

2009 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1044

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1044

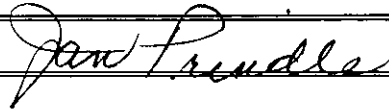
House Human Services Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: **January 13, 2009**

Recorder Job Number: 6942

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Weisz opened the hearing of HB 1044.

Sheila Sandness, fiscal analyst, Legislative Council, presented information on HB 1044.

(Attachment 1)

Carlotta McCleary, executive director, ND Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, (Attachment 2)

She read testimony from: **Debra Jendro, Fargo ND (Attachment 3)**

Representative Conrad: How many youth are you talking about? How did you arrive at the sum of \$700,000?

McCleary: I really don't know—1 in 5, - 1 in 10. Originally the \$700,000 was associated with the pilot program. I believe they testified in the Long-Term Care Committee that they could do that for fewer dollars. I don't remember the exact number. The Committee decided to leave the dollars there in case there were gaps in service were identified.

Representative Holman: Would this be administered by the county social services, or would it be regional?

McCleary: I think we are looking at the Department of Human Services. It could also be included in counties or division of Juvenile Services.

Representative Porter: Because this is a pilot project. In section 2 it talks about one location in the state. The department would have to pick a community in order to do this thing?

McCleary: I believe the folks from Fargo have brought the program forward. I think it is through the Fraser Center and, I think, a combination of Youthworks. I'm not that familiar with the pilot section.

Representative Porter: Then with the transition program, I didn't see anything about benchmarking of results or reports back to future Legislative Sessions that the program is working and continues to work in the future.

McCleary: I think in section 1, it has the state and regional folks take a look at those on a systemic level. That is the intent of it. Certainly I would think that both the state level team as well as the regional team that take on that coordination for this could report back about what they are seeing and what the needs. That is the intent—to take a systemic look at what is needed and what is happening and try to work through some of the barriers that are happening on systemic levels.

Representative Hofstad: As I understand it, this program involves placing these youth in a facility.

McLeary: It's taking them from where they are at. It's wrapping services around whatever community they are in across ND and doing a planning process to meet their needs.

Representative Hofstad: Is that part of the program to provide that place for them to come to for transition. Would that also include youth coming from a drug and alcohol center so they could transition back in to society?

McLeary: There would be a place they could go to. This would meet the transition needs of all the kids no matter where they were at. If they are looking at a special living center, the whole team could look at what would be best for them individually.

Representative Damschen: Is this program based on a specific age??

McLeary: In law, from 16 – 21 years. In this bill we were not specific. I think things need to be individually looked at as to when it is best for each youth. Certainly by the time they are 16, there should be some training going on. For some kids that's need to happen sooner.

Representative Frantsvog: How long do you estimate an individual will be in this transition? When you came up with that \$700,000, do you think they will be there 10 months? Two years? What's an estimate?

McLeary: That could be very individual. We are looking at using a case manager to find what those needs are. No one is now looking globally at what those needs are.

Representative Potter: Would that wraparound process be comparable to what the schools call IEP or whatever that is called for students with special needs.

McLeary: It could be. That only looks at school-related items. This is more global—education, vocational—a little different process.

Mc Leary presented testimony prepared by:

Donene Feist, director for Family Voices of North Dakota. (Attachment 4)

Susan Rae Helgeland, executive director, Mental Health America of ND.

(Attachment 5)

Bruce Murry, lawyer with ND Protection and Advocacy Project, spoke in favor of the bill.

(Attachment 6)

Representative Conrad: If I understand this then, the interim committee is recommending that we consider that the state department look at all of these young people and what services they are now receiving and put a system together that would address them as a group.

Murry: I believe the theory behind the bill is to extend mostly existing services to people who are on the edge of eligibility.

Representative Conrad: That's not going to cost us very much.

Murry: That is the hope of the advocates and they are open to feedback from the department whether this would create any considerable expense for them.

Representative Conrad: The second part is the pilot project in Fargo which is not necessarily a project that is going to be duplicated. We aren't looking at something we are going to have one of this year and next year four and the next year end up with eight. Is that right?

Murry: I would not anticipate that unless the pilot program works successfully and justifies the higher expense.

Representative Kilichowski: On this amount for rehabilitation, have considered using job service that has funding for such program?

Murry: I think there is reason to believe that the actual services in section 1 may not create that much more additional expense. Many existing programs are available and we will provide some additional resources to stitch them together. I'm uncomfortable suggesting that it would take no money to coordinate these services. That would not be fair to the human services department. It might take much less than that example.

Representative Porter: During the interim committee hearings, rather than do that kind of a blanket appropriation, how come we are looking specifics. If the project in Fargo is raising private funds for more than 50% - 60% of the operations that we are going to cap it at 40% and

that there is an actual cost coming back to us for the project on the part of human services so there isn't a large sum of money just left on the table.

Murry: I wouldn't want to talk for the human services department but if I can be so bold as to speculate that there might not be an additional expense in the requirements of this bill other than a change in practices and perhaps a change of what is expected of them from the policy making branch. That may be why they haven't responded with specific testimony saying it would take "x" dollars to do these activities. I'm leaning toward assuming they can do it for a much smaller amount of money. I was hoping you would hear from them specifically. As to capping the amount of state participation, the concern from the Fargo community was that it might undermine their fund raising potential.

Representative Porter: Just so I'm clear then because the language in the appropriation part talks about both sections of the bill. Your thoughts coming out of the interim were that the \$700,000 is really being made available to section 2 and that section 1 comes at little or no cost to department other than the coordination efforts.

Murry: Rather than just saying "yes," which may be too simple, I would like to say that most of the money should be thought of having been attributed to the pilot and only a smaller piece would be necessary to implement the systemic stitching together.

Representative Potter: With the program in Fargo, my understanding is that program could not be duplicated around the state. Would you say it would be better not to go with Fraser because we would not be able to duplicate that and it would be better to go to something we could use around the state? Taking something from a big city and trying to duplicate in rural areas would be difficult. I'm not sure what direction we should go.

Murry: If it weren't for the strength of the Fargo coalition and the private contribution that are almost enough to make the project viable, I would lean towards saying that the Legislature

should look for the systemic and go for the statewide stitching together option. But Fargo has lots of transitioning youth. If all were equal, I would recommend a systemic change but I don't mean to undermine their program in any way

Veronica Zietz, representing the Arc of Bismarck and the Arc of Cass County, testified in favor of the bill. **(Attachment 7)**

There was no testimony in Opposition to the bill.

Susan Wagner, LSW, Human Service Program Administration, testified **Neutral** on HB 1044. **(Attachment 8)**

Chairman Weisz: Does the department have any kind of OAR (?) in on this?

Wagner: We do not. That's why I'm here to provide neutral testimony.

Representative Porter: In the specifics of your testimony of the work that's already being done in the department, do you feel the work in section one is already being completed?

Wagner: The wraparound process has been working well in ND for 14 years. The process is in place. I don't think I could honestly say that we are reaching all the youth that this bill would address.

Representative Porter: By putting section one in place without any fiscal impact to the department, my question is: Why aren't you?

Wagner: We are doing that to the best of our ability with transition aged youth, but I'm not sure we are reaching all of those youths. One of the things that happens, sometimes when youth come of age they want to assert themselves in their own ideas and wishes and move on and don't want to be connected to services. That's why I say I don't know if we are reaching all youth that would need these services.

Chairman Weisz: Has the department taken a look at what they would consider the costs to be to fulfill section one of this bill?

Wagner: We have not.

Representative Conrad: In my district we have a large housing area for people who are under the age of 25. Many of them are not employed. Statewide, how many more people do you have in this program connected to the Chafee program?

Wagner: In fiscal year 2007 there 420 total youth served. 275 of those were in foster care and 165 were in after care or the educational training part of the program.

Representative Conrad: And who does this Chafee service?

Wagner: It is administered through the children and family services division but is provided by the regional independent living coordinators in each region of the state.

Representative Conrad: All these goals are excellent. Do you monitor what these young people are achieving? How do you measure your success?

Wagner: I will have to get more specific information and I will certainly do that.

Representative Damschen: Page 4 of your testimony listed goals by bullets. This is a program in place. Is that correct? If you read the testimony from Deborah Jendro, she talks about her son. Wouldn't this program have been ideal for that individual?

Wagner: Yes, the program is in place and would have worked for her son. I don't know all the details of that individual's case.

Chairman Weisz: As you discussed, when they are 18 they don't have to avail themselves unless the court orders them.

Wagner: Yes. It has also been my experience that often if young adults leave the system if they stay in contact with their case worker and experience some difficulty they are encouraged to call. In some cases they do.

Larry Bernhardt, social services director for Stark County, discussed the bill. We have questions. We do have independent living for our foster care children. That is statewide. I

can't speak to those who are seriously mentally ill or who have suicidal tendencies, but I know that there are people out there struggling with knowing how to get on with their lives. Another question: Does Dickenson qualify as an urban community? If so, we would like to apply for a portion of the \$700,000 to provide the services as well. Right now we have 26 kids in my county that are receiving independent living services from foster care. I don't know how many other children are seriously mentally ill or have suicidal tendencies, but does that constitute a large enough caseload to warrant a pilot in Dickenson. We have questions more than anything else, but I do want you to know that we are support of independent living for children coming out of foster care.

Representative Conrad: Are these children also part of the Chafee program?

Bernhardt: Yes, we administer that program for independent living services. The contract for the southwest 8 counties is run through Stark County. I provide that service to all these counties. There are different contracts in different parts of the state. Most are through counties, but some are not.

Chairman Weisz closed the hearing on HB 1044.

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1044

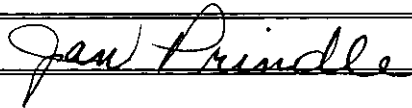
House Human Services Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: **January 14, 2009**

Recorder Job Number: 7030 (18.30)

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Weisz opened discussion of HB 1044. I received an email from Sandra Leyland, executive director for Fraser, Ltd asking for consideration of further testimony. She was able to attend yesterday because of the weather. I'd like to talk about section 1. We won't do anything on section 2 until we hear from Frazer.

Representative Porter: I would like to ask Miss McCleary a question about Section 1. There was testimony yesterday that everything is Section 1 is being accomplished and we just need to codify that. What are your thoughts on that?

McCleary: A lot of children are not having planning and coordination on that now. Some of them are not getting what is needed. You heard a lot of testimony about what is being done for kids in foster care. Not all of our youth are in the foster care system. Their needs still need to be coordinated.

Representative Porter: You would feel more comfortable having this as a law?

McCleary: Absolutely. We believe there are transition dollars out there currently. They just need to be coordinated. It is important that something like this is in place so families can get some movement.

Chairman Weisz: Do you feel that the various agencies are currently working together on this such as DPI and Human Services.

McCleary: I believe they have a start of it. We need to look at this being one plan.

Representative Hofstad: Can you help me frame the kids in this. How about a kid that is pulled out of a home for whatever reason? Would that child fit in to this program in some place?

McCleary: Absolutely. This program will enhance what we have now as people will be coming to the table more readily.

Representative Frantsvog: The bill has three sections to it, one being the appropriation, second to provide for a pilot project. Let me put this into prospective. The pilot project would develop the program is that what you are saying or would they develop the program and then the pilot. You heard the gentleman from Dickenson—why not Dickenson? Is the appropriation just for the pilot project?

McCleary: I don't see it starting with the pilot project. It would be developing the wraparound process. I believe we have dollars and resources in place. It is just a matter of training people. I don't think it would take long to develop the process and educate their staffs.

Representative Holman: As a child ages out of the system, how does the process continue?

McCleary: With this program will provide assessment of needs that could be acted upon. Some need assistance to develop independent living skills and how to stay on their medication. We really need to build a transition them to the adult system and be ready to catch them if they have problem.

Chairman Weisz: I assume you spent time with the interim committee putting this together?

McCleary: I told them we needed to look at this as a whole and assess what their needs are. This has a lot of folks involved with it. It's critical that we coordinate these services.

Representative Porter: The two concepts that are in here are truly separate ideas. They are brought together by Section 3 of the bill. We had discussions about the alcohol awareness programs across the state and we have 5 or 7 groups with 6 or 7 budgets that came in and had no coordination whatsoever about what a message to the State of ND should be. They were all independently doing their own little thing with no coordination. I see Section 1 basically says: This is what we expect—you already have the programs, you already have the dollars. My problem with Section 1 is that it is tied to Section 3. It should already be being done and they shouldn't have the opportunity to touch the appropriation to do what they are supposed to already being doing in Section 1. My feeling is to amend the bill and get rid of line 18 on page 2, so that Section 1 has none of that appropriation available to it.

Representative Holman: I agree. Although, I find it hard to believe that it would not be an additional expense to have coordinators in the districts. More information on that would be helpful.

Chairman Weisz: If we pass this without an appropriation, I can see people then explaining their needs to Appropriations. I'm not saying it won't cost more, but it shouldn't. They will make their case.

Representative Damschen: I agree with Porter. It's hard to put a time frame on this. To me the transition starts at day 1. In looking at it that way, what Representative Porter said about Section 1 is valid.

Chairman Weisz: There seems to be this black hole where children become adults and all the work we do for them and the programs we have for them in their youth vanish. Even though there are some available, but the services and the way they are coordinated stop at the point when they are 18.

Representative Potter: With what we talked about it might be wise to put some sort of accountability piece in here.

Chairman Weisz: Like report to the Legislative Council and they can make an assessment of if the department is doing what it said it did. I'm getting a sense that we are going to need some amendments.

Representative Kilichowski: The way I see it is the agencies are doing what they are supposed to be doing but when it comes to age 18 they are told to leave them alone now to get on with their life. What this does is instructs them to continue. I think there has to be some appropriation with it.

Representative Uglem: There have been several comments about DPI. I don't see any instructions in this bill for DPI, only Human Services. Do we need to tell DPI to cooperate and get involved?

Representative Conrad: That is why it is important to have a "report back."

Representative Pietsch: Do we have in code anyplace that says one department must work with another department? Can we do that?

Representative Porter: We do that when we pull agencies together and tell them as a group they will fix something or make a program work.

(Unstructured discussion. . .)

Representative Kilichowski: On line 10, Section 1, establishes an interagency advisory council. Does that not include DPI? If they have to report back they may partake.

Chairman Weisz: It does, but it does not insure cooperation. But a report back may help. If any of you have amendments, please have them ready. Monday or Tuesday we can get this bill out.

Continued unstructured discussion regarding chemical dependency.

Discussion closed.

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1044

House Human Services Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: **January 21, 2009**

Recorder Job Number: 7486

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Weisz opened discussion of HB 1044. Even though we had the hearing on this, because of the weather, representatives from Fraser were not able to be here and we will now allow them to present their testimony.

Sandra Leyland, executive director of Fraser, Ltd, presented her testimony to the

Committee: **(Attachment 1)**

Chairman Weisz: How many youth do you project will get services?

Leyland: Initially about 75- 100, but we know that there are between 250 – 300 kids on the street at night in our community.

Representative Porter: When you say 250, are those the ones that have transitioned out. What age bracket.

Leyland: It's a mix. Youthworks will focus on the 14 – 17 year-old population and Fraser on the 18 and above.

Representative Porter: How many would be over 18 that would be truly in the transitional category.

Leyland: We are still gathering data but we are assuming that 50% would be over the age of 18.

Chairman Weisz: Do you have a limit on age.

Leyland: Most programs go to age 22, some to age 26. Our community is a bit nervous about with that adult population mixing. Our position is that they may be chronologically that age, but they are probably functioning much lower.

Representative Hofstad: Give me a profile of these young adults. I would expect some are using drugs or alcohol. There must be a plethora of problems that you are dealing with. How do you deal with those you are faced with?

Leyland: There is a multitude of disabilities that we are looking at. It would not be fair that all youth and young adults coming into the program will be struggling with drug addiction or alcoholism, but they are all risk. There is some mental health or emotional issues that prevent them from interacting with peers. The way we are choosing to address this is to use the Tip Model. This model has proven to be successful.

Representative Frantsvog: Explain the term "on the street." Will this program keep them off the street seven days a week? Is that your goal?

Leyland: It is only a 5-day program at this time. It's a funding perspective. We cannot afford more than 5 days. On the street—we have a whole host of kids who do not have place to go in the evening. It could be as simple as being kicked out of the home by parents. It could be a foster child transitioning out of care. It is not an economic class of people we are focusing on here. It's definitely a population that has been overlooked.

Representative Frantsvog: It seems some of these are homeless. Is that an issue you will address? What are your hours? 24 hours per day?

Leyland: Some are couch hopping between friends. The center opens at early morning and is looking at closing at 10 p.m. There is no place for them to go. If they are an adult they can go to an adult center.

Representative Frantsvog: Are there other entities in Fargo doing the same thing?

Leyland: No, we do not. We have some that provide services to young adults and adults.

As far as emotionally and mental health problems, no. We are looking at agencies with which to coordinate and provide partnerships. We need to collect data to get services to them.

Representative Nathe: I see your proposal for \$250,000. The appropriation is \$750,000.

Leyland: \$250,000 is for one year. The program can be replicated in other parts of the state. We are seeing a greater population across the state where the issues are the same. If you came forward with \$250,000 as a foundation we can garner support in our community.

Representative Nathe: The way this is lined out you could build up a good balance. Do we have to fund this through 2011?

Leyland: This is a pilot project with a projected budget. We are not sure what we will need. We still need to go to private foundations to request money. We have support from donors in our area to \$131,000. We have been lucky.

Representative Porter: In your budget you show AmeriCorps in your revenue and in your expenditures.

Leyland: They are providing volunteers. They are providing employees that they pay \$11.00 an hour and we pay them \$1.30 per hour.

Representative Conrad: This has two parts: 1) the agencies come together and do a wraparound. 2) Your program is in the second part where the expense is. Should this be two different bills? How does your project fold in with the first part?

Leyland: The services are not well coordinated across the state. Our project would act as a hub and include a variety of services. We will come back in two years and report on some of your concerns. Our project would probably be an RFP to Human Services.

Representative Potter: Are you planning to work with kids with serious mental issues?

Leyland: One of the great things is the wraparound with professionals in the area. We would direct them to professionals. We are expecting a wide variety of needs.

Representative Nathe: Without this money, where will your project go?

Leyland: We are probably going to keep going. The value of having you involved is showing the rest of the state that you recognize the need for at risk youth. One of our strengths is that we have some very strong donors in our community.

Representative Hofstad: Will your business stand on its own in the future.

Leyland: Fraser has run a skill enhancement training camp for 11 weeks in the summer. We run it for 15 youth starting right after school. We take over where their IEP leaves off so they can maintain their skills. We have run that program for 5 years. It is hard to answer that because of the many things we do to keep costs down. We use volunteers and use federal grants as well as what is available statewide. Sustainability will be there if we keep trying.

We have a history of not giving up. There are 14,000 youth in our state that come in to contact with the judicial system. We do not know what their diagnosis was. We do not know if they were incarcerated before. We do know there is a great need.

Chairman Weisz closed the discussion of HB 1044.

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 1044

House Human Services Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 2, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 8910 7 min. 4 sec.

Committee Clerk Signature

Vicky Crabtree

Minutes:

Chairman Weisz: HB 1044 transition age youth at risk. An appropriation of \$700,000. Has two parts to it. Section 1 where they talk about coordination and wrap around. Section 2 and 3 which is appropriations of \$700,000 for that pilot project.

Rep. Porter: Would like to propose an amendment to this bill that we remove Section 2 and Section 3.

Rep. Conrad: Seconded.

Chairman Weisz: Have a motion and second to take out on page 2, line 10-22. On page 1 line 20 where it talks about within limits of appropriations, will that be an issue because we took the appropriations out?

Rep. Porter: I think you answered your own question. Testimony presented to us was that they are short on overall guides to the program not appropriations.

Voice vote: 13 yeas 0 nays 0 absent

Chairman Weisz: We have an amended bill in front of us.

Rep. Damschen motioned to DO PASS as amended.

Rep. Holman seconded.

Bill Carrier: Rep. Kilichowski

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House Human Services Committee
Bill/Resolution No. 1044
Hearing Date: February 2, 2009

Roll Call Vote: 13 yes, 0 no, 0 absent

Chairman Weisz: We have a DO PASS as amended.

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 1044

House Human Services Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 10, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 9109

Committee Clerk Signature

Licky Crabtree

Minutes:

Chairman Weisz: HB 1044. This came back to us. Suggest a couple of changes. Page 1, Line 8, after "develop" add "a concurrent appropriation". Delete from Line 8, "and implement or contract for the implementation of". On Page 1, Line 20, overstrike "Within the limits of appropriations."

Rep. Kilichowski: Are you going to eliminate the fiscal note?

Chairman Weisz: I don't know that.

Rep. Hofstad: Motion to reconsider bill and bring back to the committee.

Rep. Frantsvog: Second.

Voice Vote: 13 yeas, 0 nays, 0 absent.

MOTION CARRIED.

Rep. Porter: Motion for a DO PASS on the amendments.

Rep. Conrad: Second.

Voice Vote: 13 yeas, 0 nays, 0 absent.

MOTION CARRIED.

Rep. Conrad: Motion for a DO PASS ON AMENDED BILL.

Rep. Frantsvog: Second.

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House Human Services Committee
Bill/Resolution No. 1044
Hearing Date: February 10, 2009

Roll Call Vote: 13 yes, 0 no, 0 absent.

MOTION CARRIED FOR A DO PASS ON AMENDED BILL.

BILL CARRIER: Rep. Kilichowski.

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
03/20/2009

Amendment to: Reengrossed
HB 1044

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.*

	2007-2009 Biennium		2009-2011 Biennium		2011-2013 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues						
Expenditures			\$0		\$0	
Appropriations			\$0		\$0	

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

2007-2009 Biennium			2009-2011 Biennium			2011-2013 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2A. Bill and fiscal impact summary: *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

The Bill relates to the development of a program for services to transition-aged youth at risk. The intent of the Bill is to develop administrative rules and for the existing council to develop applicable services for potential funding in future biennia. The Bill provides a continuing appropriation.

B. Fiscal impact sections: *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

Since the intent of the bill is to develop rules and applicable services for future funding, there is 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, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

The Bill includes a continuing appropriation of any gifts, grants, or donations received for the development of a program for services to transition-aged youth at risk. However it cannot be determined at this time if there will be grants or other revenue available for this program.

Name:	Brenda M. Weisz	Agency:	DHS
Phone Number:	328-2397	Date Prepared:	03/23/2009

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
02/16/2009

REVISION

Amendment to: Engrossed
HB 1044

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.*

	2007-2009 Biennium		2009-2011 Biennium		2011-2013 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues						
Expenditures			\$0		\$0	
Appropriations			\$0		\$0	

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

2007-2009 Biennium			2009-2011 Biennium			2011-2013 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2A. Bill and fiscal impact summary: *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

The bill relates to the development of a program for services to transition-aged youth at risk. The intent of the bill is to develop administrative rules and for the existing council to develop applicable services for potential funding in future bienniums.

B. Fiscal impact sections: *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

Since the intent of the bill is to develop rules and applicable services for future funding, there is 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, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

Name:	Brenda M. Weisz	Agency:	DHS
Phone Number:	328-2397	Date Prepared:	02/16/2009

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
02/13/2009

Amendment to: Engrossed
HB 1044

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.*

	2007-2009 Biennium		2009-2011 Biennium		2011-2013 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues						
Expenditures			\$500,000		\$751,008	
Appropriations			\$500,000		\$751,008	

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

2007-2009 Biennium			2009-2011 Biennium			2011-2013 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2A. Bill and fiscal impact summary: *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

Development of a program for services to transition-aged youth at risk. Fiscal impact includes expenses for participation in advisory council by youth and family members; training; data analysis of project; contract for services in two pilot regions and provide extended services.

B. Fiscal impact sections: *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

The Department of Human Services would take the lead on the project. A statewide interagency advisory council will be established to include representatives from the following systems: transition-aged youth, family members, mental health and substance abuse, child welfare, juvenile justice, education, vocational rehabilitation and community service providers. Once the statewide council is established, regional subcommittees will be developed. The advisory council would assist the department with the review of the current independent living assessment tools and curriculum to determine appropriateness with transition-aged youth. If additional research is necessary, the Department staff will conduct it and present findings to council for final determination.

The Department would provide technical assistance and training as needed to assist in the enhancement of the existing wraparound planning process.

The Department would issue an RFP to solicit responses for the development of a program to provide wraparound services to those transition-aged youth who are not currently receiving services as outlined in the bill. The RFP would be awarded to two regions of the state, one urban and one rural.

A review of the current single plan of care would be conducted by the Department and advisory council to determine its applicability with transition-aged youth who are not currently receiving services as outlined in the bill. Once the transition-aged youth is beyond the age where the current single plan of care process is used, some adaptation will be necessary. The necessary changes would be implemented based on the recommendations of the advisory council and the results of a business analysis.

Extended services would be available to youth in the pilot regions and those already in the system, according to assessments approved by the council. Outcomes would be collected and reported to the Legislature for possible statewide rollout.

Since this project was not included in the executive budget of the Department, an additional appropriation would be required.

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.*

2009-2011 Biennium

Travel costs of \$15,000 to reimburse parents and/or guardians and transition-aged youth to attend statewide interagency advisory council meetings and regional subcommittee meetings.

Training costs of \$3,000 to provider awarded the contract for services.

Costs for research and data analysis of transition project of \$12,000.

Grant costs of \$470,000. This would include \$260,000 to contract with two regions, at \$130,000 per region, one urban and one rural. The remaining \$210,000 would be to provide extended services to transition-aged youth. Due to the start-up time required to get the program up and running, the extended services portion would not begin until July 1, 2010. The \$210,000 is calculated as follows:

\$250 - monthly rate of job coach

70 youth - 50 from urban region, 20 from rural region

12 months

$\$250 \times 70 \times 12 = \$210,000$

C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

Since this project was not included in the executive budget of the Department, an additional general fund appropriation of \$500,000 would be required. There would be no existing appropriation to cover this new service.

Name:	Brenda M. Weisz	Agency:	DHS
Phone Number:	328-2397	Date Prepared:	02/13/2009

FISCAL NOTE

Requested by Legislative Council
02/05/2009

Amendment to: HB 1044

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.*

	2007-2009 Biennium		2009-2011 Biennium		2011-2013 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues						
Expenditures			\$500,000		\$751,008	
Appropriations			\$500,000		\$751,008	

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

2007-2009 Biennium			2009-2011 Biennium			2011-2013 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

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B. Fiscal impact sections: *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

The Department of Human Services would take the lead on the project. A statewide interagency advisory council will be established to include representatives from the following systems: transition-aged youth, family members, mental health and substance abuse, child welfare, juvenile justice, education, vocational rehabilitation and community service providers. Once the statewide council is established, regional subcommittees will be developed. The advisory council would assist the department with the review of the current independent living assessment tools and curriculum to determine appropriateness with transition-aged youth. If additional research is necessary, the Department staff will conduct it and present findings to council for final determination.

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The Department would issue an RFP to solicit responses for the development of a program to provide wraparound services to those transition-aged youth who are not currently receiving services as outlined in the bill. The RFP would be awarded to two regions of the state, one urban and one rural.

A review of the current single plan of care would be conducted by the Department and advisory council to determine its applicability with transition-aged youth who are not currently receiving services as outlined in the bill. Once the transition-aged youth is beyond the age where the current single plan of care process is used, some adaptation will be necessary. The necessary changes would be implemented based on the recommendations of the advisory council and the results of a business analysis.

Extended services would be available to youth in the pilot regions and those already in the system, according to assessments approved by the council. Outcomes would be collected and reported to the Legislature for possible statewide rollout.

Since this project was not included in the executive budget of the Department, an additional appropriation would be required.

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.*

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Travel costs of \$15,000 to reimburse parents and/or guardians and transition-aged youth to attend statewide interagency advisory council meetings and regional subcommittee meetings.

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C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

Since this project was not included in the executive budget of the Department, an additional general fund appropriation of \$500,000 would be required.

Name:	Brenda M. Weisz	Agency:	DHS
Phone Number:	328-2397	Date Prepared:	02/09/2009

VR
2/3/09

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1044

Page 1, line 3, remove "; to provide for a pilot project; and to provide an appropriation"

Page 2, remove lines 10 through 22

Renumber accordingly

Date: 2-2-09

Roll Call Vote #:

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1044

House HUMAN SERVICES Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken ☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Amended

Motion Made By Rep. Porter Seconded By Rep. Conrad

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
CHAIRMAN ROBIN WEISZ			REP. TOM CONKLIN		
VICE-CHAIR VONNIE PIETSCH			REP. KARI L CONRAD		
REP. CHUCK DAMSCHEN			REP. RICHARD HOLMAN		
REP. ROBERT FRANTSGOV			REP. ROBERT KILICHOWSKI		
REP. CURT HOFSTAD			REP. LOUISE POTTER		
REP. MICHAEL R. NATHE					
REP. TODD PORTER					
REP. GERRY UGLEM					

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 0

Bill Carrier _____

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

*accept proposed
amend. to remove
sect. 2 & 3.*

Date: 2-2-09

Roll Call Vote #:

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1044

House HUMAN SERVICES Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken ☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☒ Amended

Motion Made By Rep. Damschen Seconded By Rep. Holman

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
CHAIRMAN ROBIN WEISZ	✓		REP. TOM CONKLIN	✓	
VICE-CHAIR VONNIE PIETSCH	✓		REP. KARI L CONRAD	✓	
REP. CHUCK DAMSCHEN	✓		REP. RICHARD HOLMAN	✓	
REP. ROBERT FRANTSGOV	✓		REP. ROBERT KILICHOWSKI	✓	
REP. CURT HOFSTAD	✓		REP. LOUISE POTTER	✓	
REP. MICHAEL R. NATHE	✓				
REP. TODD PORTER	✓				
REP. GERRY UGLEM	✓				

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 0

Bill Carrier Rep. Kilichowski

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1044: Human Services Committee (Rep. Weisz, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1044 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 3, remove "; to provide for a pilot project; and to provide an appropriation"

Page 2, remove lines 10 through 22

Renumber accordingly

Roll Call Vote #:

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1094

House HUMAN SERVICES

☐ Check here for Conference Committee**Legislative Council Amendment Number**

Action Taken

Motion Made By Rep. HOFSTAD Seconded By Rep. FRANTZVOG

[illegible]

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent _____

Bill Carrier

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

To bring HB 1044 back
to Committee for
reconsideration.

VR
2/11/09

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1044

Page 1, line 8, replace "and implement or contract for the implementation of" with ", within current appropriations."

Page 1, line 20, replace "Within the limits of appropriations, services" with "Services"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 2-10-09

2

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1044

Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

☒ Do Pass

☐ **Do Not Pass**

☐ Amended

☒ Do Pass ☐
Rep. Porter

Rep. Conrad

[illegible]

(Yes) 13 No 0

(155) _____

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

Move for Amendments
Motion Carried

Date: 2-10-09
Roll Call Vote #: 3

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1044

House HUMAN SERVICES

Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken ☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☒ Amended

Motion Made By Conrad Seconded By Frantsvog

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
CHAIRMAN ROBIN WEISZ	✓		REP. TOM CONKLIN	✓	
VICE-CHAIR VONNIE PIETSCH	✓		REP. KARI L CONRAD	✓	
REP. CHUCK DAMSCHEN	✓		REP. RICHARD HOLMAN	✓	
REP. ROBERT FRANTSVOG	✓		REP. ROBERT KILICHOWSKI	✓	
REP. CURT HOFSTAD	✓		REP. LOUISE POTTER	✓	
REP. MICHAEL R. NATHE	✓				
REP. TODD PORTER	✓				
REP. GERRY UGLEM	✓				

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 0

Bill Carrier Rep. Kilichowski

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

Line 1 pg 1 strike out "and implement or contract for the implementation of" add "a concurrent appropriation."

line 20 page 1 strike out "within the limits of appropriations"

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1044, as engrossed: Human Services Committee (Rep. Welsz, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1044 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 8, replace "and implement or contract for the implementation of" with ", within current appropriations,"

Page 1, line 20, replace "Within the limits of appropriations, services" with "Services"

Renumber accordingly

2009 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1044

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1044

Senate Human Services Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 3/9/09

Recorder Job Number: 10475, 10515, 10518

Committee Clerk Signature

Mary K Monson

Minutes:

Senator J. Lee opened the hearing on HB 1044 relating to the development of a program for services to transition-aged youth at risk.

Sheila Sandness (Legislative Council) introduced HB 1044. Attachment #1

Carlotta McCleary (ND Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health) testified in support of HB 1044 (attachment #2). She read supportive testimony from **Deborah Jendro** from Fargo (attachment #3) and provided copies of testimony from others who could not be present. (See attachment #4)

Bruce Murry (ND Protection and Advocacy Project) spoke in favor of HB 1044.

Attachment #5

Senator J. Lee asked if there might be an adjustment in the appropriation and still move something forward.

Mr. Murry replied that the department could answer that. He also said that the pilot project had merits of trying to bring all the services together in one place, most likely in Fargo.

Kimberly Zeeb (Fraser, Ltd., Fargo) testified in support (attachment #6). She read supportive testimony from Nathaniel King (attachment #7) and provided copies of testimony from others who could not be present. (See attachment #8)

Veronica Zietz (The Arc of Bismarck) testified in favor. Attachment #9

James Moench (ND Disabilities Advocacy Consortium) testified in support. Attachment #10

Joy Jochim (Mandan, ND) presented written testimony in favor. Attachment #11

Susan Wagner (Dept. of Human Services) provided information about activities related to transition-aged youth. Attachment #12

JoAnne Hoesel (Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse - Dept. of Human Services) responded because of some earlier testimony. Because there is no fiscal note, what the department would do at this point is pull people together to talk about what the needs are of transitional youth services in ND and work toward getting the administrative rules in place. This would not include the services listed in this bill.

The hearing on HB 1044 was closed.

Job #10515

Senator J. Lee brought the committee back to order to work on HB 1044.

There was a feeling that they would like appropriations to have a look at this. Discussion followed on the changes that were made in the House and that the appropriation was taken out. Testimony from Susan Wagner was reviewed.

Senator J. Lee asked Carlotta McLeary about the original appropriation and what was left after the pilot project was removed.

Ms. Mcleary couldn't recall the numbers. She did say this never did go to House Appropriations. All the amendments were made in the policy committee.

Senator J. Lee asked the intern to call Susan Wagner from the department to help answer questions.

Discussion - transitional services. SB 2396 is also about transitional programs. How do the two tie together? If it is sent out as it is, will it do anything without funding? There are a lot of services for youth in this situation but they are not coordinated very well. Some of this is to provide that coordination.

Job #10518

Susan Wagner from the department appeared before the committee at the request of Chairman **Senator J. Lee**.

Senator Dever talked about the conversations of the interim committee. There are a lot of different groups providing different services. Pretty much all of the services are covered but there isn't very good coordination of them. The bill, as it was introduced, had two parts to it –

1. The pilot project in Fargo and (2) putting into Century Code processes to help pull some of those things together. The money in the bill as it was introduced was for the pilot project and it wasn't expected to cost anything for the rest of it.

Ms. Wagner explained her understanding of the original bill (meter 03:50). She remembered some of the discussion in the interim committee about the funding got confusing.

She went on to talk about a lot of youth already being involved in existing programs and additional youth that the programs need to be extended to. That would need the coordination of services.

Senator J. Lee wanted help to visualize 1044, 2396, and Youthworks because she felt they all addressed much of their emphasis to transitional aged youth.

Senator Dever explained that the Youthworks is a little different. It is a short term crises family intervention.

The pilot project was explained as a center for youth to come to and all the services they would need would be available to them there. The House took this out.

The fiscal notes were reviewed.

Senator J. Lee asked what the department could do in house to work toward wraparound services in order to better coordinate all of the plans that are currently in place. (Meter 9:30)

Ms. Wagner thought what they could work on the rules and convene an interagency council. The department could provide some technical assistance out to the staff at the human service centers that work with the children involved in the children's mental health system to help prepare those youth to move over to the adult system of care. In terms of providing more services there isn't anything they can do with more money (meter 12:20).

Senator Heckaman felt there was merit in going through DPI, too.

Senator J. Lee offered that the juvenile court could also be helpful to have on the council.

Senator Dever said it might be beneficial to put together some enabling language to allow the department to receive money in support of this program in the form of grants and other sources of funding.

Ms. Wagner thought that would be helpful.

There was a short discussion on a statewide interagency advisory council on transition aged youth at risk and leaving it up to the department to pull together those who are needed.

Also talked about was the ability of the department to reimburse for travel expenses.

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1044

Senate Human Services Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 3/17/09

Recorder Job Number: 11143

Committee Clerk Signature

Mary K. Monson

Minutes:

Senator J. Lee opened HB 1044 for committee work. The amendment dated 3/17/09 was reviewed.

Senator Dever summarized that the Fraser Program was taken out of the bill all together. The amendment would provide that the department could accept grants and other sources of funding for everything that is left in the bill.

Discussion followed on whether the dept. could contract with somebody to work on this as long as they can pay for it out of existing funds or whether they need authority to do that if they find there is a project worthy of support. Working within current appropriations was discussed.

Senator Dever moved to accept the amendments.

Second by **Senator Heckaman**.

Roll call vote 6-0-0. **Amendment adopted.**

Senator Dever moved a **Do Pass as Amended**.

Second by **Senator Heckaman**.

Roll call vote 6-0-0. **Motion carried.**

Carrier is **Senator Dever**.


3-18-09

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO REENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1044

Page 1, line 3, after "risk" insert "; and to provide a continuing appropriation"

Page 1, line 7, after "**Rules**" insert "**- Continuing appropriation**"

Page 2, after line 9, insert:

- "4. The department may accept and receive grants and other sources of funding for the development of a program for services to transition-aged youth at risk. All moneys received by the department as gifts, grants, or donations for the development of a program for services to transition-aged youth at risk under this section are appropriated on a continuing basis to the department."

Renumber accordingly

Date: 3/17/09

Roll Call Vote #: 1

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1044

Senate Human Services Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number 3/17/09

Action Taken ☐ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations
☒ Adopt Amendment ☐ Reconsider

Motion Made By Sen. Dever Seconded By Sen. Heckaman

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

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment _____

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

Date: 3/17/09

Roll Call Vote #: 2

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1044

Senate Human Services Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number 90303.0401 Title .0500

Action Taken ☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☒ Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations

☐ Adopt Amendment ☐ Reconsider

Motion Made By Sen. Dever Seconded By Sen. Heckaman

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

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator Dever

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1044, as reengrossed: Human Services Committee (Sen. J. Lee, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Reengrossed HB 1044 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 3, after "risk" insert "; and to provide a continuing appropriation"

Page 1, line 7, after "**Rules**" insert "**- Continuing appropriation**"

Page 2, after line 9, insert:

"4. The department may accept and receive grants and other sources of funding for the development of a program for services to transition-aged youth at risk. All moneys received by the department as gifts, grants, or donations for the development of a program for services to transition-aged youth at risk under this section are appropriated on a continuing basis to the department."

Renumber accordingly

2009 TESTIMONY

HB 1044

1

1

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee:

For the record, my name is Sheila Sandness and I am a Fiscal Analyst for the Legislative Council. I am here to present information on House Bill 1044 relating to the development of a program for services to transition-aged youth at risk and a pilot project. I appear neither for nor against the bill, but just to provide information and answer any questions you may have.

The 2007 Legislative Assembly, in Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4005 (2007) directed a study of the feasibility and desirability of establishing a transition to independence program for young adults with mental illness. The Long Term Care Committee was assigned this study. The Long Term Care Committee's findings and recommendation can be found on pages 277-281 of the "Report of the North Dakota Legislative Council".

The committee recommends House Bill No. 1044 that directs the Department of Human Services to develop or contract for a program for services to transition-aged youth at risk. The bill identifies services to be a part of the program, including individualized assessments, coordinated services, self-advocacy training, vocational rehabilitation, in-home support, and independent living skills training. The bill provides for the use of a wraparound planning process and a transition-aged youth at risk pilot project. The bill appropriates \$700,000 from the general fund for the program and the pilot project.

2

**Testimony
House Bill 1044
House Human Services Committee
Representative Robin Weisz, Chairman
January 13, 2009**

Chairman Weisz and members of the Committee: my name is Carlotta McCleary. I am the Executive Director of ND Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health (NDFFCMH). NDFFCMH is a parent run advocacy organization that focuses on the needs of children and youth with emotional, behavioral and mental disorders and their families, from birth through transition to adulthood.

House Bill 1044 is really a combination of two different proposals. The first proposal is contained in Section 1; it deals with a statewide systemic approach to coordination of transition services for youth transitioning to adulthood. It looks at coordination of needed services at the individual youth and family level. Section 1 also includes coordination of the services provided by different agencies at the regional and state level. This will help to address the systemic issues that impact youth transitioning to adulthood. Section 2 contains the second proposal which is a pilot program which will have a center in an urban community where youth can go to receive transition services.

NDFFCMH is focusing our testimony on Section 1 of the bill or the statewide systemic approach to transition services.

NDFFCMH would like to see more coordination and collaboration between the various system providers to ensure a seamless transition for youth transitioning to adulthood.

NDFFCMH would like to see the Wraparound process used to meet the need for coordination and collaboration between the various system providers. North Dakota has had success in using Wraparound as a method to better coordinate service delivery for children, youth and their families in child welfare as well as Partnerships.

Wraparound is a planning **process** that follows a series of steps to help youth and their families realize their hopes and dreams. It is a planning process that brings people together from the youth and family's life. The youth and family team consist of individuals agreed upon by the youth and family and committed to them through informal, formal and community support and

service relationships. A facilitator assists the youth and family team to coordinate the supports that are necessary to meet the unique needs of the youth and family. I have attached some additional information about Wraparound in *Attachment A*.

NDFFCMH would also like to see coordination and collaboration at the state and local levels. In addition to youth and family teams that focus their attention on individual youth and family's needs there is a need for local/regional and state teams to coordinate the systemic issues that impact youth and their families. Youth and their families must have a voice in policy that impacts them at all levels of the process.

NDFFCMH would like to see core elements moved forward for youth in transition. These elements are contained in *Attachment B*.

There are some great things happening in North Dakota for youth in transition. We must build upon what is currently working and the resources we currently have. Through the youth and family teams, local/regional and state teams we must also identify the gaps and develop new support where it is needed and the resources to support youth in transition.

Thank you for your time.

Carlotta McCleary, Executive Director
ND Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
PO Box 3061
Bismarck, ND 58502

Phone/fax: (701) 222-3310
Email: carlottamccleary@bis.midco.net

Attachment A

*Same attachments
given to Senate.*

Wraparound is a philosophy of care that includes a definable planning process involving the youth and family that results in a unique set of community services and natural supports individualized for that child and family to achieve a positive set of outcomes.

Ten essential elements of wraparound were identified:

- Wraparound must be based in the community.
- Services and supports must be individualized, built on strengths, and meet the needs of children and families across life domains to promote success, safety, and permanence in home, school, and community.
- The process must be culturally competent, building on the unique values, preferences, and strengths of children and families, and their communities.
- Families must be full and active partners in every level of the wraparound process.
- The wraparound approach must be a team-driven process involving the family, child, natural supports, agencies, and community services working together to develop, implement, and evaluate the individualized service plan.
- Wraparound child and family teams must have adequate, flexible approaches, and flexible funding.
- Wraparound plans must include a balance of formal services and informal community and family resources.
- An unconditional commitment to serve children and families is essential.
- The plan should be developed and implemented based on an interagency, community-based collaborative process.
- Outcomes must be determined and measured for the system, for the program, and for the individual child and family.

Attachment B

Core elements

- Identification of transition-aged youth who need services throughout all systems
- Individualized Assessments to determine the needs and the appropriate services to assist, this may include natural or formal supports
- Develop a curriculum for the youth that provides training/mentoring to teach and implement self-advocacy; to include: their primary healthcare, educational planning (higher education), vocational planning, legislation that impacts their lives, and continuation of their informal supports etc
- Access to independent living skills, not just youth in foster care
- Develop a curriculum for families that provide training/mentoring to teach and implement self-advocacy; understanding the services for their youth to include: primary healthcare, educational planning (higher education), vocational planning, legislation that impacts their lives, HIPPA etc
- Coordination of services; use existing case managers to assist with the needs of transition-aged youth and assess the need for specific Transition coordinators, again not just for the foster care youth
- Develop additional services and workforce to implement a statewide independent living skills program to address; vocational skills (job shadowing, job coaching), transition from education to employment, transition from secondary education to higher education, etc

Legislative Testimony
Tuesday, January 13th 2009
House Bill 1044

*Same
testimony given
to Senate
Human
Services.*

(3)

Good afternoon Chairperson Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee. My name is Deborah Jendro. I am from District 44 in the city of Fargo ND. Today, I wish to speak in favor of HB 1044.

The development of a program to address the unique needs of transitional age youth at risk within our state can only prove to brighten the lives of many young people. Young people who struggle at the hands of society, local, state and national rules and guidelines, who often times find themselves dropped from services and ineligible for others the day they turn 18. Youth within the transitional age range are often difficult to engage, and once they are dropped, would rather just give up then to continue to bang on doors where no one will see, hear or understand the needs they have to make it in their own.

How many thousands or millions of dollars are spent each year in our state to treat and wrap services around these youth as children and adolescents? Now when they are at a point in their lives where they should be living independently and becoming active productive citizens in our communities, they are suddenly dropped from services. When frustration and confusion wells inside of them and they shut down, they become known as failures. Are they really failures or is it the existing systems that have failed...failed to provide adequate services to them when they were most vulnerable.

My own son was caught up in the snag of this very predicament. Having spent nearly 3 years of his formative life in residential treatment, a residential child care facility and then in a foster home, he suddenly turned 18. A magic number! 18, a time when kids start to feel they have some control over their own lives. A time when they dream of good jobs, their own money to spend, a car, an apartment with friends and the wonders of life on their own. My son dreamt of all of this and was bound and determined to make those dreams come true. As he aged out of the system, Casey Family Services found him a job; got him a little apartment all by himself, in a not very good part of town, patted him on the head, told him good luck and then proceeded to move out of the city. My son was left to fend for himself in Bismarck ND, hours away from his family in Fargo.

His only friends were those he had met while in treatment. He was told it was best this way. He would not be exposed to the same peers that he got in trouble with back in Fargo. He could start fresh on his own. Needless to say, he was lonesome and scared. When I went to visit him I was torn inside. Should I take him back with me or encourage him to succeed where he was at. Each time I left with tears in my eyes and a feeling of frustration over not knowing who to turn too for help.

His apartment was not in a very good part of town. The neighbors upstairs were intimidating. They were selling and doing drugs right above his head. There were many parties with individuals fighting in the hallways and falling on the stairs over the mixture of aggression, spirits and little puffs of smoke. It was scary to him and yet interesting, and soon he fell victim to the pressures of those he feared and the evils of pot...weed...Mary Jane...the mind boggling drug of cannabis. Needless to say, within 3 months of freedom, he had lost his job, could not pay his rent or any of his bills and had slipped into a state of depression.

So, we packed up his things and moved him back to Fargo to be with the family who loved him. We tried to help him get back on his feet. At nineteen, he had aged out of our insurance and so was left with no coverage for mental or physical health. He continued to live at home and still does to this day. At the ripe old age of 24, his anxiety is sky high and his comfort zone is limited. Fear of failure rides on his back and haunts his brain. He still does not have insurance. When he has found work there have been no benefits and right now he is without income. How wonderful it would have been for him to have a transitional program in place when he left the confines of institutional care. How wonderful to be able to walk in a door and be greeted by individuals that were there just for the purpose of helping him get on with his life and keep him on his feet. To find such a place where individualized attention to his needs and acceptance for who he was and where he was at were first and foremost. Not the rigidity of a world laden with adult authority and rules that he did not understand or fit into. Yes, how nice it would have been.

A continuum of housing options should be made available, with a variety of supports according to the individual needs and abilities of the youth, (i.e.) one who is transitioning out of residential care versus one who has physical limitations or cognitive disabilities. Eligibility for financial supports for youth in transition should be evaluated. After 18, many do not qualify for SCHIPS or general assistance.

If one applies for Social Security benefits, application is complicated, the waiting period for eligibility is lengthy and requires that the vast majority of a persons functioning be extensively impaired. Given all of that, time constraints and the deflating of ones ego this process may either lead to giving up on the cause or perhaps living a life of many disability claims. Neither of which are productive if not necessary. At risk youth need to feel the care and guidance of such a program will be unconditional. They must be met where they are at and should never get the feeling of rejection or be fearful of exclusion.

There is so much to look at when setting up a program for our transitional youth, including addressing barriers to service, identifying funding sources, implementing change to administrative rules and statutes that act as barriers to services, and getting service providers to develop a communication system to ensure adequate care in all areas (i.e.) Vocational rehab, physicians, substance abuse services, housing, schools, developmental disabilities services etc.

A standard of care must be set for this population. We must make our youth a priority. They have been left in the dark too long. With this, I encourage you to be a part of a team to support the development of a system of care that will attend to the needs of our youth in transition. You will have been the part of a history making team who cared about diligently worked to serve the underserved and better the way of life for some of the most important people within our state.

Thank you.

HB 1044

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

My name is Donene Feist and I am the Director for Family Voices of North Dakota. As you look at HB 1044, I would like to add a few comments.

We hear from many families across the state that has a young adult desperate for help and services as they fall into a gap area. Youth in transition is one of the gap areas in North Dakota. When we look at this at risk population we are looking at youth with disabilities, youth in foster care, youth in the juvenile justice system, youth with emotional and behavioral health needs. Families quickly become frustrated not knowing where to go, whom to talk to and what to do when their young adult begins the process of transition into adulthood. We believe a coordinated effort across the state is necessary to begin to make this process work in a coordinated manner.

Services for youth in transition are fragmented. Agencies independently are addressing needs; however, we believe there also needs to be a coordinated effort that brings all of us together to the table, to work on youth in transition in a collaborative way.

Currently this bill has two different plans for assisting transition age youth. The first section of the bill deals with the need for systemic coordination and collaboration at all levels: the youth and family team level, local/regional level, and the state level.

Services will be provided through the wraparound process to meet the needs of youth and their families. Family Voices of ND (FVND) would like to see more coordination and collaboration between the various system providers to ensure a seamless transition for youth transitioning to adulthood. At this point in time, services are like a silo, not easily accessible and no consistent coordination. FVND would like to see the Wraparound process used to meet the need for coordination and collaboration between the various system providers.

Much success for families has been maintained using the wraparound process as a method to better coordinate service delivery for children, youth and their families in child welfare as well as Partnerships.

Wraparound is a planning process that follows a series of steps to help youth and their families realize their hopes and dreams. It is a planning process that brings people together from the youth and family's life. The youth and family team consist of individuals agreed upon by the youth and family and committed to them through informal, formal and community support and service relationships. A facilitator assists the youth and family team to coordinate the supports that are necessary to meet the unique needs of the youth and family.

FVND would also like to see coordination and collaboration at the state and local levels. In addition to youth and family teams that focus their attention on individual youth and family's needs there is a need for local/regional and state teams to coordinate the systemic issues that impact youth and their families. Youth and their families must have a voice in policy that impacts them at all levels of the process.

FVND encourages the following core elements as we move forward for youth in transition:

- 1-Identification of transition-aged youth who need services throughout all systems.
- 2-Individualized Assessments to determine the needs and the appropriate services to assist, which may include natural or formal supports.
- 3-Develop a curriculum for the youth and families that provides training/mentoring to teach and implement self-advocacy; to include other areas such as: their primary healthcare, educational planning (higher education), vocational planning, legislation that impacts their lives, and continuation of their informal supports.
- 4-Access to independent living skills.
- 5- Coordination of services; use existing case managers to assist with the needs of transition aged youth and assess the need for specific Transition coordinators
- 6-Develop additional services and workforce to implement a statewide independent living skills program to address; vocational skills (job shadowing, job coaching), transition from education to employment, transition from secondary education to higher education.

7-Lastly, the development of a statewide task force that will bring all players to the table to address the needs of youth at risk in transition.

It is vital to build upon what is currently working and the resources we have. Through the youth and family teams, local/regional and state teams we must also identify the gaps and develop new support where it is needed and the resources to support youth in transition. However the only way to get there is to collaboratively work together to make it happen.

The second section of the bill will pilot a center in an urban community that youth will be able to drop in to receive transition services that are needed by the youth. This center would house the various agencies that provide transition services for youth. Everything that the youth would need would be at that location. Currently, Fraser Ltd., Youth Works and others in the Fargo community have been working on a plan for such a center. They would like to have state funding along with private funding to finance the center. While I agree with this process, I believe the first portion of this bill needs to occur simultaneously.

As a mom who has gone through this process myself, I can assure you, the frustrations for families are very real. Not only for the families but the youth themselves get lost as they do not know how to advocate for themselves or where to begin. I often use the example as this. When my children were initially diagnosed we were lost in a sea of not knowing what to do, where to go, whom to speak with. It was overwhelming, frustrating and isolating. It is even more isolating for families who live in one of our great rural communities. Just about the time you think you have a handle on where to go; these children grow up and transition. You are left feeling like you did the day they were initially diagnosed. For the youth, they are also thrown into that sea. Just because a child reaches the age of majority does not mean they understand their needs, their disability, how to handle or where the systems are that will assist them, although that is what is expected. The adult system is very different than the systems for children, which is why it is vital to address this need together.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Donene Feist
Family Voices of North Dakota
PO Box 163
Edgeley, ND 58433

Testimony

House Human Services Committee

Support for HB 1044

Representative Weisz, Chairman

January 13, 2009

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Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Susan Rae Helgeland, Executive Director, Mental Health America of North Dakota (MHAND). MHAND is a 57-year-old non-profit organization. Our mission is: To promote mental health through education, advocacy, understanding and access to quality care for all individuals.

MHAND supports HB 1044 to provide an opportunity to develop program services for transition-aged youth at risk. Transition-related services that provide for continuity in mental health care and also age appropriate support services are critical to sustain the well-being of youth and ensure that young people with mental health needs can become productive and resilient adults.

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TESTIMONY – PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY PROJECT
HOUSE BILL 1044 (2009)
HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Honorable Robin Weisz, Chairman
January 13, 2009

Chairman Weisz, and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Bruce Murry, a lawyer with the North Dakota Protection and Advocacy Project (P&A). P&A supports HB 1044 in its entirety.

Transition aged youth (TAY) at risk is defined in the bill. TAY at risk includes three groups of youth who have historically had less success in adulthood than their potential might indicate. Transition aged youth often lose eligibility for the services described in this bill when they graduate too early, leave foster care, or have a change in diagnosis.

HB 1044 leverages existing resources to help youth at risk become successful adults. The overall strategy of the bill is that of quilt-work. The current service programs provide most of the cloth of this proposal. This proposal stitches those pieces together to fit some youth at risk of a bad transition into adulthood.

This bill uses a number of terms defined within the Department of Human Services. These summaries reflect this advocate's understanding of those terms – open to clarification by the Department.

Wraparound: An individualized, team-driven process to blend formal services with the existing strengths of the child and family, in the least intrusive manner. The focus is careful planning with ongoing review, not new service infrastructure.

Single Plan of Care: Both a computerized tool within the Department to manage Wraparound services and a philosophy that individuals need a comprehensive plan to avoid duplicated, conflicting, or unproductive activities or services.

Any services provided aim to nurture what is missing in a youth's ability to live successfully and independently. The services let be what is working for the youth.

Providing Vocational Rehabilitation and Consultation Services (VR) to TAY at risk would require additional funding, and represent new cloth in the quilt analogy.

Part of the appropriation would need to be devoted to VR services. For instance, \$8000 would provide a youth with about 4 hours per week of job coaching for a year. These services would then cost \$160,000 for 20 youth.

The pilot program for a center to provide these services to youth could take advantage of substantial private contributions to a project in the Fargo community. The state could observe whether providing a physical location for youth services makes them more effective.

Development of a curriculum on independent living should allow local schools and social service agencies ensure that common sense is in fact common to youth at risk. Current efforts are sometimes a bit haphazard or not individualized enough, anecdotally. Current stretched resources do not allow enough self evaluation, comparison and adjustment to achieve thorough quality control and improvement.

Thank you for your consideration.



The Arc of Bismarck

1211 Park Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58504
Phone/Fax: 701-222-1854
arcbis@midconetwork.com
www.thearcofbismarck.org

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Testimony of Support House Bill No. 1044 January 13, 2009

Good afternoon Chairman Pollert and members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Veronica Zietz (#166); I am here today representing The Arc of Bismarck and The Arc of Cass County.

I support House Bill No. 1044 because it would implement a very beneficial pilot project for transition-aged youth at risk. Specifically, this would include individuals who have serious mental illness or disabilities. Often times this group of individuals slip through the systems already in place; this project addresses the problem, by serving the individuals who do not currently qualify for developmental disabilities services.

Initiatives included in this program will provide much needed services and supports for individuals who have mental illness or disabilities. By determining and coordinating the appropriate services people will be treated as individuals and receive the services that suit them best.

Another benefit of this pilot project is the training focused on independent living skills and self-advocacy. Providing training in these areas is very important to individuals with disabilities. It empowers individuals to take control of their own lives, stand up for their rights, and become contributing members of our communities.

I serve as the advisor for The American People Self-Advocacy Association, of Bismarck, and have seen first-hand how important these skills are. For instance, I have witnessed individuals with disabilities speak up and take action when they are being mistreated. I seriously doubt that they would be so confident as to do this if they had not been trained in self-advocacy.

Therefore, the legislation that is being recommended in House Bill No. 1044 would provide much needed programs and services that would benefit many individuals in North Dakota, especially those with disabilities. By endorsing this bill you are giving many individuals the tools and supports they need to successfully transition from children to independent adults.

**Testimony
Human Services Committee
House Bill 1044
Representative Weisz, Chairman
January 13, 2009**

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Representative Weisz and members of the Human Services Committee, I am Susan Wagner, LSW, Human Service Program Administrator, with the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services of the Department of Human Services.

On behalf of the Department, I am here to testify about activities related to transition-aged youth.

The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is an effort initiated by the Division as of December 1, 2007. The purpose of the Council is to advise the Department and other system partners on issues of concern to North Dakota's youth, especially enforcing underage drinking, transition to adulthood, and overall health and wellbeing. Youth involved in the following systems are represented on the YAC: mental health, juvenile justice, substance abuse, tribal agencies, foster care, developmental disabilities, vocational rehabilitation, special education, community providers, and community youth groups. Youth not involved in a system of care are recruited and encouraged to join as well. To date, the group identified suicide prevention and substance abuse prevention as the two most important issues affecting our youth. Future meetings will focus on these issues and leadership skill building.

Efforts are underway to add two youth representatives to the Governor-appointed North Dakota Mental Health Planning Council.

In February 2007, the Department submitted an application to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Center for

Mental Health Services (SAMHSA) for financial support as part of the New Freedom Initiative: State Coalitions to Promote Community-Based Care. The application was approved and the Division received an award of \$20,000 per year for a period of three years. A portion of the funding established a Transition Flex Fund. The purpose of the fund is to assist youth ages 17-21, with expenses related to transition to adulthood. The fund supplements other sources of financial support and resources available to youth. To date, the fund has assisted 21 youth with the purchase of clothing, food, household items, rent deposits and rent, a computer, a specialized camera for a youth who is blind, transit tickets and bus tokens, and a social skills course. A portion of this funding has been set aside to reimburse youth and a parent or guardian to attend the YAC meetings.

Historically, multiple systems in North Dakota have worked closely to meet the needs of children, youth, and their families. In 1994, the Division of Mental Health Services was awarded a comprehensive community mental health services grant from the Center for Mental Health Services targeting children and adolescents diagnosed with serious emotional disorders. This grant provided the impetus for a formalized statewide system of care for children. Based on the tenants of the wraparound philosophy, services developed or enhanced through the grant included care coordination, respite care, non-hospital crisis care, school-based day treatment, and intensive in-home therapy. North Dakota has sustained those core services. Key to the children's mental health system of care is a strong partnership with families and the integration of services across systems. The wraparound process is a method show to improve the functioning of children and youth who have complex needs. The wraparound process includes a set of core elements: 1) individualized plans of care; 2) culturally competent and tailored to the



unique needs of families; 3) parental involvement; 4) strength-based; and 5) least restrictive setting. It is recognized that all children and youth that come into contact with the various service systems can benefit from being served using the tenants of the wraparound process.

A process to assist children in the transition from the children's mental health system to the adult mental health system of care is in place. The youth, family members, care coordinators, case managers, and other team members work closely together to make this transition as seamless as possible. To be most effective, the coordinated effort needs to begin six months prior to the youth turning 18.

The Division leads the community-based public mental health system and Department divisions and other systems partners in implementing various mental health transformation activities and evidence-based practices.



These include Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Structural Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to Chronic Stress, Integrated Dual Disorder Treatment, planning for SAMSA's model of Supported Employment pilot project, peer support services, Mental Health Consumer and Family Network, Mental Health Recovery and Social Inclusion Campaign, collaboration with the University System on Science to Services, Workforce Development in conjunction with Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE) Mental Health Division, and development of a statewide, comprehensive prevention framework.

Other services and resources available to youth and young adults through the regional human services include substance abuse assessment and treatment; psychological and psychiatric evaluations; individual, group, and family therapy services; case aide services; flexible funding; crisis residential services; and vocation guidance and counseling.



The Children and Family Services (CFS) Division of the Department administers the Chafee grant and supervises the Regional Chafee Foster Care Independence and Education Training Voucher (ETV) Programs located throughout the state. This program incorporates the values, principles, and beliefs of the wraparound process. The foster youth who are transitioning to adulthood have a Single Plan of Care (SPOC) or a Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) plan in place to help them progress through transition toward self sufficiency. North Dakota's overall goal is for every young adult who lived in foster care as a teenager to meet the following outcomes by age 21:

- 
- All youth leaving the foster care system shall have sufficient economic resources to meet their daily needs.
 - All youth leaving the foster care system shall have a safe and stable place to live.
 - All youth leaving the foster care system shall attain academic or vocational and educational goals that are in keeping with the youth's abilities and interests.
 - All youth leaving the foster care system shall have a sense of connectedness to persons and community.
 - All youth leaving the foster care system shall avoid illegal and high risk behaviors.
 - All youth leaving the foster care system shall postpone parenthood until financially established and emotionally mature.
 - All youth leaving the foster care system shall have access to physical and mental health services.



Through the Independent Living Program, a statewide independent living skills curriculum has been established. The curriculum is facilitated by Independent Living Coordinators at the regional level.



The Independent Living Program Administrator, CFS Division, oversees and advisory group of youth who are or who have been in foster care. The formal name of the group is ND Youth. The group works on spreading the word about foster youth in care, dispelling myths related to youth in care, and helping mentor each other. There is preparation for youth to take part in the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) process and stakeholder meetings. Members of the groups (statewide and regional) have spoken to groups in their communities. One of the youth testified before a legislative subcommittee during the last session. The group is also is working on a website that is to serve as a resource to all youth who are transitioning into adulthood. There will be links to numerous transitioning resources both on a regional level and a state and national level.



In April of 2008, Governor John Hoeven received an invitation from the Child, Adolescent, and Family Branch of the Center for Mental Health Services, SAMHSA, and Georgetown University National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health to submit an application for a National Policy Academy on Developing Systems of Care for Youth and Young Adults with Mental Health Needs who are Transitioning to Adulthood, and Their Families. The Department submitted an application.

Unfortunately, North Dakota was not selected as one of six applications, but an offer was made to involve North Dakota in ongoing technical assistance. On a positive note, the application details an assessment of the current status of services and supports for youth and young adults with mental health needs that are transitioning to adulthood, a general description of a policy initiative, proposed outcomes of the policy initiative, and key individuals and groups that would be involved in moving forward the policy initiative. All of this information can be utilized

as we move ahead with efforts to develop a program to address these issues.

The Department of Public Instruction, Office of Special Education, Transition Community of Practice Advisory Council (COP), formerly known as the North Dakota Transition Steering Committee, is co-facilitated by Vocational Rehabilitation. The Council has expanded their membership to include representation from the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and Children and Family Services. Participation on this Council will provide the Department with an ongoing opportunity to network with other state agencies in the effort to provide information about the needs of youth in transition and improve services to them.

The Department is available to provide any additional information to this committee as your work continues on this important issue. If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them at this time. Thank you.

Testimony

House Bill No. 1044

Human Service Committee

Representative Robin Weisz, Chair

13 January 2009

Representative Weisz and members of the Human Service Committee, my name is Nathaniel King and I want to talk to you about the need for a program to provide support for youth and young adults. For the past two and a half months I have been meeting with other youth in my community to discuss services that we need. We have decided we want a program to offer us training on financial management, time management, independent living skills, and a sanctuary to go to for help with every day problems.

I am a sixteen year old man and have diagnoses of Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder, Mood Disorder Not Otherwise Specified, Generalized Anxiety Disorder Not Otherwise Specified, and Oppositional Defiant Disorder. I have lived between North Dakota and Minnesota my whole life. As a young child I often threw temper tantrums and needed extra help in school. As I got older my mood improved and I established goals for myself. I am now a sophomore in high school and I see a bright future for myself if someone is around to help me achieve my goals and to support me in furthering my education.

I often look at my younger brothers who have similar diagnoses with the addition of Bipolar Disorder. They tend to have problems expressing their feelings and following social norms. For instance, if we are in public they may invite themselves into conversations with other kids when they are not welcomed. They are also known to unintentionally provoke other kids and start fights with them without understanding that they over stepped normal social boundaries. I fear without the proper supports, they may not be accepted into the community. This overwhelms me because I am afraid they will not get jobs, be able to go to college, and nevertheless have a successful and productive future. If they do not learn to abide by the rules of society, they may end up in the judicial system. In the long run it would be more cost effective for the state of

North Dakota to spend money and time helping youth like my brothers learn independent living skills, than to financially support them later in life if they end up in the judicial system.

This program can be used to help youth learn how to advocate for themselves, how to express themselves, and how to create achievable goals. In the future this program will create a safer environment and a unified community because the youth on our streets will have a place to go after school to complete constructive projects as well as get help with homework and job skills. Also, the program will create opportunities for youth, like me, to volunteer and give back to the people who have helped me to become a better citizen.

In my eyes, this program allows kids from all backgrounds to come together for a common interest and then we can learn more about each other and rid stereotypes. This program will have open doors and it will be place for all of us to start over again if we get into trouble. But more importantly, as I look back on my life I hope to see this program as a memorable stepping stone along my path to becoming the best person and doctor I can be.

Thank you for your time and consideration and please take a moment to think about the impact you could have on my future and other youth like me.

Testimony

House Bill No. 1044

Human Service Committee

Representative Robin Weisz, Chair

13 January 2009

Representative Weisz and members of the Human Service Committee, my name is Kelsey Stoos and I have worked with transitional age youth for the past three and a half years. This population is near to my personal and professional life.

I have worked with a family of three boys for the past several years and I find time and time again, they do not know how to relate to other youth. They may be of a certain chronological age; however, their mental age is not up to par with that of their peers. Unfortunately this means that they are not only avoided by their peers, but they are also assumed to understand concepts and procedures which their peers comprehend. Many of the youth I have talked with do not know how to sustain a job, open a bank account, or even apply for school. There may be state funded programs for them to utilize; however, many of them do not know how to access these funds and services.

I have been asked if the program Fraser is working on is voluntary, and that answer is yes. That question is often followed by, "then how do you expect to keep the youth there?" We feel by having the youth at the front end of the decision making process for the program, they will want to be present. Hence, we developed a Youth Advisory Board. In addition to facilitating these board meetings I am a member of the Region V Transition Committee as well as the Homeless Youth Steering Committee. All three of these committees are joined for the same reason: overcoming the barriers to support transitional age youth in our community.

In my opinion, there are a couple of reasons why these services should take place at a common hub. For one, the youth have stated they want a safe place to go to for answers. Many of these youth have been abused by adults, thus find it difficult to trust people. If we can establish that therapeutic relationship and bring the services to them, hopefully they will get the help they

deserve as well as learn to trust again. Another reason for a central hub is for the youth to see one another. If they see other youth have the same issues and concerns as they do, then they feel less anxious and can band together to overcome the turmoil. In addition, over the years I have seen several youth go through human service agencies while bonding with their front-line staff. One ramification of the youth bonding with their staff is their lack of skills to communicate and bond with others their same age. I work with several youth who do not know how to socialize with youth their age. Even though socializing is not a goal or focus of this program, it would most likely be an outcome. The need for these youth to be with people their own age and not just paid staff or their parents is evident. One of the youth described the program as, "A place for people to get away from stress and home life and to be with people your own age."

Several of the youth from the advisory board have said what this program means to them and have asked I share their opinions with you. One said, "It would help our future so instead of being a high school dropout and not having a life, I could learn to stay in school and go somewhere in life." Another said, "It's a place to get away. It's a place for kids to go and learn new things and to further develop old things." As can be seen by these quotes the youth find it important to finish school and further their knowledge.

The youth from the advisory board meetings have outlined services they feel are vital to their future development. These include classes on job skill development, resume building, computers, financial management, other languages, filing taxes, cooking, ACT preparation, and smoking cessation. More importantly these youth have also identified a need to learn "how to get hope," and cope with depression and anxiety. In addition they have acknowledged the need for awareness education on drugs, alcohol, sexual education, and mentoring programs.

As can be seen there are many services which can take place at one hub. Fraser and Youthworks have taken a stand in the community and will develop this program. There are many supporters from the Fargo Moorhead community which is evident in the letter dated September 15, 2008 which Sandra Leyland previously sent to you.

I thank you for the time and want to close with a quote from one of the youth, "I think you should consider helping out this center because it is a great place for people to come and learn things and to get kids off the streets faster."

Testimony

House Bill No. 1044

Human Service Committee

Representative Robin Weisz, Chair

January 13, 2009

Representative Weisz and members of the Human Service Committee, I am Kimberly Zeeb, with Fraser, Ltd., Fargo. I had the pleasure of speaking to you previously regarding at risk youth transitioning from adolescence to adulthood. I am here before you, again, today to emphasize the services transition age youth require in our state. Fraser's Executive Director, Sandra Leyland, sent the committee members a letter dated December 28, 2008, along with a CD, detailing why this population is in dire straits. The data collected regarding the struggles transition age youth undertake speaks volumes as to why the services available for them must be collaborated to form a transition to independence program. This point of entry will allow them a multitude of services with convenient access.

Youth and young adults in our state having a mental illness are at-risk of not succeeding when they become adults if they do not receive help early on. They are confused and do not know where to turn and find themselves at a cross roads as they inch into adulthood. If they do not have the skills to move forward they drop off the radar. They drop out of school, turn to drugs and alcohol, are homeless, and end their lives. Mental illness can find anyone. A child as young

as three can be diagnosed with one or more disorders and will grow up with a diagnosis and hopefully learn to live life with it. Managing mental illness is just the beginning and when you can't see the light at the end of the tunnel then there is just hopelessness.

All across our nation transition age youth are falling through the cracks of our society and North Dakota is no exception. On a national level, there are more than two million transition age youth that have a serious mental illness. In 2006, 186,000 young adults received disability benefits because their mental illness was severe enough that they could not sustain a job. They are three times more likely to be involved in criminal activity than a youth without an illness. If you were to visit a local jail you would find that roughly sixty-four percent of young adults have a mental health problem and seventy percent of youth involved in the juvenile justice system have at least one mental health disorder. During the year 2007; 5,757 juveniles committed a crime in North Dakota; Cass County alone had 2,665 juvenile offenses in 2007. This is up slightly from the previous year. What if we could reach them before they were in crisis? Before they committed a crime? Before they turned to drugs and alcohol? What if they had a place to go to begin to understand that they are able to live with a mental illness and still succeed in life? When you lack the skills necessary to move forward, how do you even know where to begin to access all the services around you? A transition to independence program will give youth and young adults with mental illness a start down the right path.

Several states have recognized the need for services and have taken action for transition age youth with mental health issues: Florida, Connecticut, Oklahoma, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey Georgia, Vermont, and Minnesota. This is the time to for our state to take action and provide a transition to independence program for youth and young adults with mental illness.

Thank you for your time and consideration of House Bill No. 1044.

Kimberly Zeeb, LSW

January 13, 2009

Testimony
House Bill No. 1044
Human Service Committee
Representative Robin Weisz, Chair

Representative Weisz and members of the Human Service Committee, I am Erin Prochnow, Executive Director of the YWCA Cass Clay. The YWCA Cass Clay manages the largest homeless shelter for women and children in the state of North Dakota. The need to address homelessness in our community and state is evident. There has been much discussion recently in our community regarding the current homeless population, and the unfortunate reality is that the numbers are still increasing. Our shelter numbers are reflective of this reality. In 2007, a record 1,457 women and children sought a safe haven at the YWCA Shelter. Again in 2008, we served over 1,400 women and children. In 2008, nearly 59% of the families we served indicated they became homeless because of a domestic violence situation.

We, at the YWCA Cass Clay, have firsthand knowledge that teenagers run away for a variety of reasons. There are limited resources in addressing their needs. They are children and we must provide a safe place where they can learn life skills and access supportive services.

We see evidence of teen homelessness as youth and abused teens approach our facility seeking a safe haven, often escaping the homes of abusive relatives. By law, we must report those situations to Child Protective Services (CPS). The teens realize quickly that we must report their case to CPS and often leave our facility to guarantee they are not returned to that abusive environment, often their own home. The adolescents seeking our services are simply dreaming of a better, brighter future. Of course, we comply with our legal obligations, but feel there is more that should and needs to be done on behalf of the youth who are simply not being cared for in a way to foster growth and development.

- A collaborative group of stakeholders from the Cass and Clay communities have been gathered by Youthworks and Fraser to address this issue. The group, guided by those two agencies, has started a conversation about a youth center for runaway teens. The YWCA Cass Clay is gladly and willingly taking part in this conversation.

Youthworks is known for specializing in caring for at-risk youth. Fraser has the space available and is conveniently located near our emergency shelter. The convenient location and similar purpose lends itself to future collaborative partnerships. The YWCA Emergency Shelter is equipped with the ability to collaborate and deliver services. For instance, the YWCA Emergency Shelter has a parent education specialist on staff that could work with pregnant teens. This is one example of how future collaborative work may take place.

The YWCA shelter addresses the physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual needs of the women and children who stay at the shelter. By providing a safe place to stay and supportive services, the YWCA shelter staff and programs help women finish high school or college, engage in counseling, deal with their addictions, leave an abusive relationship, receive guidance on managing their financial situations (debt), and increase their self esteem, courage and hope as they rebuild their lives. Without this option of safe emergency shelter, many simply have no other place to go for help. We can only imagine the challenges facing teens in a homeless situation.

There is a need for a homeless youth structure in our community. Youthworks and Fraser have built a team of stakeholders addressing a variety of concerns and challenges. Their approach, in our view, has been open and inclusive. We look forward to working with them on addressing the issue of homeless youth.

HB 1044
[Signature]
Pietsch, Vonnie A.

From: Sandra Leyland [sleyland@fraserltd.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2009 3:36 PM
To: Weisz, Robin L.; Conklin, Tom; Conrad, Kari L.; Damschen, Charles D.; Hofstad, Curt L.; Holman, Richard G.; Kilichowski, Robert J.; Kreidt, Gary L.; Nathe, Mike R.; Pietsch, Vonnie A.; Porter, Todd K.; Potter, Louise S.; Uglem, Gerald P.
Cc: NDLA, Intern 09; Mathern, Tim
Subject: HB 1044 - Budget for Stepping Stones
Attachments: Stepping Stones Budget.pdf (1)

Chairman Weisz & members of the Human Service Committee;

I am Sandra Leyland, Executive Director for Fraser Ltd. in Fargo, North Dakota. I have previously submitted testimony in support of a transition to independence program for our state.

Due to the extreme cold and weather conditions Fraser staff and a student ready to testify were unable to travel to Bismarck on Tuesday January 13th for the hearing on HB 1044. I understand from those in attendance there were questions regarding a budget for the transition to independence program proposed by Fraser & Youthworks of Fargo. Hopefully you did receive testimony emailed in support of HB 1044. We were not comfortable forwarding a budget with no one present to support it.

Attached is a Stepping Stones summary budget for your review. A detailed budget is also available. As I indicated in my previous email to Chairman Weisz we would be happy to present that budget at your convenience.

Brief summary of the proposed program:

The Stepping Stones project is a joint venture between Fargo based Youthworks and Fraser Ltd. The project will emulate two successful and proven service models for transition age youth and those gearing up for transition. The focus is on prevention and current needs respectively. A physical presence in the community is utilized to assist youth in developing self esteem, ownership, accountability, training and for safety purposes. By collaborating with community businesses and partnering with an existing service the project is cost effective. Our budget of \$430,072 is in line if not less than those of similar size programs around the United States. This project can be easily replicated in different regions of our state. We are planning to work with an independent entity to gather statistical data to support outcomes of the program.

Human Resources:

Staffing requirements will vary as the program grows. Initial costs will cover the actual salaries and fringe benefits for a skeleton crew to begin implementing services. Our budget revenue is not guaranteed. It is dependant on our request to you for \$250,000, and the balance from grant requests. Any excess or reserve funding appearing is purely dependant on all requests being granted.

We are asking the State of North Dakota to fund payroll expenses (\$250,000) so the risk of service interruption for the youth is diminished.

It is essential given the complexity surrounding youth with mental health issues that we employ high quality, top performing individuals along with collaborative efforts with licensed, existing service providers. This combination helps us maintain quality standards. It also increases the likelihood of receiving private and foundation money.

Significant Progress:

The past few months have been spent soliciting donations. We feel progress is being made and we are comfortable with the rate of progress.

1. There are in-kind donations of paint & supplies for the renovation of the existing space.
 2. Small appliances required to support nutrition and food services have been donated.
 3. Twelve used computers have been purchased from state surplus.
- Furnishings and TV's continue to come in.

A family forum has been developed in coordination with Fraser's website and should be available for family support by end of the month. Funding for this was provided by Dakota Medical Foundation.

6. Three Youth Advisory meetings have been held with the targeted population to establish rules and outcomes for those participating in the program. Average participation at the board meetings is 15 to 20 youth, along with volunteers to coordinate the session.

7. Approximately \$130,000 has been raised to support the project. Two foundations have indicated support and we have two contacts with foundations left to make.

We appreciate your time to date and respectfully request an opportunity to answer questions regarding our budget.

Thank you.

Sandra Leyland, Executive Director Fraser Ltd.

Fraser Ltd.
Stepping Stones Program
Budget Proposal

	2009	Change	2010
Total Revenue	684,975	10.8%	759,294
Total Payroll Expenses	243,271	35.7%	330,162
Total Operational Expenses	82,301	1.0%	83,147
Perishable Food (\$1/youth/day)	26,000	2.0%	26,520
Total Facilities for Start-up	78,500	-100.0%	0
Total All Expenses	430,072	2.3%	439,829
Excess (Reserve)	254,903	25.3%	319,465

Testimony

House Bill #1044

Human Services Committee

Representative Robin Weisz, Chair

January 20, 2009

Senator Weisz & members of the Human Services Committee,

I am Sandra Leyland, Executive Director of Fraser, Ltd., in Fargo.

I am here in support of HB 1044, specifically a transition to independence program for youth at risk.

Thank you for allowing me to appear before you today.

Youthworks & Fraser, Ltd. of Fargo have collaborated to provide a service to youth and young adults with emotional and mental health needs. The young adult model proposed is Transition to Independence (TIP) and is a proven model. It was chosen for our community after reviewing fourteen transitions to independence programs nation wide. This review was conducted by University of Mary graduate students and presented to Fraser, Ltd., staff in the fall of 2008. The TIP model is an evidence-based approach. It is also known as a "promising practice" approach of rules and principles.

The physical presence of a site in the community assists youth in developing self esteem, ownership, accountability and provides a safe environment. It will allow us to gather data vital to the continued success of the program and youth utilizing the project. It provides a means to identify those at risk of homelessness, dropping out of school and suicide. Partnering with community businesses and collaboration with an existing program makes the project cost effective. The \$430,072 budget is in line if not less than those of similar size programs around the United States. A business plan has also

been developed by University of Mary students and with some adjustments will be a valuable tool at our disposal.

In the previous months we have made significant progress in soliciting support. In-kind donations of materials, small appliances, computers, and furnishings have been obtained. A family forum website is being developed in coordination with our Fraser, Ltd. web-site and should be functional by the end of January. Funding for the forum was provided by donors, Fraser, Ltd. employee donations, and matched by the Dakota Medical Foundation. Youth Advisory Committee meetings are in progress, with an average attendance of 15 to 20 young adults along with volunteers. They have begun establishing rules and policies for the Center they re-named *Stepping Stones*. In addition we have raised approximately \$131,000 to support the project from private donors and are currently meeting with foundations to make grant requests.

We would appreciate your support for this project. Your financial support shows other potential donors the need to support the at risk population in our state. It also supplies a much needed consistency to the revenue stream.

Attached is a proposed budget for your review. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding it.

Thank you again for your time today and your consideration.

Fraser Ltd.
Stepping Stones Program
Budget Proposal

	2009	Change	2010
Revenues			
City of Fargo	45,000	0.0%	45,000
State Legislative Request	250,000	2.0%	255,000
Americorp	62,775	100.0%	125,550
United Way of Cass Clay	1,000	2.0%	1,020
Private Grants	200,000	2.0%	204,000
Support from Public	125,000	2.0%	127,500
Fundraiser	1,200	2.0%	1,224
Total Revenue	684,975	10.8%	759,294
Expenditures			0
Center Director	45,000	2.0%	45,900
Administrative Allocation	8,700	2.0%	8,874
Americorp \$13,950/participant	83,700	100.0%	167,400
PT Frontline Staff (4)	41,600	2.0%	42,432
Social Worker	35,000	2.0%	35,700
Benefits (33%)	29,271	2.0%	29,856
Total Payroll Expenses	243,271	35.7%	330,162
Professional Fees	1,000	2.0%	1,020
Supplies	10,000	2.0%	10,200
Telecommunications	101	2.0%	103
Postage	1,000	2.0%	1,020
Occupancy (Rent @ \$10/SF)	40,000	0.0%	40,000
Equipment Maintenance	1,500	2.0%	1,530
Property Maintenance	1,500	2.0%	1,530
Printing and Publications	1,000	2.0%	1,020
Training and Conferences	2,000	2.0%	2,040
Other Travel	1,000	2.0%	1,020
Direct Assistance to Individuals	5,000	2.0%	5,100
Equipment Purchases-Computers	5,000	2.0%	5,100
Marketing	1,500	2.0%	1,530
Transportation	500	2.0%	510
Taxes	4,000	2.0%	4,080
Utilities	7,200	2.0%	7,344
Total Operational Expenses	82,301	1.0%	83,147
Perishable Food (\$1/youth/day)	26,000	2.0%	26,520
Facilities			
Construction of Restrooms	64,900	-100.0%	0
Construction of NE Corner Room	2,500	-100.0%	0
Construction of Center Room	1,100	-100.0%	0
Furniture	2,000	-100.0%	0
Appliances	0		0
Plumbing	8,000	-100.0%	0
Total Facilities for Start-up	78,500	-100.0%	0
Total All Expenses	430,072	2.3%	439,829
Excess (Reserve)	254,903	25.3%	319,465

Madame. Chairman, members of the committee:

For the record, my name is Sheila Sandness and I am a Fiscal Analyst for the Legislative Council. I am here to present information on House Bill 1044 relating to the development of a program for services to transition-aged youth at risk. I appear neither for nor against the bill, but just to provide information and answer any questions you may have.

The 2007 Legislative Assembly, in Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4005 (2007) directed a study of the feasibility and desirability of establishing a transition to independence program for young adults with mental illness. The Long Term Care Committee was assigned this study. The Long Term Care Committee's findings and recommendation can be found on pages 277-281 of the "Report of the North Dakota Legislative Council".

The committee recommended House Bill No. 1044 that directed the Department of Human Services to develop or contract for a program for services to transition-aged youth at risk. The bill identifies services to be a part of the program, including individualized assessments, coordinated services, self-advocacy training, vocational rehabilitation, in-home support, and independent living skills training. The bill originally provided for a transition-aged youth at risk pilot project and an appropriation of \$700,000 from the general fund for the program and the pilot project. The pilot project and appropriation were removed by the House Human Services Committee.

**Testimony
House Bill 1044
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman
March 9, 2009**

Chairman Lee and members of the Committee: my name is Carlotta McCleary. I am the Executive Director of ND Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health (NDFFCMH). NDFFCMH is a parent run advocacy organization that focuses on the needs of children and youth with emotional, behavioral and mental disorders and their families, from birth through transition to adulthood.

House Bill 1044 deals with a statewide systemic approach to coordination of transition services for youth transitioning to adulthood. It looks at coordination of needed services at the individual youth and family level. HB 1044 also includes coordination of the services provided by different agencies at the regional and state level. This will help to address the systemic issues that impact youth transitioning to adulthood.

NDFFCMH would like to see more coordination and collaboration between the various system providers to ensure a seamless transition for youth transitioning to adulthood.

NDFFCMH would like to see the Wraparound process used to meet the need for coordination and collaboration between the various system providers. North Dakota has had success in using Wraparound as a method to better coordinate service delivery for children, youth and their families in child welfare as well as Partnerships.

Wraparound is a planning **process** that follows a series of steps to help youth and their families realize their hopes and dreams. It is a planning process that brings people together from the youth and family's life. The youth and family team consist of individuals agreed upon by the youth and family and committed to them through informal, formal and community support and service relationships. A facilitator assists the youth and family team to coordinate the supports that are necessary to meet the unique needs of the youth and family. I have attached some additional information about Wraparound in *Attachment A*.

NDFFCMH would also like to see coordination and collaboration at the state and local levels. In addition to youth and family teams that focus their attention on individual youth and family's

needs there is a need for local/regional and state teams to coordinate the systemic issues that impact youth and their families. Youth and their families must have a voice in policy that impacts them at all levels of the process.

NDFFCMH would like to see core elements moved forward for youth in transition. These elements are contained in *Attachment B*.

There are some great things happening in North Dakota for youth in transition. We must build upon what is currently working and the resources we currently have. Through the youth and family teams, local/regional and state teams we must also identify the gaps and develop new support where it is needed and the resources to support youth in transition.

Thank you for your time.

Carlotta McCleary, Executive Director
ND Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
PO Box 3061
Bismarck, ND 58502

Phone/fax: (701) 222-3310
Email: carlottamccleary@bis.midco.net

Testimony
House Bill 1044
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman
March 9, 2009

Chairman Lee and members of the Committee: my name is Randy Solem. I am the Chair of the North Dakota Mental Health Planning Council (NDMHPC). NDMHPC members are appointed by the Governor of North Dakota. Council's Objective is to receive federal funds designated for mental health services and to monitor, review, and evaluate the allocation and adequacy of mental health services in the state. The NDMHPC has a focus and vision on mental health wellness and recovery that is consumer and family driven.

Perspectives on North Dakota's System for Mental Health Care

"Addressing the emotional and behavioral needs of children and youth is a shared responsibility between public agencies, private providers, and families. While the mission of families is generally consistent across families, it is generally not consistent across public and private agencies/providers, even when the bottom line is the emotional and behavioral health and well being of children and youth. The varying missions tend to produce different terms and meanings, eligibility criteria and procedures, and program focus. Given the growing complexity of needs and the realization that these needs cannot be met by any one group in isolation from others, it is imperative that providers and families begin to build a shared understanding and common language". (Source: Draft of the Emotional Disorders Guidance Manual- Introduction Section)

As documented in North Dakota's Block Grant application, the wraparound process, which uses a strength-based approach to service delivery, is a method used that has "shown to improve the functioning of children who have complex needs. The process is used to help communities develop individualized plans of care. Working with the family, formal and natural supports (the child and family team) are wrapped around the family to provide them with the services/supports required to meet their needs. The wraparound process includes a set of core elements: 1) individualized plans of care, 2) culturally competent and tailored to the unique needs of families, 3) parental involvement, 4) strength-based, 5) least restrictive setting."

The mental health system is often times driven by the funding available rather than by need. In a consumer and family driven system, individuals' and families' needs drive the policies and service delivery system. Choice leads to greater participation and higher consumer satisfaction with services.

Therefore the NDMHPC believes the use of the wraparound process to coordinate transition services provided by different agencies will improve the transition outcomes for transition age youth. The NDMHPC urges you to support House Bill 1044.

The NDMHPC authored three White Papers, as well as related Talking Points, to share their position and philosophy regarding three of the New Freedom Commission Goals. These are statements from NDMHPC white papers. Here is the link to the MHPC White Papers:

<http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/mentalhealth/ndmhpc/papers.html>

Thank you.

**Testimony
House Bill 1044**

**Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman**

March 9, 2009

Madam Chair and members of the Human Services Committee, my name is Susan Rae Helgeland and I am Executive Director of Mental Health America of ND (MHAND). The mission of our organization is: *To promote mental health through education, advocacy, understanding and access to quality care for all individuals.*



I am here today on behalf of the MHAND board of directors to support House Bill 1044. This bill will address a much needed statewide systemic approach to the coordination of services for youth transitioning to adulthood. It will accomplish an intentional coordination of needed services at both the individual youth and family level.

Youth and their family members must have a voice in development of policy that affects them at all levels. In addition to youth and family teams there is a need for local/regional and state teams to coordinate the services.

MHAND feels that the bill will utilize existing resources to reach the youth and family members related to specific attention to the needs of transitional aged youth.



Testimony
House Bill 1044 –Program for Transition-aged Youth at Risk
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman
March 9, 2009

Chairman Lee, members of the Senate Human Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in favor of HB 1044. I am Janet Sabol from Minot. I have volunteered for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) in the local affiliate and statewide for over 10 years serving as the state coordinator, state president and current spokesperson.

Developing a program for transition-aged youth is necessary and well overdue.

These youth who have either been in foster care, juvenile justice or have serious mental illnesses are left on their own to navigate the various systems of care once they reach 18 years of age. The reality is that many of them drop out of “the system” that is meant to help them because:

- *They are adults and must make the contacts themselves and many times have no adult to help them.

- *In many situations, the individual is not capable of setting up appointments, filling out forms and doing all that is required to receive services.

*Some individuals feel that they don't require the services for mental illness. That it was the system that was imposed on them due to their age.

*The diagnosis may prevent them from having the insight to seek mental health assistance. They don't believe they're ill and won't get help.

Here's an example of what happened when a youth from Minot turned 18 and made the decision not to continue to seek services for serious mental illness. At age 16 he was diagnosed with schizophrenia and hospitalized for various amounts of time in Minot, Grand Forks, and Bismarck. He then was brought into the juvenile justice system at age 17 and sent to the State Hospital for evaluation and treatment. A second diagnosis of obsessive-compulsive disorder was added. He remained there until a few months before his 18th birthday when he was discharged even though symptoms of the illnesses were not under control. It was his decision at age 18 not to have anything to do with the mental health system. Shortly after, he was charged with terrorizing as he came towards an officer in the Police Dept. parking lot. This is only one example of hundreds of at-risk youth in the state of North Dakota. Developing a program for these youth-at-risk will prevent serious consequences and costs in the future.

Thank you for your time and support of HB1044. I would be willing to answer any questions you or the committee members may have.

March 8, 2009

Chairman Lee and members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is May Riley and I am from Fargo ND.

I am writing to support HB 1044 which would help my daughter Christina who has a disability. Christina has been in Foster Care for 3 years now.

I support this bill, for the bill would help Christina because she has a mental illness which leads to suicidal tendencies.

A program of this type would help my daughter transition to either living on her own or with minimal supervision.

I am glad that an individualized assessment to determine the needs of each person is included in this bill.

Thank you for your time.

May A. Riley

2535 14th Street S. #105

Fargo ND 58103

701-793-1356

TESTIMONY – PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY PROJECT

BILL 1044 (2009)

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Honorable Judy Lee, Chairman

March 9, 2009

Chairman Lee, and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Bruce Murry, a lawyer with the North Dakota Protection and Advocacy Project (P&A). P&A recommends HB 1044 for your favorable consideration.

HB 1044 leverages existing resources to help youth at risk become successful adults. The overall strategy of the bill is that of quilt work. The current service programs provide most of the cloth. This proposal stitches those pieces together to fit some youth at risk of a bad transition into adulthood.

This bill uses a number of terms defined within the Department of Human Services. These summaries reflect this advocate's understanding of those terms – open to clarification by the Department.

Wraparound: An individualized, team-driven process to blend formal services with the existing strengths of the child and family, in the least intrusive manner. The focus is careful planning with ongoing review, not new service infrastructure. Any services provided aim to nurture what is missing in a youth's ability to live successfully and independently. The services let be what is working for the youth.

Vocational Rehabilitation: Consultation, training, equipment, and other services to help a person with disabilities obtain meaningful, rewarding employment and retain or advance in such employment.

Single Plan of Care: Both a computerized tool within the Department to manage Wraparound services and a philosophy that individuals need a comprehensive plan to avoid duplicated, conflicting, or unproductive activities or services.

Development of a curriculum on independent living should allow local schools and social service agencies ensure that common sense is in fact common to youth at risk. Current efforts are sometimes a bit haphazard or not individualized enough, anecdotally. Current stretched resources do not allow enough self-evaluation, comparison and adjustment to achieve thorough quality control and improvement.

Thank you for your attention and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Testimony

House Bill No. 1044

Human Service Committee

Senator Judy Lee

March 9, 2009

Senator Judy Lee and members of the Human Service Committee, I am Kimberly Zeeb, with Fraser, Ltd., Fargo. I am here today to emphasize the services transition age youth require in our state. The struggles they undertake speak volumes as to why the services available for them must be collaborated to form a transition to independence program. This single point of entry will allow them a multitude of services that are developmentally appropriate yet with convenient access.

Fraser, Ltd. has a strong history and knowledge of transition age youth. Our summer program, the Skill Enhancement Training program, has been operating since 2004. It is a community based program for twelve to twenty-one year olds with mental illness or emotional disabilities that offers therapeutic support options for the participants. Although this program is successful, the participants can fall backwards without continued support after the program ends in August.

Youth in our state who have a mental illness are at-risk of not succeeding when they become adults if they do not receive help early on. They are confused and do not know where to turn and find themselves at a cross roads when they inch into adulthood. If they do not have the skills to move forward they drop off the radar. They drop out of school, commit a crime, turn to drugs and alcohol, become homeless, and some even end their lives. Fifteen to nineteen year olds account for 32% of suicide attempts and have the highest hospitalization attempt rate in our state.

Mental illness can find anyone. It does not know race, gender, age, location or income. A child as young as three can be diagnosed with one or more disorders and will grow up with a diagnosis and hopefully learn to live life with it. Ninety-five percent of North Dakota has a shortage of mental health professionals. A major challenge is the lack of

treatment facilities in the state. Managing mental illness is just the beginning but when you can't see the light at the end of the tunnel then there is just hopelessness.

All across our nation transition age youth are falling through the cracks of our society and North Dakota is no exception. On a national level, there are more than two million transition age youth who have a serious mental illness. In 2006, 186,000 young adults received disability benefits because their mental illness was severe enough that they could not sustain a job. They are three times more likely to be involved in criminal activity than a youth without a mental illness. If you were to visit a local jail you would find that roughly sixty-four percent of young adults have a mental health problem and seventy percent of youth involved in the juvenile justice system have at least one mental health disorder. During the year 2007, 5,757 juveniles committed a crime in North Dakota; Cass County alone had 2,665 juvenile offenses in 2007. This is up slightly from the previous year.

What if we could reach them before they were in crisis? Before they committed a crime? Before they turned to drugs and alcohol? What if they had a place to go to begin to understand that they are able to live with their mental illness and still succeed in life? When you lack the skills necessary to move forward, how do you even know where to begin to access all the services around you? A transition to independence program will give youth and young adults with mental illness a start down the right path.

Several states have recognized the need for services and have taken action for this population: Florida, Connecticut, Oklahoma, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Georgia, Vermont, and Minnesota. All are utilizing a model program, Transition to Independence Process (TIP). In September 2008, University of Mary master of business administration students completed a study of programs for transition age students across the nation. After looking in detail at fourteen different models, the students recommended Fraser, Ltd. use the Transition to Independence Process. This model focuses on employment, education, independent living and community life to guide individuals from adolescence to adulthood.

This is the time for our state to take action and provide a transition to independence program for youth and young adults with mental illness.

Thank you for your time and consideration of House Bill No. 1044.

Kimberly Zeeb, LSW

Testimony

House Bill No. 1044

Human Service Committee

Senator Judy Lee, Chair

9 March 2009

Senator Lee and members of the Human Service Committee, my name is Nathaniel King and I want to talk to you about the need for a program to provide support for youth and young adults. For the past three months I have been meeting with other youth in my community to discuss services that we need. We have decided we want a program to offer us training on financial management, time management, independent living skills, and a sanctuary to go to for help with every day problems.

I am a sixteen year old man and have diagnoses of Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder, Mood Disorder Not Otherwise Specified, Generalized Anxiety Disorder Not Otherwise Specified, and Oppositional Defiant Disorder. I have lived between North Dakota and Minnesota my whole life. As a young child I often threw temper tantrums, needed extra help in school, and did not listen to authority figures. As I got older my mood improved and I established goals for myself. I am now a sophomore in high school and I see a bright future for myself if someone is around to help me achieve my goals and to support me in furthering my education.

I often look at my younger brothers who have similar diagnoses with the addition of Bipolar Disorder. They tend to have problems expressing their feelings and following social norms. For instance, if we are in public they may invite themselves into conversations with other kids when they are not welcomed. They are also known to unintentionally provoke other kids and start fights with them without understanding that they over stepped normal social boundaries. I fear without the proper supports, they may not be accepted into the community. This overwhelms me because I am afraid they will not get jobs, be able to go to college, and nevertheless have a successful and productive future. If they do not learn to abide by the rules of society, they may end up in the judicial system. In the long run it would be more cost effective for the state of

North Dakota to spend money and time helping youth like my brothers learn independent living skills, than to financially support them later in life if they end up in the judicial system.

This program can be used to help youth learn how to advocate for themselves, how to express themselves, and how to create achievable goals. I believe it is better to start with youth and young adults when they are young and it is easier for them to learn and change their faults. In the future this program will create a safer environment and a unified community because the youth on our streets will have a place to go after school to complete constructive projects as well as get help with homework and job skills. Also, the program will create opportunities for youth, like me, to volunteer and give back to the people who have helped me to become a better citizen.

In my eyes, this program allows kids from all backgrounds to come together for a common interest and then we can learn more about each other and rid stereotypes. This program will have open doors and it will be a place for all of us to start over again if we get into trouble. But more importantly, as I look back on my life I hope to see this program as a memorable stepping stone along my path to becoming the best person and doctor I can be.

Thank you for your time and consideration and please take a moment to think about the impact you could have on my future and other youth like me.

Testimony

House Bill #1044

Human Services Committee

Senator Judy Lee, Chair

March 9, 2009

Senator Lee & members of the Human Services Committee,

I am Sandra Leyland, Executive Director of Fraser Ltd., in Fargo.

I am here in support of HB 1044, specifically a transition to independence program for youth at risk.

Thank you for hearing my testimony on this very important issue.

Fraser, Ltd. has been reviewing the needs of youth at risk since the inception of our Skill

Enhancement Training (SET) program in 2004. Our focus of the past five years has been to determine the transition needs of youth with emotional illness and/or mental health diagnosis. During our review we uncovered many good statewide programs for youth and a tremendous number of dedicated professionals indicated this population was falling through the cracks of services in our state. It was also very clear there was not a consistent coordinated service to bring these individuals from the children's service system to the adult service model. Not only did we find this to be true in our region and state but the issue of transitioning between children and adult service models was being reviewed at a national level.

As an extension of our SET program Fraser, Ltd. began working with Youthworks of Fargo. We have partnered to provide a service to youth and young adults in one location called *Stepping Stones*; a safe haven which will address the issues of needed therapies, homelessness, street outreach, along with skill development areas such as: money management, employment training, representative payee services, and other necessary trainings for young adults to be successful. The model proposed

is a Transition to Independence (TIP) process and is a proven model. Once hired *Stepping Stones* staff will receive training on this process. TIP was chosen for our community after reviewing fourteen transitions to independence programs nation wide. This review was conducted by University of Mary graduate students and presented to Fraser, Ltd., staff in the fall of 2008. The TIP model is an evidence-based approach. It is also known as a "promising practice" approach of rules and principles.

The physical presence of a site in the community assists youth in developing self esteem, ownership, accountability and provides a safe environment. It will allow *Stepping Stones* management to gather data vital to the success of the youth utilizing the project and the program itself. It provides a means to identify those at risk of homelessness, dropping out of school, and suicide. Partnering with community businesses and collaboration with an existing program makes the project cost effective.

The proposed \$430,072 budget for *Stepping Stones* is being reworked on a daily basis as in kind donations eliminate the need to purchase items for the center. The \$430,072 represents similar size programs around the United States. As we continue to meet with youth involved, donors and foundations we are able to reduce this amount significantly. Currently our need is for \$292,000 to cover essential needs such as; food for youth, rent, repairs, taxes and utilities, salaries, and technology costs for students to complete homework and build tech skills on the computer. That is a reduction of \$138,072 from our original request for *Stepping Stones*. A business plan has also been developed by University of Mary students and with some adjustments will be a valuable tool at our disposal.

In the previous months we have made significant progress in soliciting support. In-kind donations of materials, small appliances, computers, & furnishings have been obtained. A family forum website is being developed in coordination with our Fraser Web-site and should be functional by spring 2009. Funding for the forum was provided by private donors, Fraser, Ltd. employee donations and matched

by the Dakota Medical Foundation. Youth Advisory Committee meetings are in progress, with an average attendance of 15 to 20 young adults along with volunteers. They have begun establishing rules and policies for the Center they re-named *Stepping Stones*. In addition we have raised approximately \$150,000 to support the project from private donors. We are currently meeting with foundations to make grant requests and we are considering other options to sustain the project. A group of Network partners consisting of local businesses and professionals related to youth and mental health issues will meet this month to consider Stepping Stones' sustainability and to strengthen its foundation.

I ask you to amend this bill to include an appropriation of \$600,000 which would allow TWO, possibly three (donations pending) transitions to independence programs across the state to get off the ground as they pursue fundraising efforts. The TIP model is possible to replicate and as stated has shown previous success.

A fiscal note to HB 1044 would show legislative support to potential donors and verify the need to support the at risk population of youth in our state. We **NEED** the support of the North Dakota Legislature. A collaborative effort between donors, private service providers and the state would be a tremendous support to our youth.

Fraser, Ltd. also supports the need to establish a licensing or accreditation component for transition programs and projects in our state.

Thank you again for your time today and your consideration of our testimony.

PILOT PROJECT FOR TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE

GOAL: To build a network of community businesses and organizations that will support a youth and young adult center which provides necessary supports within a trusting environment. This project is currently named the "Stepping Stones".

PARTNERING AGENCIES:

YOUTHWORKS & FRASER, LTD., Fargo & Bismarck, North Dakota

WHO will participate?

A network of community businesses and organizations with vested interest in this population are invited.

- Sharing of resources, while maintaining organization's identity
- Compatible missions
- Statement of purpose in alignment with others
- Formal, legal agreements

WHAT will happen?

We are building an alliance between community organizations and businesses to meet the needs of 14 to 22 year old youth and young adults by establishing a model Center which can be replicated across the state.

- A seamless continuum of services under one roof
- Focus on prevention programs
- Therapies, peer support, mentoring
- Independent living skill development
- Outreach to youth at risk
- Social skill activities
- Service coordination

WHEN will it happen?

The location is available now

- Funding needs to be secured (donors have pledged money)
- Grants are being written
- Recruitment of network partners is in progress
- House Bill No. 1044; a transition to independence program, is being reviewed by the North Dakota House of Representatives Human Service Committee.

WHERE will it happen?

The Center is planned for 2902 South University which is on a busy bus route and easily accessible.

- 4000 square feet with minimal fit up needs
- Commercial kitchen, prep kitchen, restrooms, offices and classrooms available
- Needs include: computer lab, recreational equipment, classroom and program supplies and other items to be determined

CONTACTS: Cheri Gerken
Youthworks 232.8558

Sandra Leyland
Fraser, Ltd. 232.3301



Stepping Stones (aka Circle of Trust) For Transition Age Youth

Fraser, Ltd. Milestones

June 2004 Fraser, Ltd. receives an inquiry regarding services for a young adult with mental health needs & others like her. The Skill Enhancement Training (S.E.T.) program is developed to provide independent living services for youth & young adults (12 – 21 years of age) in an integrated community setting.

June 2006 Two years of fundraising efforts by Fraser, Ltd. staff identify a need for strategic planning for transition age youth. Fraser, Ltd. employees begin interviews with community professionals and organizations regarding unmet needs for youth. Transition Age Youth (TAY) needs were identified without hesitation as one of the biggest populations needing attention.

September 2006 Senator Brown joins Fraser, Ltd.'s Board of Directors and submits a letter to Governor Hoeven for consideration of funding TAY needs in his budget.

December 19, 2006 A meeting is held at Fraser, Ltd. including community leaders of organizations working with TAY. Among those invited and attending are Fargo Public Schools, Cass County Social Services, Protection & Advocacy Project of ND, Dakota Medical Foundation, Southeast Human Service Center, Red River Counseling, PATH, Attentive Mind, Cass County Health, Senator Tim Mathern, former Senator Dick Brown, Prairie St Johns, Mental Health America and United Family Voices.

December 26, 2006 Senator Mathern drafts a resolution identifying the need for a program to support youth in transitioning from children's services into the adult service system. The draft is cosponsored by Senators Fischer, Lee & Representatives Ekstrom, Schneider & Hawkins.

January 2007 Testimonies begin on the draft for consideration of a concurrent senate resolution 4005.

April 2007 Testimony delivered by U of M professor regarding outcomes of research on TAY in ND. Senate Concurrent Resolution 4005 is passed for study during 2007/2008.

July 2008 Meetings begin between Fraser, Ltd., and Youthworks of Fargo. Joint meetings are held in upcoming months with community organizations involved with Youthworks in developing a drop in Center for at risk youth. Fraser, Ltd. staff attend a meeting and continue working with the group to bring the concept of a Center to awareness in the community and legislature.

August 2008 University of Mary Students complete study on the TIP model for consideration of implanting into the center. First contact is made with potential private donors for the project.

September 2008. Testimonies on behalf of resolution 4005 continue and it is passed to the house as an interim committee bill to be heard in 2009. A letter from Fargo business supporters accompanies the written testimony delivered by Fraser employees and University of Mary students.

October 2008 A city of Fargo CDBG grant is submitted by Fraser with a letter of support from Youthworks to make changes to the physical space proposed for the center at 2902 South University. Second contact is made with potential private donors. Efforts begin to develop formal partnerships with business participants and planning for the center begins.

November 2008 Youth meet for the first time to develop a youth advisory board. The youth renamed Circle of Trust to Stepping Stones. Planning efforts continue and donations begin to come in. Additional contacts are made to area foundations for funding.

December 2008 Efforts to raise awareness of the needs for TAY continue through letters to legislators, contacts with donors and foundations. The University of Mary Bismarck students complete their projects, including a proposed business plan for the program.

January 2009 Resolution 4005 is scheduled for review as **HOUSE BILL NO. 1044**.

February 2009 House Bill No. 1044 passed the House and is in the Senate.

Testimony

House Bill No. 1044

Human Service Committee

Senator Judy Lee, Chair

9 March 2009

Senator Lee and members of the Human Service Committee, my name is Kelsey Stoos and I have worked with transitional age youth for the past three and a half years. This population is near to my personal and professional life.

I have worked with a family of three boys for the past several years and I find time and time again, they do not know how to relate to other youth. They may be of a certain chronological age; however, their mental age is not up to par with that of their peers. Unfortunately this means that they are not only avoided by their peers, but they are also assumed to understand concepts and procedures which their peers comprehend. Many of the youth I have talked with do not know how to sustain a job, open a bank account, or even apply for a job or college. There may be state funded programs for them to utilize; however, many of them do not know how to access these funds and services.

I have been asked if the program Fraser is working on is voluntary, and that answer is yes. That question is often followed by, "then how do you expect to keep the youth there?" We feel by having the youth at the front end of the decision making process for the program, they will want to be present. Hence, we developed a Youth Advisory Board. In addition to facilitating these board meetings I am a member of the Region V Transition Committee as well as the Homeless Youth Steering Committee. All three of these committees are joined for the same reason: overcoming the barriers to support transitional age youth in our community.

In my opinion, there are a couple of reasons why these services should take place at a common hub. For one, the youth have stated they want a safe place to go to for answers. Many of these youth have been abused by adults, thus find it difficult to trust people. If we can establish a therapeutic relationship and bring the services to them, hopefully they will get the help they

deserve as well as learn to trust again. Another reason for a central hub is for the youth to see one another. If they see other youth have the same issues and concerns as they do, then they feel less anxious and can band together to overcome the turmoil. In addition, over the years I have seen several youth go through human service agencies while bonding with their front-line staff. One ramification of the youth bonding with their staff is their lack of skills to communicate and bond with others the same age. I work with several youth who do not know how to socialize with other youth their age. Even though socializing is not a goal or focus of this program, it would most likely be an outcome. The need for these youth to be with people their own age and not just paid staff or their parents is evident. One of the youth described the program as, "A place for people to get away from stress and home life and to be with people your own age."

Several of the youth from the advisory board have said what this program means to them and have asked I share their opinions with you. One said, "It would help our future so instead of being a high school dropout and not having a life, I could learn to stay in school and go somewhere in life." Another said, "It's a place to get away. It's a place for kids to go and learn new things and to further develop old things." As can be seen by these quotes the youth find it important to finish school and further their knowledge.

The youth from the advisory board meetings have outlined services they feel are vital to their future development. These include classes on job skill development, resume building, computers, financial management, other languages, filing taxes, cooking, ACT preparation, and smoking cessation. More importantly these youth have also identified a need to learn "how to get hope," and cope with depression and anxiety. In addition they have acknowledged the need for awareness education on drugs, alcohol, sexual education, and mentoring programs.

As can be seen there are many services which can take place at one hub. Fraser and Youthworks have taken a stand in the community and will develop this program. There are many supporters from the Fargo Moorhead community which is evident in the letter dated September 15th 2008.



I thank you for the time and want to close with a quote from one of the youth, "I think you should consider helping out this center because it is a great place for people to come and learn things and to get kids off the streets faster."



District Administration

3/9/2009



415 4th Street North
Fargo, ND 58102-4514
701.446.1000
Fax: 701.446.1200
www.fargo.k12.nd.us

Dr. Rick Buresh
Superintendent
701.446.1005

Mr. Dan Huffman
Assistant Superintendent,
Business Services
701.446.1027

Dr. Robert Grosz
Assistant Superintendent,
Instruction
701.446.1010

Mrs. Nancy Jordheim
Assistant Superintendent,
Human Resources
701.446.1038

Mr. Lowell Wolff, APR
Assistant to the
Superintendent,
Communications & Planning
701.446.1043

RE: House Bill #1044/Senate Resolution #4005

Senator Judy Lee:

Fargo Public Schools is very interested House Bill #1044 which provides a new program for transition-aged youth, ages 16 – 21 who are at risk. The students who are represented in HB 1044 are those who are most at-risk for poor outcomes including dropping out of school, poor mental health and juvenile delinquency.

Members of the Fargo Schools' staff often work with local social services, youth court, public health and juvenile services staff. The case management component is a key to providing effective services. I'm pleased that coordination is a requirement of HB 1044. We've found that coordination and sharing resources provides the best outcome. Anything the Fargo School District can do to help students succeed, in spite of the obstacles they face in their lives, I will support.

One of this district's seven goals for each student is "Life Skills - Students will have the life skills necessary to effectively meet the demands of everyday life." The Board of Education believes that all students can learn, and that physical, emotional and psychological safety is a fundamental need.

We have had several employees involved in the *Unaccompanied Minors* project since it was initiated in 2007. If you have any additional questions, please contact Jan Anderson. Jan is the Homeless Liaison and Title I Coordinator for the school district. She can be reached at 701.446.1013 or anderja@fargo.k12.nd.us.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Cordially,

Rick Buresh, Ed.D.

Superintendent – Fargo Public Schools



The Arc of Bismarck

1211 Park Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58504
Phone/Fax: 701-222-1854
arcbis@midconetwork.com
www.thearcofbismarck.org

#9

Testimony of Support

House Bill No. 1044

March 9, 2009

Good morning Chairman Lee and members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Veronica Zietz (#166); I am the Executive Director at The Arc of Bismarck and am here today representing both The Arc of Bismarck and The Arc of Cass County. The Arc is a nonprofit organization focused on providing education, advocacy and supports to children and adults with disabilities to foster empowerment and full inclusion in the community.

I support House Bill No. 1044 because it would implement a very beneficial program for transition-aged youth at risk. Specifically, this would include individuals who have serious mental illness or disabilities, but don't qualify for case management. Often times this group of individuals slip through the cracks in the system; this project addresses the problem, by serving the individuals who do not currently qualify for developmental disabilities services.

Initiatives included in this program will provide much needed services and supports for individuals who have mental illness or disabilities. By determining and coordinating the appropriate services people will be treated as individuals and receive the services that suit them best, and allow them to grow and develop into capable adults.

Another benefit of the program proposed in this bill is the training focused on independent living skills and self-advocacy. Providing training in these areas is very important to individuals with disabilities. It empowers individuals to take control of their own lives, stand up for their rights, and become contributing members of our communities.

I serve as the advisor for The American People Self-Advocacy Association, of Bismarck, and have seen first-hand how important these skills are. For instance, I have witnessed individuals with disabilities speak up and take action when they are being mistreated. I seriously doubt that they would be so confident as to do this if they had not been trained in self-advocacy.

Therefore, the legislation that is being recommended in House Bill No. 1044 would provide much needed programs and services that would benefit many individuals in North Dakota, especially those with disabilities. By endorsing this bill you are giving many young people the tools and supports they need to successfully transition from children to independent adults. Please support House Bill No. 1044.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Testimony
North Dakota Disabilities Advocacy Consortium
HB 1044
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator July Lee, Chairman

Senator Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, my name is James M. Moench, Executive Director of the North Dakota Disabilities Advocacy Consortium (NDDAC). The Consortium is made up of 24 member organizations concerned with addressing the issues that affect people with disabilities. (See attached list of members).

NDDAC supports the establishment of the establishment of a distinct statewide interagency advisory council on transition-aged youth at risk to coordinate the many services for transition-aged youth at risk in North Dakota as currently envisioned in engrossed House Bill 1044.

NDDAC believes that the establishment of the distinct statewide interagency advisory council on transition-aged youth will ensure that services currently available will be "wraparound" the at-risk youth and his or her family. The advisory council can also be valuable in identifying and helping to correct any gaps that may exist in the way North Dakota aids youth at this critical time in their development and quest for independence..

We urge your support of HB 1044

Thank you.

NORTH DAKOTA DISABILITIES ADVOCACY CONSORTIUM

2008-09 Membership

1. AARP
2. American People Self Advocacy Association
3. Autism Society of North Dakota
4. Experience Works, Inc.
5. Fair Housing of the Dakotas
6. Family Voices of North Dakota
7. Independence, Inc.
8. Mental Health America of North Dakota
9. Metro Area Transit – Fargo, ND
10. ND APSE: The Network on Employment
11. ND Association for the Disabled
12. ND Association of Community Facilities
13. ND Association of the Blind
14. ND Association of the Deaf
15. ND Center for Persons with Disabilities
16. ND Children's Caucus
17. ND Consumer & Family Network
18. ND Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
19. ND IPAT Consumer Advisory Committee
20. Protection & Advocacy Project
21. Senior Health Insurance Counseling/Prescription Connection
22. The Arc of Bismarck
23. The Arc of Cass County
24. The Arc of North Dakota

HOUSEBILL 1044 (TRANSITION for youth at Risk)

11

MARCH 9, 2009

MADAM CHAIRMAN, and members of the Committee, My name is Joy Jochim from Mandan N.D.

I'm in favor of this bill because we have a seventeen year old son who has an immune deficiency and is going to be in need of these services. He is homebound, takes medicine for the different illnesses that his genetic deficiency causes.

One of the illnesses is POTS SYNDROME which causes hypotension. That is where your blood pressure goes down too low and your heart rate too high (when you are upright) and then you pass out. Shawn is on a heart pill for that. It affects him also by a lack of concentration or trouble concentrating and trouble with memory.

He is also on IV Therapy (given every 28 days) for his deficiency. He has sinus infections, Bronchitis, Stomach problems, migraines, peripheral neuropathy, vitamin D deficiency, autoimmune arthritis, and depression.

Shawn has these needs because of the illness:

- (a) assessments to determine his needs.
- (b) training/mentoring for his healthcare, education, and vocation planning.
- (c) independent living skills
- (d) transition from high school to college, and then to a job

Right now because of his concentration/memory issues I am helping him with his medical needs (giving pills, dispensing pills, making appts. and transporting to all appts.) Helping with his education by tutoring, reading, writing for him. Helping with daily needs, laundry, cooking, getting medicine, making sure he gets exercise, groceries, etc.

These services that are in this Bill will help him get more independent which will also affect his health as he's growing and get him more confident in life.

Testimony
House Bill 1044 – Department of Human Services
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman
March 9, 2009

Senator Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Susan Wagner, LSW, Human Service Program Administrator, with the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services of the Department of Human Services.

On behalf of the Department, I am here to testify about activities related to transition-aged youth.

Historically, multiple systems in North Dakota have worked closely to meet the needs of children, youth, and their families. In 1994, the Division of Mental Health Services was awarded a comprehensive community mental health services grant from the Center for Mental Health Services targeting children and adolescents diagnosed with serious emotional disorders. This grant provided the impetus for a formalized statewide system of care for children. Based on the tenants of the wraparound philosophy, services developed or enhanced through the grant included care coordination, respite care, non-hospital crisis care, school-based day treatment, and intensive in-home therapy. North Dakota has sustained those core services. Key to the children's mental health system of care is a strong partnership with families and the integration of services across systems. The wraparound process is a method shown to improve the functioning of children and youth who have complex needs. The wraparound process includes a set of core elements:

1) individualized plans of care; 2) culturally competent and tailored to the unique needs of families; 3) parental involvement; 4) strength-based; and 5) least restrictive setting. It is recognized that all children and youth that come into contact with the various service systems can benefit from being served using the tenants of the wraparound process.

In addition to care coordination (wraparound) and case management, other services and resources available to youth and young adults through the regional human services include substance abuse assessment and treatment; psychological and psychiatric evaluations; individual, group, and family therapy services; case aide services; flexible funding; crisis residential services; and vocational guidance and counseling.

A process to assist children in the transition from the children's mental health system to the adult mental health system of care is in place. The youth, family members, care coordinators, case managers, and other team members work closely together to make this transition as seamless as possible. To be most effective, this coordinated effort needs to begin six months prior to the youth turning 18.

The Division leads the community-based public mental health system and Department divisions and other systems partners in implementing various mental health transformation activities and evidence-based practices. These include Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Structural Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to Chronic Stress, Integrated Dual Disorder Treatment, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Center for Mental Health Services (SAMHSA) model of Supported Employment pilot project at Southeast Human Service Center, peer support services, Mental Health Consumer and Family Network,

Mental Health Recovery and Social Inclusion Campaign, collaboration with the University System on Science to Services, Workforce Development in conjunction with Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE) Mental Health Program, and development of a statewide, comprehensive prevention framework.

The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is an effort initiated by the Division as of December 1, 2007. The purpose of the Council is to advise the Department and other system partners on issues of concern to North Dakota's youth, especially enforcing underage drinking, transition to adulthood, and overall health and well-being. Youth involved in the following systems are represented on the YAC: mental health, juvenile justice, substance abuse, tribal agencies, foster care, developmental disabilities, vocational rehabilitation, special education, community providers, and community youth groups. Youth not involved in a system of care are recruited and encouraged to join as well. To date, the group identified suicide prevention and substance abuse prevention as the two most important issues affecting our youth. The Council is meeting on March 7 and 8, 2009 to work with CLIMB THEATER from Minnesota for leadership training. Future meetings will focus on these issues and leadership training.

Efforts are underway to add two youth representatives to the Governor-appointed North Dakota Mental Health Planning Council.

In February 2007, the Department submitted an application to the SAMHSA for financial support as part of the New Freedom Initiative: State Coalitions to Promote Community-Based Care. The application was approved and the Division received an award of \$20,000 per year for a

period of three years. A portion of the funding established a Transition Flex Fund. The purpose of the fund is to assist youth ages 17-21, with expenses related to transition to adulthood. The fund supplements other sources of financial support and resources available to youth. To date, the fund has assisted 30 youth with the purchase of clothing, food, household items, rent deposits and rent, a computer, a specialized camera for a youth who is blind, transit tickets and bus tokens, and a social skills course. A portion of this funding has been set aside to reimburse youth and a parent or guardian to attend the YAC meetings.

In April of 2008, Governor John Hoeven received an invitation from the Child, Adolescent, and Family Branch of the Center for Mental Health Services, SAMHSA, and Georgetown University National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health to submit an application for a National Policy Academy on Developing Systems of Care for Youth and Young Adults with Mental Health Needs who are Transitioning to Adulthood, and Their Families. The Department submitted an application. Unfortunately, North Dakota was not selected as one of six applications, but an offer was made to involve North Dakota in ongoing technical assistance. On a positive note, the application details an assessment of the current status of services and supports for youth and young adults with mental health needs that are transitioning to adulthood, a general description of a policy initiative, proposed outcomes of the policy initiative, and key individuals and groups that would be involved in moving forward the policy initiative. All of this information can be utilized as we move ahead with efforts to enhance services to transition-aged youth at risk.

The Children and Family Services (CFS) Division of the Department administers the Chafee grant and supervises the Regional Chafee Foster Care Independence and Education Training Voucher (ETV) programs located throughout the state. This program incorporates the values, principles, and beliefs of the wraparound process. The foster youth who are transitioning to adulthood have a Single Plan of Care (SPOC) or a Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) plan in place to help them progress through transition toward self sufficiency. North Dakota's overall goal is for every young adult who lived in foster care as a teenager to meet the following outcomes by age 21:

- All youth leaving the foster care system shall have sufficient economic resources to meet their daily needs;
- All youth leaving the foster care system shall have a safe and stable place to live;
- All youth leaving the foster care system shall attain academic or vocational and educational goals that are in keeping with the youth's abilities and interests;
- All youth leaving the foster care system shall have a sense of connectedness to persons and community;
- All youth leaving the foster care system shall avoid illegal and high risk behaviors;
- All youth leaving the foster care system shall postpone parenthood until financially established and emotionally mature; and
- All youth leaving the foster care system shall have access to physical and mental health services.

Through the Independent Living Program, a statewide independent living skills curriculum has been established. The curriculum is facilitated by Independent Living Coordinators at the regional level.

The Independent Living Program Administrator, CFS Division, oversees an advisory group of youth who are or who have been in foster care. The formal name of the group is ND Youth. The group works on spreading the word about foster youth in care, dispelling myths related to youth in care, and helping mentor each other. Youth take part in the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) process and stakeholder meetings. Members of the groups (statewide and regional) have spoken to groups in their communities. One of the youth testified before a legislative committee during the last session. The group is working on a website that will serve as a resource to all youth who are transitioning into adulthood. There will be links to numerous transition resources on a regional, state, and national level.

The Department of Public Instruction, Office of Special Education, Transition Community of Practice Advisory Council (COP), formerly known as the North Dakota Transition Steering Committee, is co-facilitated by Vocational Rehabilitation. The Council has expanded their membership to include representation from the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and Children and Family Services. Participation on this Council will provide the Department with an ongoing opportunity to network with other state agencies in the effort to provide information about the needs of youth in transition.

The Department is available to provide any additional information to this committee as your work continues on this important issue. If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them at this time. Thank you.

3/17/09

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO REENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1044

Page 1, line 3, after "risk" insert "; and to provide a continuing appropriation"

Page 1, line 7, after "**Rules**" insert "**- Continuing appropriation**"

Page 2, after line 9, insert:

"4. The department may accept and receive grants and other sources of funding for the development of a program for services to transition-aged youth at risk. All moneys received by the department as gifts, grants, or donations for the development of a program for services to transition-aged youth at risk under this section are appropriated on a continuing basis to the department."

Renumber accordingly