

MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

2359

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Deanna Halliwell
Operator's Signature

10/22/03
Date

2003 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2359

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Deanna Halliwell
Operator's Signature

10/22/03

Date

2003 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2359

Senate Human Services Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 3, 2003

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		X	# 847 - 2230
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Donna Kramer</i>			

Minutes:

SENATOR JUDY LEE opened public hearing for SB 2359 providing that the department of human services may not restrict counties from selecting a regional human service center for the administration of social service programs.

REPRESENTATIVE ROBIN WEISZ, from District 14, introduced the bill in support. This bill will help make it simpler for the counties to do those services. (Meter # 888 - 1150)

JOHN MORGREN, County Social Service Director for the counties of Eddy, Foster and Wells Counties, testified in favor of the bill. He stated that to pass this bill as a means to facilitate the provision of social services that takes place in the counties who have entered in to multi-county or inter-county cooperative agreements. (Written testimony) (Meter # 1174 - 1470)

TERRY TRAYNOR, Assistant Director of the Association of Counties, testified. The Association of Counties would like to support this bill. Future direction is to consolidate Human

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Deanna Ballantyne
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10/22/03
Date

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Senate Human Services Committee

Bill/Resolution Number SB 2359

Hearing Date February 3, 2003

Service Centers. Discussion regarding consolidation. A lot of negotiations ... best interests of state and county. (Meter # 1503 - 1650)

YVONNE SMITH, Deputy Director of Department of Human Services, testified. She stated the department strongly supports and encourages the formation and continuation of multi-county agreements to administer social service programs. These arrangements provide for administrative efficiency, and allow for the development of greater specialization and expertise at the direct service delivery level. We also understand and support the notion that a multi-county unit would prefer to align itself with one regional human service center, even if the counties involved cross regional lines. (Written testimony) (Meter # 1690 - 2050)

SENATOR LEE closed the public hearing on SB 2359. (Meter # 2070)

SENATOR LEE suggested doing a practical study to make sure the implementation works well for the county as well as the department. (Meter # 2230)

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Deanne Hall
Operator's Signature

10/22/03
Date

2003 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2359

Senate Human Services Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 5, 2003

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
2		X	4308 - end
3	X		0 -210
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Donna Kramer</i>			

Minutes:

SENATOR JUDY LEE opened the committee discussion on SB 2359 regarding counties selecting a regional human service center.

TERRY TRAYNOR, Assistant Director of the Association of Counties, spoke about a rewrite and agreement on SB 2359. Answered questions from the committee regarding the way counties felt. (Meter # 4308 - 4730)

TERRY TRAYNOR stated that there was a multiple staff at the regional centers that oversee and guide counties. Dynamics could change. Continued discussion on county perspective. (Meter # 4888 - 5290)

YVONNE SMITH, from the Department of Human Services, stated they were in agreement.

This would be good for administrative efficiency. Concern ... "choose not to negotiate."

Actually, we can do this without the statute. Discussion with the committee. (Meter 5284 - 5778)

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Donna Kramer
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10/22/03
Date

Page 2

Senate Human Services Committee

Bill/Resolution Number SB 2359

Hearing Date February 5, 2003

SENATOR FISCHER made the motion to the amendment deleting sentence.

SENATOR BROWN seconded the motion to the amendment.

Roll call was read. 4 yeas 1 nays 1 absent.

SENATOR FISCHER moved to do pass as amended and rerefer.

SENATOR BROWN seconded the motion.

Roll call was read. 5 yeas 0 nays 1 absent.

SENATOR BROWN (Tape 2, Side B, Meter # 5960 to end and Tape 3, Side A, 0 - 210)

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10/22/03

Date

2003 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2359

Senate Human Services Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 10, 2003

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
3	X		0-47
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Donna Kramer</i>			

Minutes:

SENATOR JUDY LEE called the Senate Human Services Committee back to order just to reconsider a rereferral on SB 2359. Asked for a motion to delete the portion of motion on the rereferral to the Appropriations Committee.

SENATOR BROWN made a motion.

SENATOR FISCHER seconded the motion.

All in favor by saying aye. Motion carried. (Meter # 47)

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Donna Kramer
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10/22/03

Date

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
02/11/2003

Amendment to: SB 2359

1A. State fiscal effect: *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2001-2003 Biennium		2003-2005 Biennium		2005-2007 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues				\$0		\$0
Expenditures			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Appropriations			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

1B. County, city, and school district fiscal effect: *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2001-2003 Biennium			2003-2005 Biennium			2005-2007 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

2. Narrative: *Identify the aspects of the measure which cause fiscal impact and include any comments relevant to your analysis.*

This bill provides that the Department of Human Services may not restrict counties from selecting a regional Human Service Center for the administration of social service programs.

This bill contains no fiscal impact.

3. State fiscal effect detail: *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. Revenues: *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

B. Expenditures: *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

C. Appropriations: *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, of the effect on the biennial appropriation for each agency and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget. Indicate the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations.*

Name:	Brenda M. Weisz	Agency:	Human Services
Phone Number:	328-2397	Date Prepared:	02/13/2003

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Dennis Hall
Operator's Signature

10/22/03
Date

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
01/28/2003

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2359

1A. State fiscal effect: *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2001-2003 Biennium		2003-2005 Biennium		2005-2007 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues				\$0		\$0
Expenditures			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Appropriations			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

1B. County, city, and school district fiscal effect: *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2001-2003 Biennium			2003-2005 Biennium			2005-2007 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

2. Narrative: *Identify the aspects of the measure which cause fiscal impact and include any comments relevant to your analysis.*

This bill provides that the Department of Human Services may not restrict counties from selecting a regional Human Service Center for the administration of social service programs.

This bill contains no fiscal impact.

3. State fiscal effect detail: *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. Revenues: *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

B. Expenditures: *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

C. Appropriations: *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, of the effect on the biennial appropriation for each agency and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget. Indicate the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations.*

Name:	Brenda M. Weisz	Agency:	Human Services
Phone Number:	328-2397	Date Prepared:	01/30/2002

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Operator's Signature

Date

30752.0101
Title.0200

Adopted by the Human Services Committee
February 5, 2003

763
2-6-3

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2359

Page 1, line 1, replace "that the department of human services may not restrict counties" with "for the designation of a regional human service center for program supervision in cases of multicounty program administration."

Page 1, remove lines 2 and 3

Page 1, line 7, replace the third "the" with "a county that is party to the agreement may request designation of a regional human service center for program supervision. The human service center requested must be providing supervision to one or more of the counties party to the multicounty agreement. Within six months of the request, the department of human services shall implement the county's request for the designation or negotiate with the county to reach an agreeable alternative. A request for a change in the designation of a regional human service center may not be made for three years after a designation, unless the membership of the multicounty agreement changes."

Page 1, remove lines 8 through 13

Renumber accordingly

Page No. 1

30752.0101

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Deanna Waller
Operator's Signature

10/22/03

Date

Date: 02-05-03
Roll Call Vote #: (1)

2003 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2359

Senate Human Services Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number LC: 30752-0101

Action Taken Amendment - Delete sentence

Motion Made By _____ Seconded By _____

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Judy Lee - Chairman	✓				
Senator Richard Brown - V. Chair.	✓				
Senator Robert S. Erbele					
Senator Tom Fischer	✓				
Senator April Fairfield		✓			
Senator Michael Polovitz	✓				

Total (Yes) 4 No 1

Absent 1 absent

Floor Assignment _____

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

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Deanna D. Hall
Operator's Signature

10/22/03
Date

Date: 02-05-03
Roll Call Vote #: (2)

2003 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2359

Senate Human Services Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number LC: 30752.0101

Action Taken " Do Pass as amended and

Motion Made By Sen. Fisher Seconded By Sen. Brown

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Judy Lee - Chairman	✓				
Senator Richard Brown - V. Chair.	✓				
Senator Robert S. Erbele					
Senator Tom Fischer	✓				
Senator April Fairfield	✓				
Senator Michael Polovitz	✓				

Total (Yes) 5 No 0

Absent 1 absent

Floor Assignment Sen. Brown

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

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Deanna Hall
Operator's Signature

10/22/03
Date

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
February 7, 2003 8:31 a.m.

Module No: SR-24-1937
Carrier: Brown
Insert LC: 30752.0101 Title: .0200

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2359: Human Services Committee (Sen. J. Lee, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends DO PASS (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2359 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, replace "that the department of human services may not restrict counties" with "for the designation of a regional human service center for program supervision in cases of multicounty program administration."

Page 1, remove lines 2 and 3

Page 1, line 7, replace the third "the" with "a county that is party to the agreement may request designation of a regional human service center for program supervision. The human service center requested must be providing supervision to one or more of the counties party to the multicounty agreement. Within six months of the request, the department of human services shall implement the county's request for the designation or negotiate with the county to reach an agreeable alternative. A request for a change in the designation of a regional human service center may not be made for three years after a designation, unless the membership of the multicounty agreement changes."

Page 1, remove lines 8 through 13

Renumber accordingly

2003 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES
SB 2359

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Deanna Walker
Operator's Signature

10/22/03
Date

2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2359

House Human Services Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date March 4, 2003

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
2	x		2.4 - 32.8
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Sharon Griffin</i>			

Minutes:

Rep. Weisz appeared as cosponsor stating this will allow the Counties that form agreement with Human Services Center to be able to keep that center.

Rep. Potter: How were these numbers arrived at, example 6 months? Answer: 6 months was to ensure centers will have time to accommodate time and 3 years is arbitrary number.

Rep. Amerman: Can just one county request a change? Answer: County can request to move to a different county or region.

Rep. Price: How would the money be handled? Answer: That is the issue and could be a problem.

John Mogren, County Social Service Director for Eddy, Foster & Wells Counties appeared in support with written testimony.

Rep. Pollert: This bill is only talking about 1 regional center? Answer: Our intention was to get Program Supervision so they are all coming out of 1 region.

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Deanna Waller
Operator's Signature

10/22/03
Date

Page 2
House Human Services Committee
Bill/Resolution Number SB 2359
Hearing Date March 4, 2003

Questions of the committee regarding what percent of impact is placed on the center in Devils Lake, if Eddy County moving in with South Central Human Services and if that would be better, if we'd be better off doing that or to pass this bill? If Eddy County wants to move, who makes that choice and the procedure and what is working now.

Rep. Pollert: I've received letters regarding child support, would that do anything to put Eddy County in with South Central as far as that particular battle? Answer: It doesn't, they will remain separate.

Rep. Neimeier: So if all 3 of these counties go into the Jamestown district, then the Foster County people aren't going to be able to go to the Family Visitation Center, right? Answer: No, that would have no affect on it.

Terry Traynor, Assistant Director of the ND Association of Counties appeared in support with written testimony and proposed an amendment.

Rep. Neimeier: Were these regions divided up based on population or geographical concerns? Answer: His understanding is that it was in Gov. Sinner's Administration and were focused around a commercial center, Minot, Williston and Dickinson and what was considered the trade area, there used for regional planning council to use for regional human service centers, used dept. of corrections, etc., become sort of the standard service delivery model for state government. His understanding was that it was what community most of the people go to receive services.

Yvonne Smith, Deputy Director with the Dept. of Human Services appeared in support of the intent of the bill.

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10/22/03
Date

Page 3
House Human Services Committee
Bill/Resolution Number SB 2359
Hearing Date March 4, 2003

Rep. Price: Are we to the point of moving from 8 to 4 as far as regional centers? **Answer:** the smaller ones are afraid of losing their identity. Its a tough question.

Rep. Price: I have concerns of this being a vehicle, if something is available in the private sector, shouldn't be given at the human services center, particularly when they are paid by third party payers.

No opposition.

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Operator's Signature

10/22/03

Date

2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2359

House Human Services Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date March 5, 2003

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
2		x	57.8 - end
3	x		0.0 - 5.9
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Sharon Ruznow</i>			

Minutes: Committee work.

Rep. Price: (Amendments from Terry Traynor) The counties aren't believing the "trust me" from the department.

Rep. Weisz: They would have 6 months to agree to do it, has to implemented within the 6 months. He made a motion to move the amendment, second by Rep. Devlin.

Rep. Weisz: Noted that the county wouldn't sit down until this was brought before the legislature.

VOTE: 12 - 0 - 1 Amendment Passed

Rep. Porter: Wasn't there any consideration or is there another vehicle in place to have another section that looks at legislative counsel studying the department or the Human Service Centers and their offering of private services and collecting third payer reimbursement? I certainly wouldn't propose it just to bring up for suggestion, but I do think that that is something that needs to be done and should be looked at.

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10/22/03
Date

Page 2
House Human Services Committee
Bill/Resolution Number SB 2359
Hearing Date March 5, 2003

Rep. Price: I am getting some, I don't know if they are complaints, but issues being brought up again about waiting lists in the Services Centers.

Rep. Porter: I can understand in a rural setting where there are some services provided by some specialists in certain areas such as Devils Lake, possibly over in Jamestown, Dickinson or Williston where in Human Service Centers that probably wouldn't be available through the private sectors. But I know there are plenty of psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers with a shingle hung on a door, that kinda make a living and competing against subsidized health care out of the Human Service Center and billing at the same rate as what they are as participating providers of BC/BS or other private insurance companies. I just don't feel that that's why Human Service Centers were developed in the first place to compete against the private sector. I think they were put in place to offer services that the private sector couldn't afford to offer to those in need.

Rep. Price: More than 6% of the cost is being spent on administration and not patient contact.

Rep. Weisz made a motion for DO PASS as Amended, second by Rep. Pollert.

VOTE: 13 - 0 - 0

Rep. Wieland will carry the bill.

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Deanna M. Hall
Operator's Signature

10/22/03
Date

30752.0201
Title.0300

Adopted by the Human Services Committee
March 5, 2003

House Amendments to Engrossed SB 2359 - Human Services Committee 03/05/2003

Page 1, line 11, after the period insert "If the department of human services and the requesting county have not agreed on an alternative within six months of the request, the requesting designation must be implemented."

Renumber accordingly

1 of 1

30752.0201

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Deanna Wallin
Operator's signature

10/22/03
Date

Date: March , 2003
Roll Call Vote #:

2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2359

House _____ HUMAN SERVICES _____ Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken DP as Amended

Motion Made By Rep Weiss Seconded By Rep Pollert

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Rep. Clara Sue Price - Chair	✓		Rep. Sally Sandvig	✓	
Rep. Bill Devlin, Vice-Chair	✓		Rep. Bill Amerman	✓	
Rep. Robin Weisz	✓		Rep. Carol Niemeier	✓	
Rep. Vonnie Pietsch	✓		Rep. Louise Potter	✓	
Rep. Gerald Uglem	✓				
Rep. Chet Pollert	✓				
Rep. Todd Porter	✓				
Rep. Gary Kreidt	✓				
Rep. Alon Wieland	✓				

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep Wieland

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

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Deanna Hallen 10/22/03
Operator's Signature Date

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 6, 2003 4:30 p.m.

Module No: HR-40-4170
Carrier: Wieland
Insert LC: 30752.0201 Title: .0300

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2359, as engrossed: Human Services Committee (Rep. Price, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2359 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 11, after the period insert "If the department of human services and the requesting county have not agreed on an alternative within six months of the request, the requesting designation must be implemented."

Renumber accordingly

2003 TESTIMONY

SB 2359

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10/22/03
Date

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 2359

Replace everything after "A BILL" with:

"for an Act to provide for the designation of a regional human service center for program supervision in cases of multicounty program administration.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. Multicounty agreement to administer social service programs – Selection of regional supervision. If two or more counties enter into an agreement to jointly administer a program that is under the supervision of the department of human services, a county that is party to the agreement may request designation of a regional human service center for program supervision. The human service center requested must be providing program supervision to one or more of the other counties that are party to the agreement. Within six months of the request, the department of human services must implement the supervision designation, or negotiate a mutually agreeable alternative for program supervision that will achieve the desired administrative efficiencies. If the department of human services and the requesting county have not agreed on an alternative within six months of the request, the requested designation must be implemented. A change in the membership of the multicounty agreement will allow the counties to request a change in the human service center designated, otherwise a county may not make a different request for three years."

Prepared at Committee Request
by the
North Dakota Association of Counties

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Deanna Hallenbeck
Operator's Signature

10/22/03
Date

Chairman Lee and members of the committee, I am John Mogren, County Social Service Director for the counties of Eddy, Foster and Wells Counties.

The County Social Service Boards which I serve fully support Senate Bill 2359. We urge your committee to pass this bill as a means to facilitate the provision of social services that takes place in the counties who have entered in to multi-county or inter-county cooperative agreements.

Foster and Wells Counties begin a cooperative effort by sharing a social service director in 1990. This presented no cross regional (human service center) issues as both counties were served by the Region VI Human Service Center (Jamestown). In 1991, Eddy County joined the two counties in a cooperative effort to share a social service director. Eddy County is served by the Region III Lake Region Human Service Center (Devils Lake). Since that time, the three counties have moved in the direction of staff specializing in economic and social services programs. The Eligibility Workers and Social Workers doing inter-county work have developed expertise in the programs they administer. Instead of being required to know several programs, they focus on a few specific programs which benefits the clients.

One of the draw backs to the inter-county model has been the tie to a specific region. At times staff, including the director, are required to attend meetings in both regions because the counties covered are in two regions. An example would be the foster care program. The foster care recruitment & retention program is allocated funds to the region the county is located in. The social worker covering this program must attend meetings in Region VI for Foster and Wells Counties funds and then attend meetings in Region III to discuss funding for Eddy County. It would be more convenient and cost effective to have only one meeting (in one region) for staff to attend.

Thank you for your consideration and I would be happy to try and address any questions you may have.

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Deanna Hallen
Operator's signature

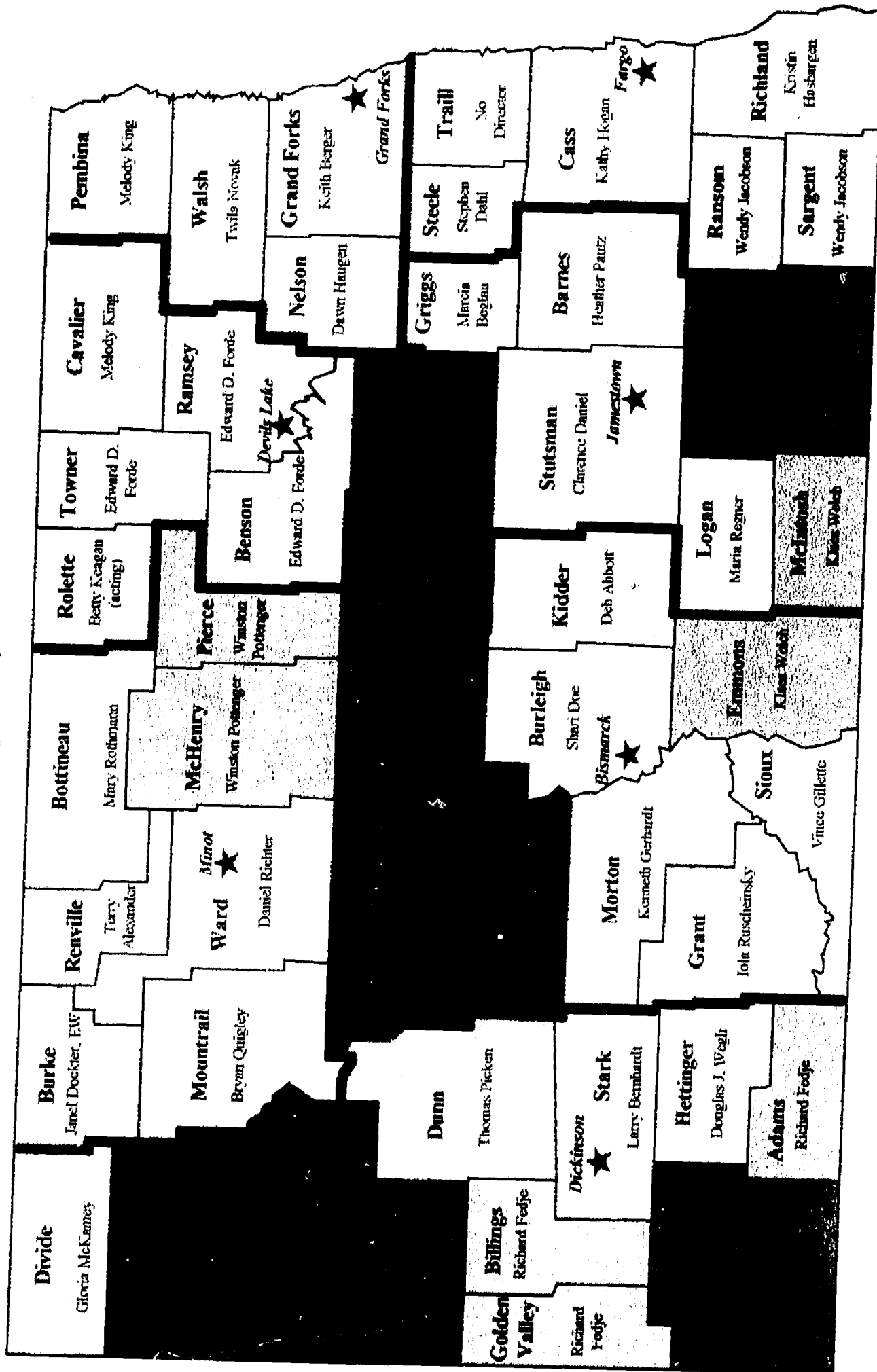
10/22/03

Date

North Dakota Department of Human Services

County Directors serving Multiple Counties Color Coded

January 31, 2003



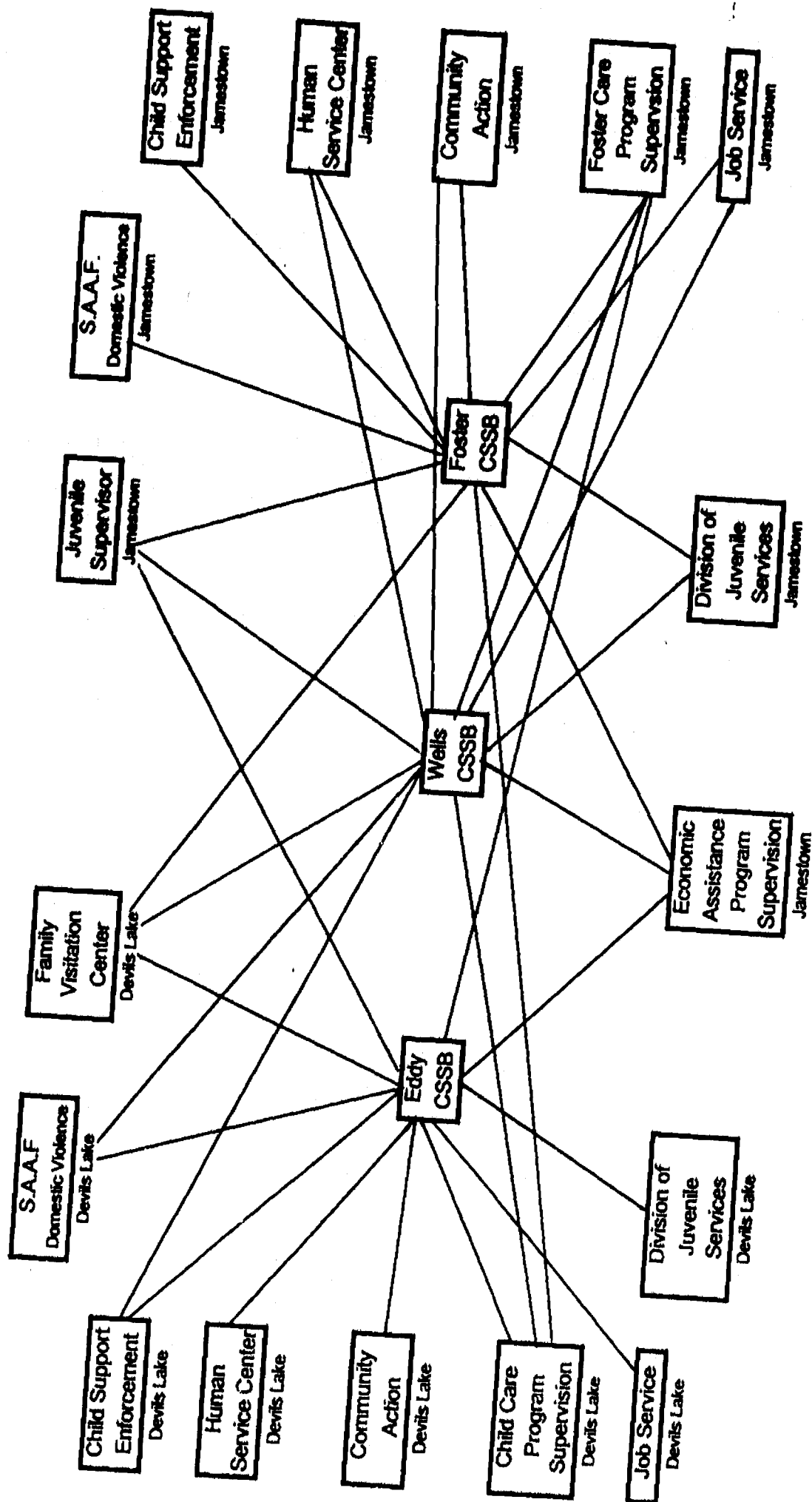
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Where do we go for services?



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Deanna Waller
Operator's Signature

10/22/03

Date

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 2359

February 3, 2003

Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Yvonne Smith, Deputy Director of the Department of Human Services. I appear before you to offer comments in regard to SB 2359.

The department strongly supports and encourages the formation and continuation of multi-county agreements to administer social service programs. These arrangements provide for administrative efficiency, and allow for the development of greater specialization and expertise at the direct service delivery level. We also understand and support the notion that a multi-county unit would prefer to align itself with one regional human service center, even if the counties involved cross regional lines.

We have some reservations, however, about the wording in the bill that states "the department of human services may not prohibit counties participating in a joint powers agreement from selecting a regional human service center for administrative purposes." These concerns revolve around several issues:

- Managing staff resources from center to center;
- Aligning other programs in the region that impact upon the counties, such as Vocational Rehabilitation, DD Case Management, outreach offices, and Aging Services programs;
- Aligning social service programs within and among regions, if, for example, the multi-county unit selects one region for child protection supervision and another region for foster care supervision; and

- Permanency of the selection, since this will be a more complicated process, both in terms of staff resource allocation and technology alignment, if the multi-county unit can change its selection(s) at will.

Nothing in current statute prohibits a multi-county unit from receiving supervision from a single center. The passage of SB 2359, however, would require that this type of arrangement be responsive strictly to the wishes of the multi-county unit, rather than being a negotiated arrangement between the multi-county unit and the regional human service center. The department carries the responsibility, under North Dakota Century Code, to "direct and supervise County Social Service Board activities as may be financed in whole or in part by or with funds allocated or distributed by the department." We believe that it is important for the department to maintain a voice in determining the administrative structure through which that supervision occurs.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Deanna Wallin
Operator's Signature

10/22/03
Date

Testimony to the
HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Prepared on March 4, 2003
Terry Traynor, Assistant Director
North Dakota Association of Counties

Regarding Engrossed Senate Bill 2359

Madam Chair and members of the House Human Services Committee, I wish to express the support of the North Dakota Association of Counties for Senate Bill 2359.

This issue has become of concern in recent years, and will become of greater concern as more counties form partnerships to deliver social services. Providing a mechanism to allow for program supervision from one human service center will save both counties and the State time and money.

This bill was amended in the Senate and the amendment proposed by this Association was adopted, with the exception of one sentence. This sentence would compel the Department to implement a county's request, if an acceptable alternative could not be reached.

We still believe that this language has merit, and have attached a proposed amendment below that would restore this sentence to the bill.

Madam Chair and committee members, our Association urges your consideration of this proposed amendment and a Do Pass recommendation.

Proposed Amendments to Engrossed Senate Bill No. 2359

Page 1, line 11, after the period insert "If the department of human services and the requesting county have not agreed on an alternative within six months of the request, the requesting designation must be implemented."

Renumber accordingly

Dennis Wallin
Operator's Signature

10/22/03
Date