/day this seemed minimal but was still out of reach for most families. We felt more information was needed and began researching services available to these children.

From our research it appeared we could indeed meet the in patient needs in our region, but appeared to be lacking in out patient programs or preventative services. It is not uncommon to experience a 60 to 90 day wait to receive out patient services for new patients entering the system. THIS, by the way IS PROBABLY ONE OF THE MOST AGONIZING SITUATIONS A PARENT OF A CHILD WITH PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS CAN FACE.

Mental health problems are a hush, hush issue for many adult North Dakotans and we found this to also be true for the younger people in our state. Education on mental health

disorders for people of ALL ages is important if we want to end the silence and be proactive.

Many youth suffering from depression, bi-polar disorder, anxiety, post traumatic stress and other debilitating mental health problems are not receiving the support necessary for them to transition into the adult world. Without exception the individual professionals and organizations we interviewed in our region over a six month period of time, all identified the 18 to 21 age group as a primary need area and felt them to be at risk because of gaps between youth and adult mental health services.

Many tremendously gifted professionals and solid programs exist in our state. But the fact is there is little collaboration between them or knowledge of programs which serve transitioning age children. Transition planning requires that the process be person centered, meaning it should be driven by individual strengths, interests and needs.

Transition planning is supported in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004. (IDEA, 2004) The transition period is a time of increased risk for developing new psychiatric disorders and problems can sky rocket. We need to better bridge the services for youth entering the adult service world. Examples of lack of continuity between adult and children services include eligibility criteria & definitions which may hinder or halt services for a child.

Additional areas of concern for children with emotional disturbances/mental illness are suitable high school programs which help these youth attain their post secondary goals. National studies indicate that approximately 60% of students with serious emotional disturbances will not graduate. An estimated 20% will attempt suicide. One in five youth involved in the juvenile justice system has a serious mental illness. We can no longer

afford to speak in whispers and be hush, hush.

There are many variables which will affect the success of youth transitioning into adulthood; the severity of the illness, the personality and cognitive ability of the individual, educational environment, family dynamics and resources, community resources and of course the goals set by the child. One thing is very clear, WITHOUT a strong transition plan supporting them – a child will not become an independent, self sufficient, contributing member of our society. I urge you to support Senate Bill 4005.

SCR 4005
Human Services Committee
February 6, 2007, 10 AM

Madam Chairman Price and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tim Mathern. I am the Senator from District 11 in Fargo and introduced SCR 40005. The resolution asks us to study the transition period of persons who have mental illness and are moving from a child oriented system of services to an adult system of services.

I put the resolution together in response to community providers and advocates who noted young adults dealing with mental illness fall through the cracks between the many services available. Persons who are in school have many supports and structures, when they leave school this is not the case.

From our community meetings the problems were evident as noted in the resolution but the solutions were more elusive. It seemed best if we study the need versus starting a new program at this time. The study might lead us to solutions we just do not recognize or that may be available in some areas of the state but not in others.

We have others here to testify to address the more specific situations before us.

I ask for your Do Pass recommendation on SCR 4005.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Testimony

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4005

Human Services Committee

Representative Price, Chair

February 6, 2007

Madam Chair, members of the Human Services Committee, I am Sandra Leyland, Executive Director for Fraser Ltd. Fraser is a non profit organization in Fargo, North Dakota that serves adults with developmental disabilities and children with special needs. I am also the mother of two children adopted twelve years ago through the Adults Adopting Special Kids (AASK) program. Both children have mental health issues which have allowed me to witness first hand North Dakota's mental health system for children and young adults. I am here today in a professional capacity and as a private citizen in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4005.

Three years ago I received a call from a teacher for the emotionally disturbed (ED) in the public school system. She was struggling to find employment training for an 18 year old young lady that had attempted suicide three times. Due to her illness the young woman would often talk about her mental health condition with co-workers and would eventually be discharged from employment because of the discomfort this created in the work place. Many other skills were present but without learning the soft skills or social skills this young person would not graduate and be employable, or able to live independently. The teacher was wondering if Fraser could build a program that would provide skill development in the critical areas of social skills, medication & behavior management, problem solving skills and other need areas. This thirty year veteran of an ED classroom

felt passionately that this young woman and others like her needed an opportunity to learn the skills often not found in a classroom, if they were to live an independent, quality life similar to their peers.

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disorders for people of ALL ages is important if we want to end the silence and be proactive.

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Additional areas of concern for children with emotional disturbances/mental illness are suitable high school programs which help these youth attain their post secondary goals. National studies indicate that approximately 60% of students with serious emotional disturbances will not graduate. An estimated 20% will attempt suicide. One in five youth involved in the juvenile justice system has a serious mental illness. We can no longer

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There are many variables which will affect the success of youth transitioning into adulthood; the severity of the illness, the personality and cognitive ability of the individual, educational environment, family dynamics and resources, community resources and of course the goals set by the child. One thing is very clear, WITHOUT a strong transition plan supporting them, appropriate funding for existing programs, support to the families and foster care system – a child will not become an independent, self sufficient, contributing member of our society. I urge you to support Senate Concurrent Resolution 4005.