

2009 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2355

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2355

Senate Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 1-28-09

Recorder Job Number: 8000, 8046

Committee Clerk Signature

Mary K Monson

Minutes:

Senator J. Lee opened the hearing on SB 2355 to provide a short-term care shelter and assessment pilot program for at-risk youth and to provide an appropriation.

Senator Dever (Dist. 32) introduced SB 2355. It is about families in crises. In Bismarck there is now a shelter (Youthworks) where children can go on a short term basis without changing legal custody and which provides intense family counseling. He was invited to participate in a task force – Out of Home Placement. This task force has involved people from social services, the judicial area, and association of counties. This program was established and funded with grants. They can't continue to do that beyond July 1, 2009. Fargo would also like to have a program like this. This bill (1) establishes a pilot program in the south central judicial district, which is the existing program and (2) provides an appropriation. A good question to ask is what happens in other areas of the state in the same situations. There's a real need to address this across the state. The committee might consider adding a study during the interim to provide a good look at situations across the state.

One of his concerns is that sometimes kids are taken to the youth correction center when there is no other place to take them. We don't want to put children any further into the system than we have to.

Senator Heckaman (Dist. 23) spoke in support of SB 2355 as a co-sponsor. Her history as a teacher has given her a background in this area. There is a tremendous need for short term shelter in many situations and there aren't a lot of short term services for youth who need them. In addition to providing funding for the areas in Bismarck she would also like to see it expanded to other areas in the state.

Sen. Wardner (Dist. 37) He spoke in support of SB 2355 as the chairman of the Youth Bureau Board in Dickinson. He gave some history of the Sunrise Youth Bureau which was started from a grant operated organization and evolved to having the 8 counties in the SW part of the state contribute to the base funding. They fund about \$85,000 that goes for the salaries of the 2 individuals there who provide early intervention and prevention and education. They also do attendant care there and are limited to the amount of dollars they have. Two days is the limit a child can be kept in attendant care. Then whoever is taking custody of the child has to move the child. He went on to explain the process and the problems they encounter and the options they have.

Sometimes all that is needed for the parent and child is a time out. This bill would help fill a gap to give agencies more time to place a child.

Senator Dever said the Commission on Alternatives to Incarceration included money for this in their request to the governor but it was not included.

Sen. Wardner said one thing that stuck with him from the governor's message was "strategic spending" and this is strategic spending. He believes this would save dollars in social services and in the corrections budget in the long run.

Diane Larson (Dept. of Human Services) provided testimony in favor of SB 2355 and included a list of members on both the Out of Home Placement Task Force (OOHP) and the Children's Services Coalition (CSC). Attachment #1

Lisa Johner (Juvenile Justice Specialist, Association of Counties) testified in support of SB 2355. Attachment #2 and #3.

Senator J. Lee asked if the twelve Attendant Care programs were scattered around the state.

Ms. Johner referred to attachment #3 which showed where the Attendant Care sites are in the state.

Melanie Heitkamp (Executive Director of Yourthworks) provided background on their Short Term Care and Assessment Center. Attachment #4. She also introduced **Lauren Bosch** (coordinator of the program) to answer any questions there might be on how the program is run or the data.

Lauren Bosch (Program Director of Youthworks) explained the statistical summary provided in Ms. Heitkamp's testimony.

Senator J. Lee asked if there is a hotline program in Bismarck/Mandan.

Ms. Heitkamp said there is – 211.

Dave McGeary (Juvenile Court for South Central and South West Judicial District) testified in support of SB 2355. Attachment #5.

Senator J. Lee asked if he has seen any resistance to this program.

Mr. McGeary said it is pretty well accepted.

Shari Doe (Director of Burleigh Co. Social Services) spoke in support of SB 2355 and gave a county social service perspective. This provides an alternative to the foster care system. It allows families to maintain control over their situation. It prevents placements that can cost up to \$200 or more a day. It provides the assessment and up front work and professional therapy for families that can have tremendous long term effects. She urged the committee's support.

John Ford (Co-founder of the ND Coalition for CPS and Foster Care Reform) testified that he didn't think this bill goes far enough. He told his personal story and said this kind of service

probably would have come in handy in their situation. He supports this bill but would like to see it expanded.

Keith Witt (Chief of the Bismarck Police Dept.) testified that Youthworks works for them in Bismarck and doesn't know what they would do without the program. He was surprised to find out it wasn't statewide. Youthworks provides an excellent pilot program for the state and would like to see it expanded statewide. He urged the committee's support.

There was no opposing or neutral testimony.

The hearing on SB 2355 was closed.

Job #8046

Senator Dever told the committee that at first it was spelled out that the appropriation would go to the department of corrections for the purpose of contracting with the private nonprofit organizations. He referred to an e-mail he received from Lisa Bjergaard (Director of the Division of Juvenile Services, a part of the Dept. of Corrections). Attachment #6.

Senator J. Lee summarized that they might look at an amendment to include (1) a study (2) to specifically designate that a certain amount of the funding goes to Youthworks and (3) a process through which proposals could be considered that will allow other areas of the state to apply for funding.

There was discussion on an advisory committee to whoever is in charge of the money to develop the criteria and advise on the proposals.

A big concern is to make sure any program would focus on the purpose of short term crises intervention. The success of the Youthworks was very evident.

A concern was voiced that this might not go through if a specific program is spelled out.

It was discussed to give the department the opportunity to have more than one program supported and the need to address the preference to south central judicial district.

Senator J. Lee suggested having legislative council help word the amendment.

Senator Dever will work with legislative council on the amendment.

Senator J. Lee adjourned the committee

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2355

Senate Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 2-04-09

Recorder Job Number: 8697

Committee Clerk Signature

Mary K Monson

Minutes:

Senator J. Lee opened SB 2355 for committee discussion.

Senator Dever explained the amendments cleaned up the bill, provided a report to the legislative council instead of the 62nd legislative assembly, and it provides for a study.

There was some concern with section 5 in the amendment. He thought the focus was more on long term than on short term in referring to foster and group care placements.

"In place of" was discussed and the thought was that it should be "instead of".

Senator Dever moved to **accept the proposed amendment 90935.0101 to include the change to "instead of"**.

Seconded by **Senator Pomeroy**.

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

Senator Dever moved a **Do Pass as Amended and rerefer to Appropriations**.

Seconded by **Senator Heckaman**.

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

Carrier is **Senator Dever**.

February 4, 2009

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2355

Page 1, line 1, remove "care"

Page 1, line 2, replace "sixty-second legislative assembly" with "legislative council; to provide for a legislative council study;"

Page 1, line 5, remove "**CARE**"

Page 1, line 7, after "shelter" insert a comma and after "assessment" insert a comma

Page 1, line 8, after the first "for" insert "at-risk" and remove "at risk"

Page 1, line 15, replace "\$400,000" with "\$200,000"

Page 1, line 18, replace "established in" with "authorized under"

Page 1, after line 19, insert:

SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$200,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of corrections and rehabilitation for the purpose of providing short-term shelter, assessment, and intervention services for at-risk children and youth in areas of the state not served by the pilot program authorized under section 1 of this Act."

Page 1, line 20, replace "**SIXTY-SECOND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**" with "**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**"

Page 1, line 21, remove "sixty-second" and after "legislative" insert "council regarding the short-term shelter and assessment pilot program authorized by section 1 of this Act.

SECTION 5. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY. During the 2009-10 interim, the legislative council shall consider studying the statewide need for short-term shelter, assessment, and intervention services for at-risk children and youth across the state and the feasibility and desirability of using such services in place of foster or group care placements. The legislative council shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-second legislative assembly."

Page 1, remove lines 22 and 23

Renumber accordingly

JB
2-5-9

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Renumber accordingly

Date: 2-04-09

Roll Call Vote #: 1

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2355

Senate Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number Amendment w/ correction

Action Taken Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended

Motion Made By Sen. Dever Seconded By Sen. Pomeroy

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: 2-4-09

Roll Call Vote #: 2

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2355

Senate Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

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

SB 2355: Human Services Committee (Sen. J. Lee, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2355 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

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Page 1, remove lines 22 and 23

Renumber accordingly

2009 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2355

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2355

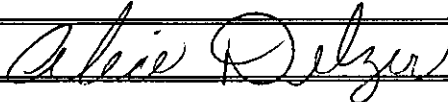
Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 02-16-09

Recorder Job Number: 9528

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Holmberg called the committee hearing to order at 10:30 am in reference to SB 2355 regarding the short-time shelter and assessment pilot program of at-risk youth.

Senator Dever, District 32, Bismarck introduced SB 2355 describing what happens when parents call the police department because they have problems with their kids and what this bill provides.

Diane Larson, Youth worker, Bismarck Police Youth Bureau testified in support of SB 2355 and provided written testimony # 1.

Melanie Heitkamp, Executive Director of Youth Works testified in support of SB 2355 and provided written testimony # 2

Loren Bosch, Program Director at Youth Works testified in support of SB 2355 and provided written testimony # 3 indicating he is referring the Charles Hall Youth Services in his testimony.

(12.57)

Senator Mathern moved Do Pass on SB 2355; seconded by Senator Robinson. A roll call vote was taken resulting in a DO PASS with 14yes, 0 no; 0 absent. Senator Dever will carry the bill.

Chairman Holmberg closed the hearing on SB 2355.

Date: 2/16/09
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2355

Senate _____ Committee _____

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended

Motion Made By Mather Seconded By Robinson

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Senator Fischer	✓		Senator Warner	✓	
Senator Christmann	✓		Senator Robinson	✓	
Senator Krebsbach	✓		Senator Krauter	✓	
Senator Bowman	✓		Senator Lindaas	✓	
Senator Kilzer	✓		Senator Mather	✓	
Senator Grindberg	✓		Senator Seymour	✓	
Senator Wardner	✓				
Chairman Holmberg	✓				

Total Yes 14 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Human Services

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
February 16, 2009 12:17 p.m.

Module No: SR-30-2867
Carrier: Dever
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2355, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
Engrossed SB 2355 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2009 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2355

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2355

House Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 3-10-2009

Recorder Job Number: 10629

Committee Clerk Signature

Nancy L. Gerhardt

Minutes:

Chairman Weisz: We will open the hearing on SB 2355. Senator Dever.

Sen. Dever: This bill is about what happens when a parent calls the police and says get this kid out of here. I don't want to see him/her ever again. An intervention needs to take place. In

Bismarck a new program has come about at Youth Works which allows them to do a short care intervention. They put a child in care for up to 96 hours without a change of custody.

This program in Bismarck has been operating on grants that expire the first of July. In order to continue the program they need a more stable source of funding. The bill in sect. 1 provides for that program. Sec. 2 provides a \$200,000 appropriation to pay for that program. Section 4 provides for reports to Legislative Council. Sec. 5 is the study going forward.

Rep. Conrad: As I understood it, it was going to come from the Dept. of Human Services and was going to be a statewide effort. Not just for Youth Works.

Sen. Dever: The dollars requested were \$500,000 and our letter was sent to the Governor requesting that along with several other initiatives that came out of that commission. He chose not to fund that through his executive budget. We took this approach to get started and to look at how we can address these concerns state wide.

Rep. Conrad: This is coming from the Dept. of Corrections and not DHS. Is there a reason for that?

Sen. Dever: Not necessarily.

Rep. Conrad: Many programs we heard of during the interim. Shouldn't we study in context of the other services?

Sen. Dever: If kids aren't dealt with, they go into the juvenile system. There is a change of custody and they go into foster care, or they end up going further into the system through the court system. It fits better through Dept. of Corrections.

Chairman Weisz: Where is funding coming from in Sec. 1?

Sen. Dever: Sec. 1 is funded through the \$200,000 in Sec 2.

Chairman Weisz: Sect. 3 says it can't be used. It says the money should be used in areas not cleared by pilot program authorized under Sec. 1.

Sen. Dever: Sec. 2 is the appropriation for the existing program.

Rep. Potter: Sen. Dever with the appropriation of \$200,000 which goes with sec. 1, I understand there's already a program going in Bismarck, so is this to augment that program, or how long it's going to go together.

Sen. Dever: The program's funding expires the end of June.

Rep. Potter: So they're not looking for any other grants?

Sen. Dever: My understanding is that, that's not a stable source of funding for them. In order for them to continue the program they feel they need to have stable funding.

Rep. Conrad: As I recall, the county commissioners are not participating in that. Is that right?

Sen. Dever: Further test will show that this program's working well. I don't know if they are getting funding from the county for that. I know you mentioned Ward Co. has some kind of a program. I think there's a difference in the programs.

Rep. Hofstad: Are these all private, non-profit, organizations? Is this pilot program designed around all privates?

Sen. Dever: I think a lot of the programs we deal with are contracted through non-profit organizations. We don't create another state agency to deal with this kind of problem.

Perry Lauer: - Bismarck Police Dept. - Representing Diane Larson – See **Attachment # 1**

Rep. Potter: You have children that are taken in, and sometimes you have to take them further into the system. I'm from Grand Forks, and I don't think they would transport them immediately here, because they don't have someplace to put them.

Mr. Lauer: What we have here is basically attendant care. There's nothing in between. Attendant care is a wonderful thing. That is a 24 hour thing. If kids are in attendant care longer than that, what actually happens is there has to be a shelter care hearing and they have to go to Juvenile court and custody and those kinds of things is taken away from the parent and they are taken further into the system. The bill is short term care, but also is an assessment center and there is actually some services that can be provided to those kids, counseling and those kinds of things. It's either one or the other is what we wound up having here in Bismarck. It fits the need of some of the families and the issues that come up.

Rep. Potter: For other areas of the state do you have any notion what they do with those kids?

Mr. Lauer: I believe you have another facility where you can house juveniles rather than transporting them down here to the correctional center. That is something we do not have available here in this area.

Rep. Holman: I see the word non-secure in there. Define that for me.

Mr. Lauer: It means it is not a lock down facility.

Rep. Conrad: Burleigh Co. doesn't have a detention center, right? You use the industrial school for a youth correctional center as your detention center.

Mr. Lauer: You are correct.

Rep. Conrad: That is because the County Commissioners have decided not to do what every other major county in this state has done and have its own juvenile justice program. The other counties all have them through their detention centers through their law enforcement center. Is that right?

Mr. Lauer: I'm going to defer that. Someone from Youth works will be speaking and the association of counties and they will be better able to answer those questions than myself.

Chairman Weisz: Do you know how many youth in Burleigh Co. how many do you have a problem with that would be served by this bill?

Mr. Lauer: I can only speak as a law enforcement officer and somebody that has dealt with these. I'm actually a school resource officer. I do have some firsthand knowledge on that. Actual numbers I will again defer to Youth Works. They will be able to tell you the number of people who have gone through their program.

Rep. Frantsvog: I'm trying to understand the bill. In sec. 2, the appropriation is for \$200,000, that's for the program here in Burleigh Co.

Mr. Lauer: Yes

Rep. Frantsvog: Then, in sec. 3, the other \$200,000 is for the rest of the state, is that correct?

Mr. Lauer: No

Rep. Frantsvog: Sec. 3 says "and intervention services for at-risk children and youth in areas of the state not served by the pilot program" wouldn't that be the rest of the state?

Mr. Lauer: Once again I'm going to have to defer that.

Chairman Weisz: Technically you are correct. The idea is somebody will apply, and I think we already know who that's going to be, will apply for that pilot program. Technically anybody could apply for that pilot program in other areas of the state. The only group excluded would be the current program that's in Burleigh Co.

Rep. Frantsvog: That's for 1 other program is that correct?

Chairman Weisz: That's correct; it would be for 1 other program somewhere in the state excluding sec. 1.

Rep. Frantsvog: I'm sure we'll discuss this later.

Chairman Weisz: I'm sure we will.

Lisa Jahner: Division of Juvenile Justice – See Attachment # 2

Rep. Hofstad: We have non-profits now that are providing this short term shelter across the state do we not?

Ms. Jahner: We have other non-profits that are providing attendant care services, where this kind of service would work well. In Grand Forks they actually offer a program called "divert" that works with the youth and family. It's not while the kid is in attendant care, it's actually after the kid has left attendant care. That social worker goes out to the home of that youth and works with the family. Some very similar services. Some ways these dollars could be used across the state to meet that model, even though it might not look exactly the same, where it might not be part of a facility.

Rep. Hofstad: Are we trying to establish a facility here? Is that your goal? To invite non-profits to establish a facility for transitional living?

Ms. Jahner: No, not at all. It is to provide those professional assessment services. In some cases the kids need more than 24 to 48 hours which attendant care covers. They need up to that 96 hours that's required before they have to go for a court hearing. What we're really

talking about then is the professional services and the additional time within the facility, not the facility itself.

Rep. Hofstad: We need a facility if you're going to pluck these kids out of a dangerous situation in a home or pick them off the street. To provide those services you need a facility to do that right?

Ms. Jahner: I think those services could work in conjunction with attendant care. In attendant care program you don't need a facility; you just need a room where the kid could be held for very short term period of time. In no way are we looking at funding a facility.

Rep. Conrad: Coming from the association of counties, can you present us with what the counties across the state are doing in this regard? I know in Williston they have a special room and they have a lot of services that come in. Similar to what they are doing at Youth Works. I'm really having a problem with this as a pilot project. I think it may be funding a good service, I wouldn't question the importance of the service, but to call this a pilot project and I'm having a hard time with it.

Ms. Jahner: I think it varies around the state. I can speak to Ward Co., they do have their license to ?????????? Attendant care program right across the street. There's not a professional assessment in family services that are provided in conjunction with that short term holding of youth.

Rep. Conrad: Do you think the professional – inaudible.

Ms. Jahner: Yes they can be referred to the human services center. They do not provide professional – inaudible.

Rep. Conrad: You have got places to house juveniles. Whether it's in secure in detention or non-secure in attendant care.

Ms. Jahner: You don't have that additional piece of linking up to the family and really getting that kid connected to the family again, because what could happen is, the kid might, at the end of the 96 hours when they have to get him to court for shelter care hearing, custody could be taken away from the parents. Then the youth ends up further in the system. What this service is trying to do is prevent that from happening.

Rep. Conrad: I met with the director of our Human Service center and she assured me that is exactly what we are doing. We have people that come in and work with the families and work and attempt to get those kids back home before they go to juvenile court. I'm not sure why we need a pilot program.

Ms. Jahner: I'm not familiar with that situation.

Rep. Potter: Being from Grand Forks, you said Lutheran Social Services works with the kids with the counseling and that kind of thing. Once their taken outside of the family situation there in a non-secure type place, so that means not in a lock-down type facility. Is that correct? Then after that what happens after that?

Ms. Jahner: If a kid gets picked up by law enforcement they can be held up to 96 hours before they have to go to court. They can either be held securely or non-securely. We have these attendant care sites established to provide non-secure supervision, because these are low level offenders. That's the best practice.

Rep. Potter: Is that like a house or what?

Ms. Jahner: In different areas of the state it might just be a room in the sheriff's office if it is a smaller site. For Grand Forks that runs about 80 to 100 youths per year. It is a room within Social Services office building, where they call an attendant to come and sit with that youth. That youth could only be there pursuant to court standards up to 96 hours before something

has to be taken to court. After that you are really talking about ??????? type thing. What we're talking about today really has to do with ?????? within the 96 hours.

Rep. Holman: How many kids are in lock down now that wouldn't be in lock down? This is the idea, to get kids not going into lock down because there's something else available. Is that what I'm hearing?

Ms. Johner: No, that's not it. There is a place for secure detention, for serious offenders. What we are talking about are low level, what we call status offenders, for the most part. Very few status offenders ever end up in detention. We are really talking about 2 systems. These status offenders can be in juvenile corrections, and they tend some times to cross over. We are not trying to prevent detention placement. Attending care is there, to prevent detention placement when needed, it will still be there if you don't fund this bill. What I really want to stress to you is what happens when you don't have those additional services that are not part of the attendant care. We are talking about the services and the time to provide them. The kid's going to be back again, and again, and again and they're eventually going to end up deeper in the system, either within the social services system or within the juvenile correction system. If you don't pay for it now you might pay for it later.

Rep. Conrad: I'm wondering about this second \$200,000. Is there going to be another ??????? for another program in the state like Lutheran social services in Grand Forks, is that what we are talking about?

Ms. Johner: I think that is the intention. This is a good model, so, could we take some pieces of that model and get it to work in other areas of the state. In Grand Forks it works well because they do not have funding to continue their "divert" program. That is the piece we're talking about. The professional's human services use for families. They have the housing, but they don't have that piece.

Rep. Conrad: This is pilot to the state, but it's not necessarily new programs in our communities.

Ms. Johner: Divert is not a new program. It is new in the sense that you are connecting and collaborating the services to deal with desperate kids.

Lauren Bosch: Program director for the Short-Term Care and Assessment Center at Youthworks – See Attachment # 3.

Rep. Conrad: How much does each one of those counties put in?

Mr. Bosch: In your packet is a budget. Burleigh Co. puts in \$23,463, Morton Co. puts in \$9,659. Because this region does not have an attendant care facility that the county built, they give us operating overhead costs for us to have a facility at our office so they wouldn't have to build their own.

Rep. Conrad: This is for attendant care.

Mr. Bosch: Yes, for attendant care. There is \$6,000 from Burleigh Co. Social Services, \$3,000 from Morton Co. Social Services. That is because we provide a service for the county where they would have to take custody of certain kids if our facility wasn't available. They feel the services would be valuable to them.

Rep. Conrad: Do you know how much the county puts into the detention program, where they detain kids? If I could get that I'd appreciate that.

Mr. Bosch: I don't know the answer to that question.

Chairman Weisz: You indicated that you do the counseling, do you have a licensed social worker on staff 24/7 or how does that work?

Mr. Bosch: Several of them. Many of them on the Masters Level. We have a specified cell phone specifically for the counselor on duty to answer questions. From the beginning whoever

is on the crises line has a 4 year degree that is willing and able to talk to parents to calm down situations, to give good information so we can prevent kids from going further into the system.

Rep. Conrad: You said 195 persons passed through in 2008. Were they in shelter care or in attendant care?

Mr. Bosch: In both. A little bit more to the short term care, a little less in the attendant care. Both of those numbers are indicated in that total.

Shari Doe: Director of Burleigh Co. Social Services – See Attachment # 4

I am also handing out written testimony from **Dave McGeary – Director of Juvenile Court for the South Central and South West Judicial District or Unit # 3. See Attachment # 5.**

Chairman Weisz: Further support for SB 2355?

Lisa Johner: I have been asked to submit written testimony for **Janell Regimbal – Senior**

Vice President of Children and Family Services – Lutheran Social Services of ND – See Attachment # 6.

Chairman Weisz: Any further support? Is there anyone here in opposition of SB 2355? If not we will close the hearing on SB 2355.

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2355

House Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 11, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 10766

Committee Clerk Signature

Vicky Crabtree

Minutes:

Chairman Weisz: Let's take a look at 2355. \$200,000 for the south central district and \$200,000 for someplace else.

Rep. Conrad: Section 5, I spent some time on the phone with people from Minot and we do have a (inaudible) in our area because we have the Dakota's Boy's Ranch shelter care. And they are not excited about it because they say it is disruptable. As far as looking at a statewide issue, that's the only one I could find that has a concern.

Chairman Weisz: They would prefer (inaudible) with the Boy's Ranch just because of the disruption.

Rep. Conrad: They have kids with more complicated issues so disruption causes them more (drops sentence).

Chairman Weisz: (Inaudible) should take care of that.

Rep. Conrad: Right. We are pretty well set. We would like to do more things (inaudible). As far as a statewide study it could be important in that regard.

Rep. Frantsvog: Motion Do Not Pass.

Rep. Conklin: Second.

Rep. Kilichowski: Would like to know the reasoning for the do not pass.

Rep. Frantsvog: Because it covers two projects, two specific projects. One is identified and one that is semi-identified and that's basically what it does. It does nothing for the rest of the areas of the state, just two projects. That's my reason.

Roll Call Vote: 6 yes, 4 no, 3 absent, Rep. Damschen, Hofstad and Potter.

MOTION CARRIED DO NOT PASS.

BILL CARRIER: Rep. Frantsvog.

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2355

House Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 11, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 10769 (20:20 on recorder)

Committee Clerk Signature

Vicky Crabtree

Minutes:

Chairman Weisz: Rep. Kilichowski.

Rep. Kilichowski: Now that we have a full committee here, I would like to bring back 2355. I think we can spend that \$100,000 for advertising I think \$200,000 to keep kids out of the system isn't a bad investment.

Rep. Potter: Didn't we vote on it?

Chairman Weisz: We did vote on it. I'll entertain the motion to reconsider our actions.

Rep. Holman: Move to reconsider.

Rep. Potter: Second.

Roll Call Vote: 6 yes, 7 no, 0 absent.

Motion Failed.

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2355

House Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 16, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 11041

Committee Clerk Signature

Ticky Crabtree

Minutes:

Chairman Weisz: We will consider a bill we have already acted on. Rep. Nathe.

Rep. Nathe: Motion to reconsider SB 2355.

Rep. Pietsch: Second.

Rep. Nathe: The reasons why I made motion because I have an amendment to it which would make it more palpable for the committee. It's a good bill and benefits some good programs.

Roll Call for reconsideration on SB 2355: 12 yes, 1 no, 0 absent.

MOTION CARRIED.

Rep. Nathe: The amendment is to strike Section 3 the \$200,000 in that section.

Rep. Porter: Second.

Rep. Potter: What's the rationale of one program instead of two?

Rep. Nathe: We are keeping Section 2 to help keep the current programs that are funded in the region out here. Taking out Section 3 will make it easier to move along.

Rep. Porter: Keeps Sections 4 and 5 going also so that there is ongoing studies and ongoing looks by both the Dept. of Corrections at the private program in Southcentral and continue to look at what services are short term shelter bases and an intervention bases are out there for at risk youth. If we don't keep that concept going then there really wouldn't be any Section 4 or

5 to ensure that this is a program that is worthwhile and looking to expand in the future.

Apparently the expansion wasn't going to happen this go around. If we cut it back to the current program and keep looking at it, maybe the next go around it can expand.

Rep. Conrad: My concern is this will be out of the Dept. of Corrections and right now we don't have anything like this, so the Dept. of Corrections has not done anything. They have a community services for juveniles, other than that they don't have anything in the community. Now we have one program out of Corrections and all the other are out of Human Services. Are we testing that Corrections is a better place than Human Services for these programs. What is the reason for putting it into Corrections? I prefer to see a study and then decide. I oppose this.

Rep. Frantsvog: This program is in place right now, right?

Chairman Weisz: Youth Works in Bismarck is currently through a Bush Foundation Grant.

Rep. Holman: We gave this a do not pass right?

Chairman Weisz: 6-4 do not pass.

Rep. Holman: Keeping this program going is extremely important.

Rep. Conklin: Does the \$200,000 support the whole program or part of it?

Chairman Weisz: It is already being funded by Burleigh and Morton Counties so because it is piggybacked, they will be able to operate the program.

Rep. Potter: I'm not happy about taking the \$200,000 out. Talked to some folks in Grand Forks that run programs and they have alright funding until 9-11 when feds started cutting back, back, back. Now it is pretty much through donations and United Way from the county. United Way doesn't know if they can continue to fund programs every single year. Bremer Foundation has given them money, but they have told them it is the end of the line. The study might be beneficial in the meantime the program in Grand Forks may have to consider shut

down because of no funding for it. Once you close down programs it is hard to get them rejuvenated.

Voice Vote: Motion is Carried.

Rep. Nathe: Motion a Do Pass as Amended and Re-referred to Appropriations.

Rep. Hofstad: Second.

Rep. Conrad: I have another amendment regarding the study.

Rep. Nathe: Motion to Pull Motion.

Rep. Hofstad: Second.

Rep. Conrad: Go to Section 5 study, (reads bill) I want to put in there, "short term". See attachment #1.

Rep. Conrad: Motion amendment.

Rep. Holman: Second.

Voice Vote: MOTION CARRIED

Rep. Nathe: Motion Do Pass As Amended and Re-referred to Appropriations.

Rep. Hofstad: Second.

Roll Call Vote: 23 yes, 1 no, 0 absent.

MOTION DO PASS AS AMENDED RE-REFERRED TO APPROPRIATIONS.

BILL CARRIER: Rep. Nathe.

Date: 3-11-09

Roll Call Vote #:

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2355

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. Frantsovog Seconded By Rep Conklin

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

Total (Yes) 6 No 4

Absent 3

Bill Carrier Rep. Frantsovog

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

Date: 3-11-09
 Roll Call Vote #:

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2355

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. Holman Seconded By Rep. Potter

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) 6 No 7

Absent _____

Bill Carrier _____

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

*MOTION TO
 BRING BACK
 Failed*

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 12, 2009 9:31 a.m.

Module No: HR-45-4659
Carrier: Frantsvog
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2355, as engrossed: Human Services Committee (Rep. Weisz, Chairman)
recommends **DO NOT PASS** (6 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 3 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
Engrossed SB 2355 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

Date: 3-16-09
Roll Call Vote # 1

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2355

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. Nathe Seconded By Rep. Pietsch

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) 12 No 1

Absent 0

Bill Carrier _____

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

*Reconsider Bring
Back To Committee*

#1

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2355

Page 2, line 9, after "care" insert "for short-term" and after the period insert "The study also must include recommendations regarding sources of reliable funding, the appropriate state administrative agency, and a delivery system that reflects local resources and preferences and evidence-based methods for involving parents in followup services."

Renumber accordingly

Date: 3-16-09
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2355

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. Nathe Seconded By Rep. Porter

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					

Vote

Total (Yes) 9 No 4

Absent _____

Bill Carrier _____

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

Move on Amendment reduce to 1

VR
3/17/09

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2355

Page 1, remove lines 20 through 23

Page 2, remove lines 1 and 2

Page 2, line 9, after "care" insert "for short-term" and after the period insert "The study also must include recommendations regarding sources of reliable funding, the appropriate state administrative agency, and a delivery system that reflects local resources and preferences and evidence-based methods for involving parents in follow-up services."

Renumber accordingly

Date: 3-16-09
 Roll Call Vote #: 3

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2355

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. Conrad 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 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 _____

Bill Carrier _____

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

*Section 5
 Amendment
 Change*

Date: 3-16-09
Roll Call Vote #: 4

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2355

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. Nathe Seconded By Rep. Hofstad

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) 12 No 1

Absent 0

Bill Carrier Rep. Nathe

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

MOTION
DP as amended
Re refer to APPROP.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2355, as engrossed: Human Services Committee (Rep. Weisz, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (12 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2355 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, remove lines 20 through 23

Page 2, remove lines 1 and 2

Page 2, line 9, after "care" insert "for short-term" and after the period insert "The study also must include recommendations regarding sources of reliable funding, the appropriate state administrative agency, and a delivery system that reflects local resources and preferences and evidence-based methods for involving parents in follow-up services."

Renumber accordingly

2009 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2355

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill No. SB 2355

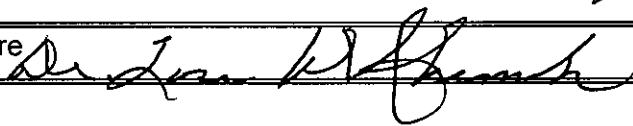
House Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 23, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 11437

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Svedjan: opened the hearing on SB 2355. Relates to short term shelter and assessment pilot for at risk youth.

Rep. Robin Weisz approached the podium to explain SB 2355. There is \$200,000 for the biennium. Currently there is 96 hours before you have to have a court hearing when you have a delinquent. A Bush Foundation Grant that was helping to fund a program here in Bismarck it has run out. This would extent the program. They offer consoling services and a place to stay and it has to be a non secure place. Attachment A was distributed. There were 80 that were going to end up in Foster Care facilities. They kept ten of them and kept them out. It costs \$304 per day to keep them in foster care. The average length of stay is 5 ½ months; that is \$9000 per month, about \$50,000 for five kids for one year. So that is a pretty good return plus they had 115 youth that were at risk of going into foster care which and almost in all cases none of them ended up in the system. That is not counting your court costs to have to bill to the courts. What this is a tag along program to the attended care and has a very low cost relative to other systems that have been set up to address this. We had a lot of discussion on this. We have data that indicates you pay upfront, but save on the back end of it. This would allow two more years and try to get a better report.

Chm. Svedjan: Your amendments removed the Section 3 appropriation.

Rep. Weisz: We thought we should look at doing one project then look at it again.

Chm. Svedjan: \$200,000 for the pilot and the study language is still in there.

Rep. Weisz: There were two projects and in the interest of having some hope of maybe getting a favorable rating down here that we should look at doing one project. Get a report back and then take a look at what needs to be done.

Chairman Svedjan: So the scope of the bill is \$200,000 and also the study language is still in there.

Rep. Kempenich: The Bush Foundation throws these programs out and then drops them on the locals or the state to keep it running. That's what is frustrating about this.

Rep. Weisz: I share some of your frustration. These grants are to look at new ideas to try and get them started and it's up to us whether the idea has merit, study it longer or shelve it.

Rep. Kempenich: We get stuck in this paradigm and when it is a new idea that does work we want to stay with what we've got. Why aren't we pulling money? Why don't we fund it then now if we think it is worthwhile?

Rep. Weisz: If you want to take \$200,000 out of the approximately \$80 million in child care, I don't think they'll know the difference. If it does do what it's supposed to we will have more data after two years to use to see how it is working.

Rep. Onstad: the Bush Foundation got the program started. From the implementation of the program we have seen some successes.

Rep. Weisz: they identified 80 that would go into the system. 10 of those that they worked with did not go into the system and the number from the department is you spend \$304/day for every day that child is in foster care and it averages 5 ½ months.

Rep. Onstad: We should thank the Bush Foundation for getting this program started. We can look at this example and try to move this program forward. It will be additional savings in the future.

Do Pass Motion Made By Rep. Klein; Seconded By Rep. Meyer.

Discussion:

Rep. Delzer: I think I'm going to support this but I would appreciate that they take the 4200,000 out of the Foster Car Grant line.

Chm. Svedjan: That budget's is not in the House. Your point is well taken.

Vote: 17 Yes 6 No 2 Absent Carrier: Rep. Nathe

Hearing closed.

Date: 3/23/09
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2355

Full House Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken No Pass

Motion Made By Klein Seconded By Meyer

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Svedjan		✓			
Vice Chairman Kempenich		✓			
Rep. Skarphol		✓	Rep. Kroeber	✓	
Rep. Wald		✓	Rep. Onstad	✓	
Rep. Hawken	✓		Rep. Williams	✓	
Rep. Klein	✓				
Rep. Martinson	✓				
Rep. Delzer	✓		Rep. Glassheim	✓	
Rep. Thoreson	✓		Rep. Kaldor	✓	
Rep. Berg	✓		Rep. Meyer	✓	
Rep. Dosch	✓				
Rep. Pollert		✓	Rep. Ekstrom	✓	
Rep. Bellew		✓	Rep. Kerzman	✓	
Rep. Kreidt	✓		Rep. Metcalf	✓	
Rep. Nelson	✓				
Rep. Wieland	✓				

Total (Yes) 17 No 6

Absent 2

Floor Assignment Nathe

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 24, 2009 2:36 p.m.

Module No: HR-52-5706
Carrier: Nathe
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2355, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Svedjan, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (17 YEAS, 6 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
Engrossed SB 2355 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2009 TESTIMONY

SB 2355

Madam Chairman and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, my name is Diane Larson and I am in support of SB 2355. I have been a Youthworker at the Bismarck Police Department for 19 years. The Police Youth Bureau is a diversion program and our three main responsibilities are diverting youth from juvenile court, education and crisis intervention. Occasionally, when an officer takes a juvenile into custody, that juvenile must be placed somewhere temporarily for various reasons.

As a Youthworker I also serve on various task forces and committees representing the interest of youth in our area. One committee that I serve on is the Children's Services Coordinating Committee (CSCC) now called the Children's Services Coalition (CSC) in our region. Years ago the CSC prioritized the needed services in our area for youth. One of the top four priorities was getting youth serving agencies together to examine placements for children that need temporary out of home placement. To that end, we established the Out of Home Placement Task Force as a subcommittee of the CSC. Membership of the CSC Board and the Out of Home Placement Task Force are attached. I currently chair the Out of Home Task Force.

With juveniles in need of placement, we always look to the least restrictive first. If the child can't go home, we see if a relative would be appropriate for example. There are times, however, when there is nothing else available, or nothing else appropriate. Some examples are:

- When youth are in need of a short term placement so they or their family members can cool off when the situation at home is too volatile. Sometimes if the child were to

return to the home right away, the situation would likely escalate to the point where another call to the police would result, or worse, someone would get hurt.


- Some youth need placement because they are picked up here and live in another town or state and parents can not get here right away.
- Some youth are placed when parents call their child in as unruly and plead for help with their child because they can no longer control the child's behavior of drinking, sneaking out, and getting into trouble. These parents are desperate for help and feel that they are out of resources.

About four years ago, placement options decreased and we had a gap in services in our region.

The only two resources for our community to place juveniles without a court order were


Attendant Care or detention. In Attendant Care a child could be placed for up to 24 hours and simply held until a parent could get them. No services are available for the youth in attendant care because funding isn't included for that purpose in Attendant Care. There was nothing where youth would receive assessment, family reunification, and time to set up follow-up services for the youth and/or family. There was no place for a child who was on a waiting list to be placed in a group home or in residential treatment. There was nothing for a child that just needed time to reflect on their actions and choose to make some positive changes in their behavior without having a court hearing to remove custody of the child from their parents.

Our community had lost emergency Shelter Care and Safe bed placement options for crisis situations. Charles Hall Youth Services (who had previously provided crisis shelter care for our community) gave us notice that they could no longer provide it. They said that providing this




type of 24 hour crisis response, especially on weekends, was not working because it was a disruption to their court ordered population. To build another home and staff it just for this purpose was too expensive.

The Out of Home Placement Task Force members brainstormed the problem and came up with a solution that would best serve our needs. We believed that a child in a crisis situation being placed temporarily should have a trained counselor to talk to, and have reunification services available right away the next day and not have to wait until after the weekend. A place where youth could feel safe and work on resolving issues was needed.




Youthworks, who provides the Attendant Care program, said that they could add temporary short term crisis Shelter Care for youth by combining the Short Term Care and Assessment Center with Attendant Care and could provide this service much more cost effectively than a stand-alone program. Since they already had the building that could be remodeled and were staffing it for Attendant Care, it was a perfect fit. We took this proposal to the CSC board to request grant dollars to get this program started.

Youthworks was given start-up money from CSC, and also secured Bush Grant money, and with this have been able to get things up and running smoothly. Youthworks staff is present and can answer questions about their budget, their staff, the services they provide and the success of the program.




In conclusion, if we have to go back to the days when youth were placed into detention because there was no less restrictive place for them to go, or to be returned home when the parent was telling us that if they had to take their child home right then, they will need to be



reported for child abuse, we will be seriously compromising the best interest of the children and families in our community. We will again have a gaping hole in our continuum of services. The benefits of having this additional placement option far outweigh the costs associated with the fall-out if we don't. This program was established as a result of many youth serving agencies working together in our community to brainstorm the best type of placement option for youth in need of short term care.

I believe that this pilot project can be replicated in other areas and be an effective way to keep children together with their families. Thank you for your time.



Diane Larson
Youthworker
Bismarck Police Youth Bureau
355-1888



REGION VII CHILDREN'S SERVICES COALITION
Out of Home Placement Task Force
January 2009



	<i>Last</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Street</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Zip</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Fax</i>
	Larson (<i>CHAIR</i>) dilarson@nd.gov	Police Youth Bureau	700 S. 9 th St.	Bismarck	ND	58504	701/355-1888	
Tami	DeCoteau tamidecoteau@yahoo.com	Standing Rock Tribe- IHS/PHS	Box J	Fort Yates	ND	58538	701/854-8265	
Nicole	Delaplane ndlsw@yahoo.com	Prairie Learning Center	7785 St. Gertrude Ave.	Raleigh	ND	58564	701/597-3419	
Sen. Dick	Dever ddever@nd.gov	ND Legislature	1416 Eastwood St.	Bismarck	ND	58504	701/222-2604	
Sharon	Dockter 08docs@nd.gov	Burleigh Co. Social Services	415 E. Rosser, Ste. 113	Bismarck	ND	58501	701/222-6622	
Shari	Doe 08docs@nd.gov	Burleigh Co. Social Services	415 E. Rosser, Ste. 113	Bismarck	ND	58501	701/222-6622	
Virginia	Fergel virginiafergel@yahoo.com	Prairie Learning Center	7785 St. Gertrude Ave.	Raleigh	ND	58564	701/597-3419	701/597-3004
Dan	Foster dan.foster@charleshallyouthservices.com	Charles Hall Youth Services	1120 Laramie Dr.	Bismarck	ND	58504	701/255-2773	
Kerry	Gullickson kgullickson@ndcourts.gov	Juvenile Court	514 E. Thayer	Bismarck	ND	58501	701/222-6709	
Melanie	Heitkamp macmel57@mac.com	Youthworks	221 W. Rosser	Bismarck	ND	58501	701/255-6909	701/255-3922
	Hill 08hild@nd.gov	Burleigh Co. Social Services	415 E. Rosser, Ste. 113	Bismarck	ND	58501	701/222-6622	
	Horner dierdrah@hotmail.com	Youthworks	221 W. Rosser	Bismarck	ND	58501	701/255-6909	
Lisa	Jahner ljahner@ndaco.org	ND Association of Counties	1661 Capitol Way	Bismarck	ND	58502	701/328-7300	
Charley	Joyce cjoyce@pathinc.org	PATH	418 E. Broadway, Ste. 25	Bismarck	ND	58501	701/224-9611 c - 471-6487	
Gayle	Klopp gayle.klopp@charleshallyouthservices.com	Charles Hall Youth Services	1120 Laramie Dr.	Bismarck	ND	58504	701/255-2773	
Dawn	Krieger dkrieger@nd.gov	West Central Human Service Ctr.	1237 W. Divide	Bismarck	ND	58501	701/328-8818	
Dave	McGeary dmcgeary@ndcourts.gov	Juvenile Court	514 E. Thayer	Bismarck	ND	58501	701/222-6709	
Brenda	McNally bmcnally@nd.gov	Dakota Central Soc. Serv. District	PO Box 70	Washburn	ND	58577	701/462-3235	
Kathleen	Meckler dmeckler@yahoo.com	Mandan/Morton Co. Youth Services	205 1 st Ave. NW	Mandan	ND	58554	701/667-3429	
Lea & Ryan Petz		Ryan - youth rep.	128 Delta Ave.	Bismarck	ND	58501	--	
Junell	Roswick jroswick@nd.gov	Div. of Juvenile Services	418 E. Broadway, Ste. 224	Bismarck	ND	58501	701/328-3937	
Karin	Stave 87stak@nd.gov	West Central Human Service Ctr.	1237 W. Divide, Ste. 5	Bismarck	ND	58501	701/328-8879	
	Stein jstein@pathinc.org	PATH	418 E. Broadway, Ste. 25	Bismarck	ND	58501	701/224-9611	
Sandy	Thompson 87thos@nd.gov	West Central Human Service Ctr.	1237 W. Divide	Bismarck	ND	58501	701/328-8788	

REGION VII CHILDREN'S SERVICES COALITION BOARD OF DIRECTORS Updated January 2009

<i>First</i>	<i>Last</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Street</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Zip</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Fax</i>
JoAnn	Brager (BOARD PRES.) jbrager@hitinc.org	West River Head Start	1007 18 th St. NW	Mandan	ND	58554	701/667-8668	701/663-0535
Tami	DeCoteau (VP/PRES.ELECT) tamidecoteau@yahoo.com	Standing Rock Tribe (IHS/PHS)	Box J	Fort Yates	ND	58538	701/854-8265	
Buster	Langowski (IMMED. PAST PRES.) Buster.Langowski@sendit.nodak.edu	Hazen Public Schools *** ALSO SERVES AS CO-CHAIR OF EARLY CHILDHOOD: INTERVENTION & PREVENTION TASK FORCE.	Box 487	Hazen	ND	58545	701/748-6120	701/748-6647

Carmelita	Bear Ribs crbr_22@hotmail.com	Standing Rock Head Start Prog.	200 Proposal Ave. Box 473	Ft. Yates	ND	58538	701/854-7250	701/854-7257
Jody	Bettger-Huber jhuber@lssnd.org	Lutheran Social Services	1616 Capitol Way	Bismarck	ND	58501	701/530-2512	
Teresa	Carrigan tcarriga@nd.gov	Police Youth Bureau ***CHAIR -- ATOD YOUTH ASSESSMENT & TREATMENT TASK FORCE	700 S. 9 th St.	Bismarck	ND	58504	701/355-1890	
Virginia	Fergel virginiafergel@yahoo.com	Prairie Learning Center	7785 St. Gertrude Ave.	Raleigh	ND	58564	701/597-3419	701/597-3004
Pa	Flanders pflander@nd.gov	Bismarck Burleigh Public Health	500 E. Front	Bismarck	ND	58504	701/355-1540	
Ken	Gerhardt kgerk@nd.gov	Morton Co. Social Services	200 2 nd Ave. NW	Mandan	ND	58554	701/667-3395	701/667-3384
Rebecca	Gerhardt rgerhardt@btinet.net	Safety/Injury Prev. Coordinator	600 S. 2 nd St., Ste. 8	Bismarck	ND	58504	701/223-4517	
Melanie	Heitkamp macmel57@mac.com	Youthworks	221 W. Rosser	Bismarck	ND	58501	701/255-6909	701/255-3922
Vanessa	Hoines vanessa.hoines@ndsu.edu	NDSU Extension Service (Morton Co.)	210 2 nd Ave. NW	Mandan	ND	58554	701/667-3340	701/667-3348
Diane	Larson dilarson@nd.gov	Police Youth Bureau ***CHAIR -- OUT OF HOME YOUTH PLACEMENT TASK FORCE	700 S. 9 th St.	Bismarck	ND	58504	701/355-1888	
Joyce	McDowall jmcdowall@bismarckdiocese.com	Catholic Diocese of Bismarck	Box 1137	Bismarck	ND	58502	701/222-3035	701/222-0269
Dave	McGeary dmcgeary@ndcourts.gov	Juvenile Court	514 E. Thayer	Bismarck	ND	58501	701/222-6709	
Laurel	Nybo laurel_nybo@bismarckschools.org	BPS/BECEP/Head Start	806 N. Washington	Bismarck	ND	58501	701/323-4400	
Linda	Reinicke lreinicke@lssnd.org	Childcare Resource & Referral ***CO-CHAIR -- EARLY CHILDHOOD: INTERVENTION & PREVENTION TASK FORCE	1616 Capitol Way	Bismarck	ND	58501	701/530-2501	
Junell	Roswick jroswick@nd.gov	Div. of Juvenile Services	418 E. Broadway, Ste.224	Bismarck	ND	58501	701/328-3937	
Ti	Sauter tsauter@nd.gov	West Central Human Service Ctr.	1237 W. Divide Ave.	Bismarck	ND	58501	701/328-8873	
Beck	Sevart bsevart@bis.midco.net	ND Federation of Families	2252 LaCorte Lp.	Bismarck	ND	58503	701/258-1628	

NONVOTING MEMBERS OF THE CSC::

	Eichele (C.O.O.) <u>dacotah@btinet.net</u>	Dacotah Foundation	600 S. 2 nd St., Ste. 8	Bismarck	ND	58504	701/223-4517	701/223-5775
	Endrickson (CSC Proj. Mgr.) <u>csc4kids@btinet.net</u>	Dacotah Foundation	600 S. 2 nd St., Ste. 8	Bismarck	ND	58504	701/223-5707	701/223-5775

- * **CSC Board President:** JoAnn Brager
- * **Vice President/President-Elect:** Tami DeCoteau
- * **Immediate Past President:** Buster Langowski
- * **Early Childhood: Intervention & Prevention Task Force Chairs:** Linda Reinicke & Buster Langowski
- * **Out of Home Placement Task Force Chair:** Diune Larson
- * **ATOD Youth Assessment/Treatment Task Force Chair:** Teresa Carrigan
- * **ATOD Prevention Task Force** functions are carried out by the Safe & Drug Free Communities Coalition.
- * **Executive Committee Chair:** JoAnn Brager
- * **Personnel & Nominating Committee Chair:** vacant



Testimony To The
Senate Human Services Committee
Prepared January 28, 2009 by
Lisa Jahner, Juvenile Justice Specialist
North Dakota Association of Counties

REGARDING SENATE BILL No. 2355

Chairman Lee and members of the Committee, I am here in support Senate Bill 2355.

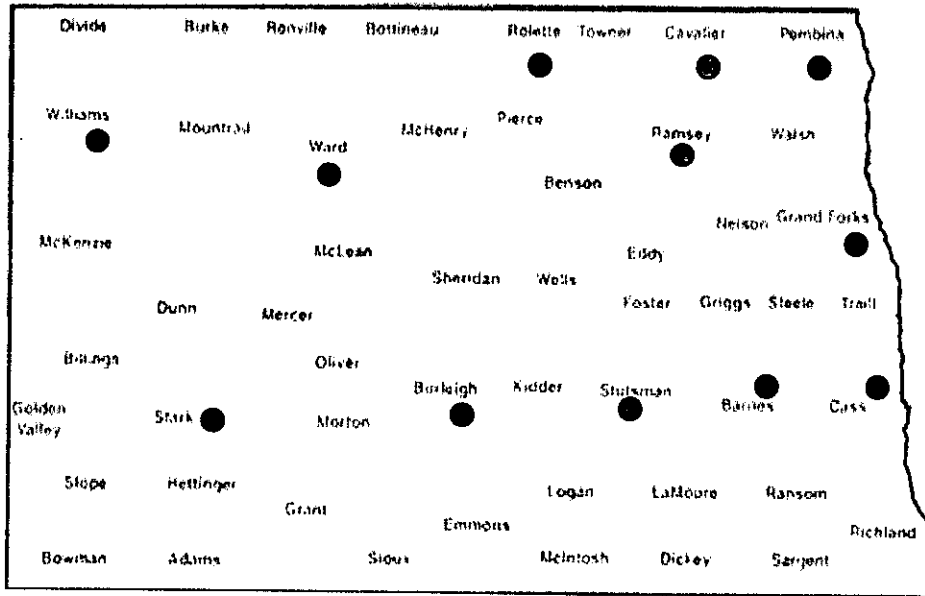
Under the direction of a juvenile justice advisory group, the North Dakota Association of Counties administers federal juvenile justice funding used to operate a statewide network of Attendant Care programs. Attendant Care provides for the non-secure supervision of youth that have been taken into custody by law enforcement due to a citable offense. In general, it is designed to provide short term supervision (24 hours or less) for those juveniles awaiting release to a parent or a court hearing. Attendant Care was established to provide a non-secure supervision option for juvenile offenders, as research shows that the use of secure detention can have inadvertent negative outcomes.¹

Currently there are twelve Attendant Care programs operating in both urban and rural areas of the State. In the South Central Judicial District, the Attendant Care program works in conjunction with other services provided to youth and families as part of the Short Term Care and Assessment Center operated by Youthworks. This collaboration works well as it allows for a more efficient use of resources, reliability of services, and less staff turnover.

While Attendant Care fills the need for short term non-secure supervision of juvenile offenders, due to the limited amount of federal funds and the guidelines that have been established for their use, the program is not able to cover costs associated with professional intervention and assessment services. Those services, however, are essential to addressing the factors that play into the youth's contact with the juvenile justice system, thus preventing further involvement. Therefore, I urge your support of Senate Bill 2355 which will provide needed intervention and assessment services for at-risk youth.

¹ Research compiled by the Justice Policy Institute indicates that the use of secure detention can increase recidivism, negatively affect behavior, slow the natural process of "aging out of delinquency", and/or make mentally ill youth worse.

STATE WIDE DETENTION SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM
ATTENDANT CARE SITES/CONTACTS



Burleigh/Morton Counties
Youthworks
311 North Washington Street
Bismarck, ND 58501
Contact: Sheila Lindgren, Youthworks
255-7229/lindgren_yworks@btinet.net

Grand Forks County
Lutheran Social Services
412 DeMers Avenue
Grand Forks, ND 58201
Contact: Amy Brooks, LSS
772-7577/abrooks@lssnd.org

Stutsman County
Stutsman County Law Enf Ctr
205 6th Street SE
Jamestown, ND 58401
Contact: Traci Storey
252-7436/tstorey@state.nd.us

Barnes County
Barnes County Correctional Ctr
491 2nd Ave NW
Valley City, ND 58072
Contact: Nicole Anderson
845-8532/nanderson@co.barnes.nd.us

Pembina County
Law Enforcement Center
308 Courthouse Drive # 2
Cavalier, ND 58220
Contact: Sheriff Brian Ervick
265-4122/berovick@nd.gov

Turtle Mountain Reservation
Little Shell Home for Youth
P.O. Box 900
Belcourt, ND 58316
Contact: Tammy Morin
477-8611/socialgirl33@yahoo.com

Cass County
Cass County Juvenile Center
1015 3rd Avenue South
Fargo, ND 58103
Contact: Amy Brooks, LSS
772-7577/abrooks@lssnd.org

Ramsey County
Harmony House
1701 College Street North
Devils Lake, ND 58301
Contact: Jenny Horn
662-1600/jrh@lrlec.org

Ward County
Lutheran Social Services
615 South Broadway, Suite L3
Minot, ND 58701
Contact: Terri Levy
838-7887/levy@lssnd.org

Cavalier County
Cavalier County Courthouse
901 3rd Street
Langdon, ND 58249
Contact: Sheriff Dave Zeis
256-2555/dzeis@nd.gov

Stark County
Sunrise Youth Bureau
1340 West Villard
Dickinson, ND 58601
Contact: Jerry Mayer
483-9498/jmayer09@hotmail.com

Williams County
Juvenile Assessment Center
512 4th Avenue East
Williston, ND 58801
Contact: Marsha Hughs
577-7708/marshah@co.williams.nd.us

Testimony To The
REGARDING SENATE BILL No. 2355

Senate Human Services Committee
Prepared January 28, 2009
Melanie Heitkamp, Director of Youthworks

*same
to Senate
appropriates*

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, My name is Melanie Heitkamp and I am the Executive Director of Youthworks. I am here at the request of Senator Dever to provide background on our Short Term Care and Assessment Center and to answer any question you may have regarding this program.

I have worked in the child welfare field for 29 years, the first seven years in Child Protection and Foster Care services, the last 22 years at Youthworks. Youthworks is a private, non-profit youth serving agency serving at-risk youth and families. Youthworks has served the Bismarck/Mandan community since 1986.

I came to Youthworks because of the opportunity to provide prevention services to families. The seven years I worked in Child Protection and Foster Care, taught me that many children would not need to be placed out of their homes if crisis intervention and good professional assessment and therapy services were made immediately available to the youth and families. The opportunity to take a "time out" to consider the life-altering consequences of a decision to involve the juvenile court and to have custody taken by child welfare or Juvenile Services is very important.

As Diane Larsen stated four years ago our community was faced with a loss of two critical services that provided emergency shelter for youth.

Youthworks had expertise in working with youth and families in crisis through our Runaway Youth, Juvenile Diversion and Attendant Care Programs. Adding short-term care, intervention, and assessment services was a natural expansion consistent with our mission.

We were only interested in providing short care if family crisis intervention was a critical component of the program and youth could be sheltered while in the custody of their parents. We had no interest in becoming another foster care provider for children removed from the care of their parents.

In anticipation of your questions and to facilitate discussion, I have prepared FAQs on Short-term Care and Assessment, a Short-Term Care and Assessment Center Statistical Summary, and a our budget document all of which are attached.

FAQ
(Frequently Asked Questions)
Short-Term Care and Assessment Center

What is a Short-term Care and Assessment Center?

A Short-Term Care and Assessment Center is a facility that provides short-term shelter for youth that cannot be immediately returned to their home and are generally placed with the consent of the parent. The overall mission of a Center is to provide professional intervention to prevent placements in the foster care system. Assessment and reunification services are required to insure that youth can be safely returned to their home. Generally the placements are less than 96 hours. The Short-Term Care and Assessment Center also provides shelter for youth awaiting longer-term placement. Placements are voluntary and the facility is not locked. A demonstration project has been serving the South Central region since December of 2006.

How is a Short-Term Care and Assessment Center different from group care licensed by the Department of Human Services?

A Short-term Care and Assessment Center is not licensed, but is designated by the Juvenile Court as the attendant care and short-term shelter for the judicial district. The designation is required by existing statute. Parents maintain custody and make the ultimate decisions regarding the need for longer-term care. The Center must meet all local health and fire standards. Licensed facilities generally do not accept youth placed with the consent of parents. Most group care placements are authorized by the Juvenile Court.

What services are provided?

In addition to shelter a safe place in a crisis, the Short-Term Care and Assessment Center provides:

- crisis intervention on a 24-7 basis
- professional assessment regarding safety
- mental health screening
- immediate family counseling and reunification services
- liaison with other providers working with the family
- recommendations and referrals regarding the need for other services (anger management, peer support, etc.)
- follow-up that includes brief family therapy

How effective is the shelter in returning youth to their homes within 96 hours?

A demonstration program in Bismarck at Youthworks sheltered nearly 200 youth in 2008 and 340 youth since December of 2006. Two-thirds of the youth referred were at risk of placement and could not be immediately returned to their homes without professional assessment and reunification services. Typically these youth could not be returned home due to serious conflict between adolescents and their parents. With short-term shelter, assessment and reunification services 85.3% of these youth were returned home, 7.6% were placed temporarily with a relative and 2.8% were referred for short-term psychiatric care. Approximately one-third of the youth referred were held pending longer-term placement and providing the time necessary to develop the most cost-effective and appropriate placement plan.

Active follow-up is available when serious parent-child conflict is the presenting issue or when placement decisions have not already been approved. Forty-five (45%) of the families voluntarily participated in brief family therapy and/or other supporting services following shelter.

Who is served at the Short-term Care and Assessment Center?

The following types of youth are served:

- Youth arrested (or citable) that cannot be immediately, or safely, returned to their home without further assessment and reunification services (attendant care).

- Youth whose parents say they can no longer manage their child's behavior and need immediate and professional intervention.
- Youth awaiting placement in a longer term facility.
- Youth that have run away from home and are being served outside of the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Systems (runaway youth services).

What does it cost to operate a Short-Term Care and Assessment Center?

The budget for Youthworks' Short-Term Care and Assessment Center (operating 24 hours per day, seven day per week) is approximately \$200,000 per year. Half of the cost (\$100,000) is coming from ongoing partnering agencies that benefit directly from the shelter and services provided and from the operating agency-Youthworks. An additional \$100,000 is needed by July 1, 2009 to replace funding provided by the Bush Foundation.

What other entities can share the cost?

The funding partners for the pilot project included the Morton and Burleigh county and county social services, West Central Human Services (shelter care), State Attendant Care Program (attendant care), Children's Services Coordinating Committee (start-up for 2006-07) Youthworks (runaway center) and the Bush Foundation (a pilot project ending 6/30/09). Attendant care and shelter care pay only for the placement, not assessment, reunification and follow-up services. There is no additional funding available for shelter care or attendant care. The city of Bismarck has provided funding to bring the facility up to building, health and fire standards and to make the facility handicap accessible.

Does a Short-term Care and Assessment Center save money?

Short-term shelter, assessment and reunification services:

- (1) Provides an immediate placement option and crisis intervention for parents outside of the juvenile justice and child welfare systems,
- (2) Provides law enforcement with an immediate option allowing them to return to policing,
- (3) Reduces placement hearings for the juvenile court (including legal costs for assigning an attorney),
- (4) Reduces placements in foster or group care,
- (5) Reduces the caseload for the court, county social services and corrections.

The savings are considerable, if only the cost of placement is considered. Placement in licensed group care is expensive typically costing \$6478 per youth per month-\$77,745 per year. If only 20% of the 128 youth at risk of placement were placed for 90 days, the cost would total \$490,752. This is more than twice the cost of the program and a savings (\$290,752) of more than a quarter of a million dollars. While difficult to estimate, the increases in caseload, juvenile court costs, and law enforcement expenses must also be substantial.

Is it the right thing to do?

The state must hold youth in the least restrictive environment. Ungovernable youth cannot be held in secure settings and could be diverted and served outside of the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Systems. Placements authorized by the parents that provide a "time out" in times of crisis coupled with immediate intervention and follow-up is the right thing to do. Research consistently shows that early intervention and the active engagement of parents during a crisis can keep youth in their own homes, in school, and in the community.

Attached is statistical report and the 2009-10 budget.

Youthworks' Short –Term Care and Assessment Center Budget Notes

Revenue. A variety of agencies and sources of funding have come together to provide the community with a program meeting the immediate needs of youth that cannot immediately and safely returned to their homes. To operate the STCAC on a 24-hour, 7 days a week basis, costs approximately \$200,000/yr. Youthworks' complimentary programs, such as the Family Support Program, provide brief family therapy after reunification. Youthworks borrowed funding to meet the health and fire codes for a shelter in order to address the need for crisis placement. The Short-Term Care and Assessment Center received start-up funding from the Regional Children's Services Coordinating Committee for 2007. In 2008-2009 the Bush Foundation provided "bridge funding" while Youthworks sought longer-term funding.

The ongoing funding consists of:

Attendant Care. (\$31,053) This funding is Federal and provided under Title II of the Juvenile Justice Act. The purpose of this funding is assist the state in meeting the Federal requirements of separating juvenile and adult offenders and diverting non-serious offenders from the juvenile justice system. Funding is limited to not more than 48 hours.

Burleigh & Morton County. (\$33,122) The counties provide some of the overhead costs as part of their commitment to attendant care and their need to provide alternatives to meet the state requirement of not detaining non-serious juvenile offenders or holding juveniles in adult facilities. Attendant care also provides an immediate placement option, releasing the police for patrol duties.

Burleigh & Morton County Social Services. (\$9000) Child protection services also benefits from having an immediate placement option that provides shelter, supervision and assessment options outside of child welfare with parental consent and participation. Without the shelter, child protection would have to handle these youth "officially" and assign its staff to make assessments. There are few, if any, emergency options in licensed alternative care and none for placement "authorized" by the parent.

Runaway Youth Services. (\$14,825) Runaway services are authorized under Federal law. Youthworks is one of several hundred runaway centers, and the only center in the state, working to reunite runaway youth and their parents along with youth at risk of running. These services must be provided outside of the law enforcement, juvenile justice and child welfare systems. This funding is matched by local United Way funding.

West Central Human Services. (\$12,000) All of the emergency shelter care funding available to the Human Services Center is allocated to the center. This is the only funding available for youth sheltered, but not cited, and for whom an immediate and safe return home is not feasible without an assessment. Funding is limited to not more than 96 hours.

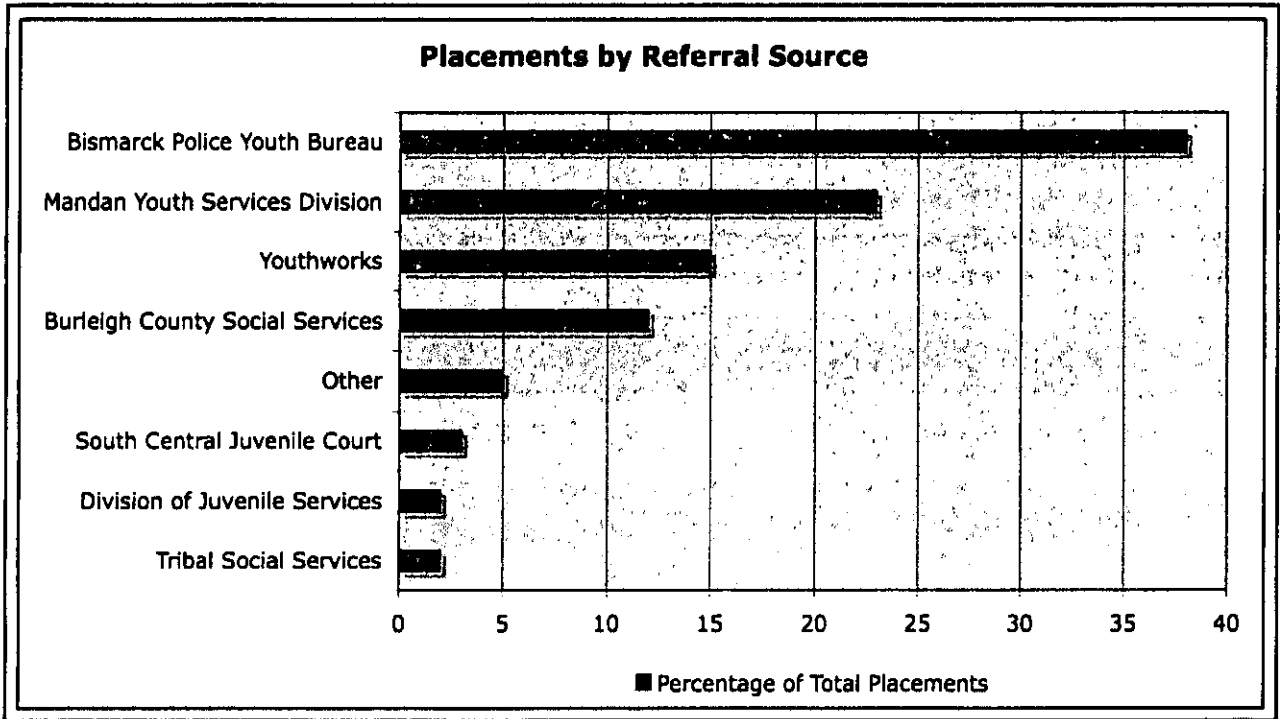
Expenditures. While this is a shelter, 83% of the funding is for personnel. Salary expense includes the 24-7 supervision of youth (46% of wages and in excess of 50% with fringe). The Coordinator responsible for the daily operation of the shelter is budgeted \$24,268 or 12% of the salary expenses. Family reunification and assessment services totals approximately 11% of the expenditures. Clerical and administrative costs total 6.7% of total costs.

Operating costs consist primarily of occupancy related expenses (\$20,247 or 10% of the budget) including rent (mortgage), utilities, building insurance and maintenance. Food and shelter supplies are budgeted at \$4300 or 2.1% of the budget. The remaining operating costs are based on historical costs or are allocated based on Youthworks' cost allocation plan.

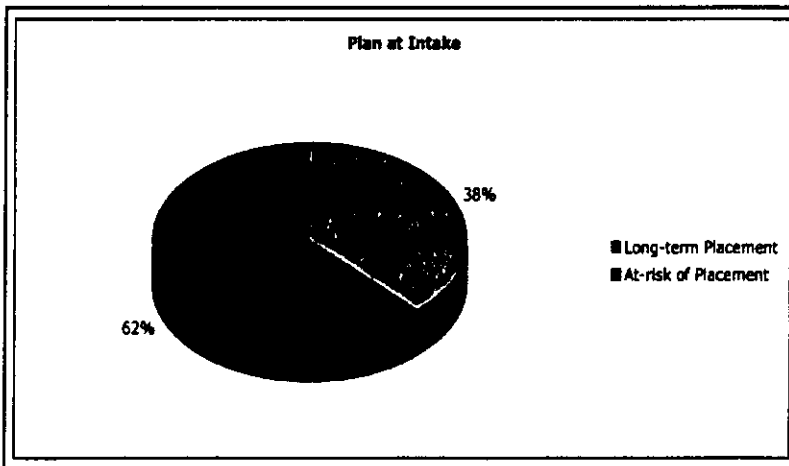
Youthworks Short-Term Care and Assessment Center Statistical Summary

The project has supported 340 placements in approximately 24 months. A total of 145 placements were made in 2007 and 195 were made in 2008. The data/charts below are based on the entire placement population.

✓ Referring agencies:



✓ Sixty-two percent (62%) of youth served were at-risk of out-of-home placement at intake. Following crisis services, long-term out-of-home placement was avoided for 93.4% of these youth, with 85.3% returning home, 7.6% placed temporarily with a relative and 2.8% entering short-term psychiatric care at a local hospital.

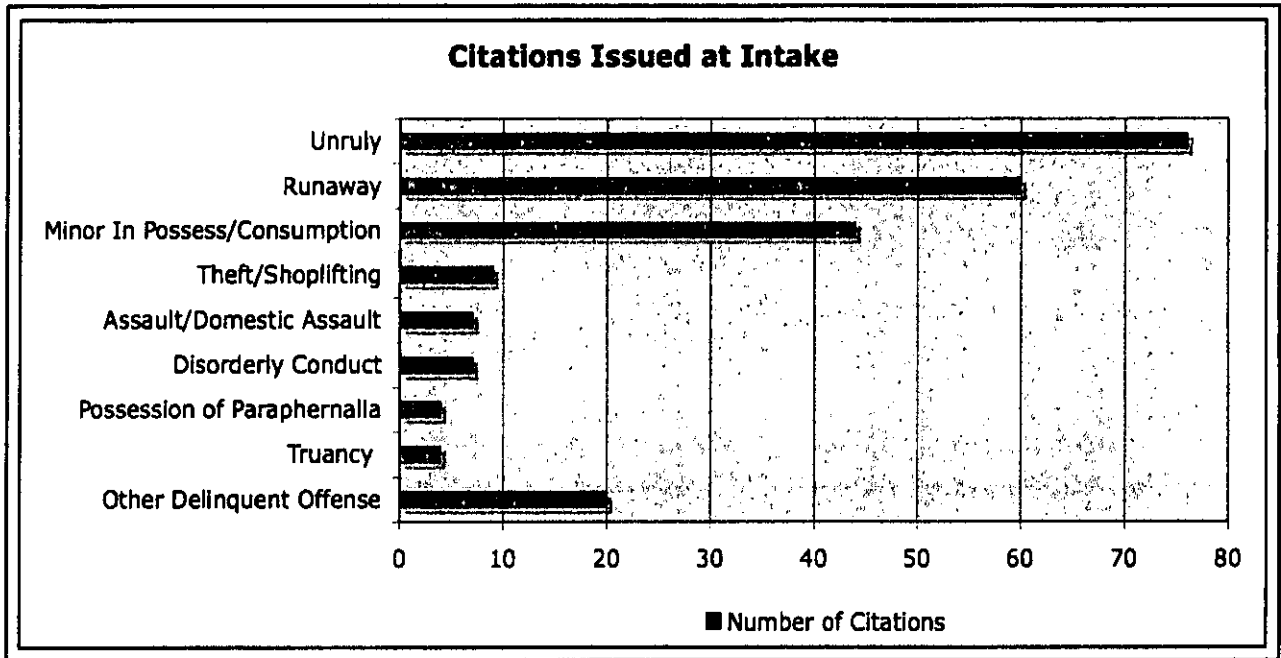


✓ For 38% of the youth served, long-term placement was the plan at intake. Seventeen (17) of these youth did not go into placement as planned.

✓ Active follow-up is available when serious parent-child conflict is the presenting issue or when placement decisions have not already been made. Forty-five

percent (45%) of the families voluntarily participated in brief family therapy and/or other supportive services following shelter.

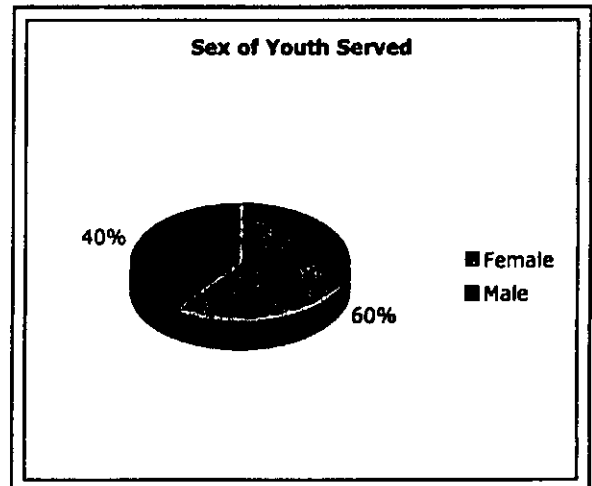
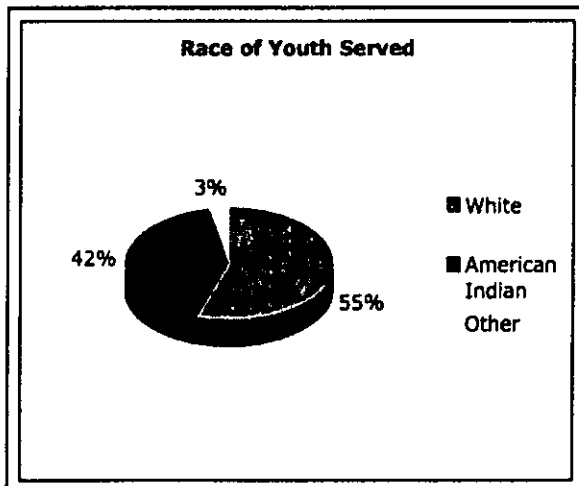
- ✓ Sixty-eight percent (68%) of the clients had been cited by law enforcement at intake. Delinquent offenses included: Assault, Terrorizing, Theft, Disorderly Conduct, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.



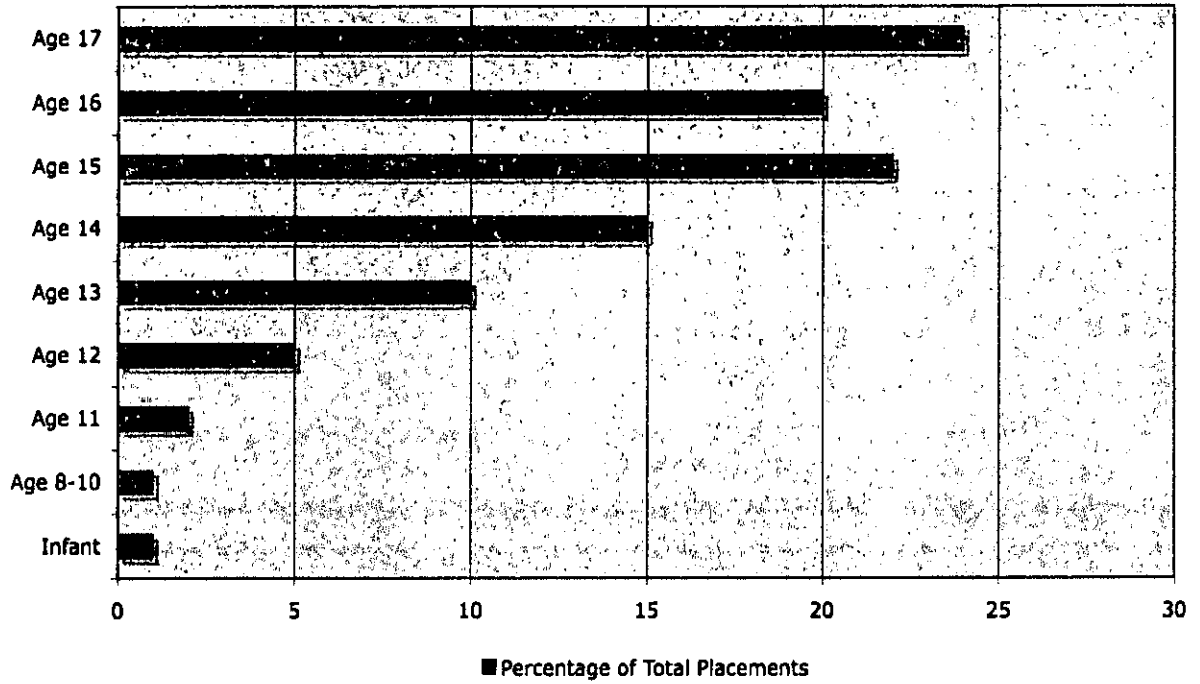
- ✓ Fifty-four percent (54%) of the placements were for Attendant Care and 46% were for Short-Term Care.
- ✓ The average length of placement for Short-Term Care was 51 hours. The average length of placement for Attendant Care was 21.7 hours.
- ✓ Client Demographics:

Residence of clients at intake:

Burleigh County	60.3%
Morton County	22.9%
Surrounding Counties	16.8%



Placements by Age



SHORT TERM CARE AND ASSESSMENT CENTER - BISMARCK

Organization Name: Youthworks

Fiscal Yr Beginning July 1,2009

Date Prepared: January 2009

Proposed (24-7)

Department of Corrections (State)	100000	50.0%
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"Ongoing Commitments"

SUPPORT

Burleigh County	23463.00	11.7%
Morton County	9659.00	4.8%
Burleigh County Soc Ser	6000.00	3.0%
Morton County Soc Ser	3000.00	1.5%
Runaway Youth Services	14825.00	7.4%
West Central Human Services	12000.00	6.0%
Juvenile Justice-Title II (Attendant Care)	31053.00	15.5%
TOTAL SOURCES OF SUPPORT	200000.00	100.0%

Personnel & Fringe

Administrative and Clerical	13468.00
Social Workers & Counselors (Assessment, Family Reunification, Crisis Intervention)	21500.00
Child Care Staff (includes fringe)	92000.00
Short-Term Care Coordinator	24266.00
Fringe Benefits	15451.00

Operating Expenses

EXPENSES

Travel	1000.00
Office Supplies & Postage	1977.00
Food & Shelter Supplies	4300.00
Flex, EAP & Retirement Fees	100.00
Liability Insurance	437.00
Training Stipends	2500.00
Office Furniture & Equip Lease	624.00
Occupancy (Rent, Utilities, Insurance, Maintenance)	20247.00
Accounting/Audit/Acc' Software	1600.00
Laundry	350.00
Licensure & Background Checks	180.00

TOTAL EXPENSES	200000.00
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Youthworks
221 West Rosser
Bismarck, ND 58503
(701)255-7229



April 16, 2008

To whom it may concern:

My daughter was a happy, normal child. She loved to play piano, basketball and volleyball, sing, and dance. She was very popular in grade school and had many friends. She has two loving parents, one brother and two sisters.

During her 9th grade, she started having social problems and began to "cut", when she could not control situations that were out of her control. I didn't know what to do. On the advice from a friend, I contacted Youthworks. We began counseling with them. We took her to a psychiatrist and psychologist who both diagnosed her with being oppositional defiant, depressive and had eating disorder tendencies. We were given an option at that time to have her committed to the psych ward; which we were not willing to do. They then advised us to continue with her counseling with Youthworks.

Our daughter is now 17 years old. In the past year, we have taken her in to see a psychologist and have more testing done; she was struggling with school work. She was diagnosed with borderline ADHD, oppositional defiance, and anxiety/stress disorder. Upon recommendation, we put her on medication. This medication only increased her anxiety, and made her more depressive.

Youthworks, (her counselor and staff) have always been there for me and my family. Through the years they have given me much emotional support, my daughter's counseling and a place to do her homework with help.

A few months ago, my daughter had broken up with her boyfriend. She was determined to go see him to work things out. We had said "no. She was distraught and thinking irrationally. She would not listen to us. At that point, I called Youthworks "hotline", they gave me a few choices. I could have her admitted to the hospital (if we feared she would hurt herself), or call the police, have her cited and brought over to the Attendant Care Shelter. I chose the Attended Care. I knew this was the best for her. I didn't want her institutionalized but I did need her somewhere safe and a place to "cool off". The next day she was released after we had family counseling.

The one thing I like about Youthworks is the diversity of their programs, they are reaching out for all the needs of our youth in our community. They have a professional and well-trained staff that cares for our troubled teens. Without this program, where would my daughter be- Youth Correctional Center? She's not hard-core, just a mixed up teenager who needs a lot of love and guidance- and that guidance is Youthworks.

Sincerely,
Mary

January 27, 2009

To the staff at Youthworks,

I look back at what life was three years ago. My family lived in a nightmare. Not sure what was going to happen to my daughter; rebellion, suicide, failing school, sick all the time, absence from school, on and off again friends, all the counseling, doctors, school officials, police, the calls to youthwork's "hotline", etc. Always hoping and praying that my daughter will be alive and would return to the wonderful child she used to be.

Today, is my daughter's 18th birthday. My daughter is now a senior at South Central High School. She is doing great. For the first time, she likes school and is getting A's & B's. She has a job that she enjoys. She talks about taking a year off and going to college in 2010. She likes hanging out with mom and dad and doing family activities. Its great hearing her talk about how bright the future she plans on having. After three and a half years, **I have my daughter back.**

Thank you to EVERYONE at YOUTHWORKS, I am so happy to have the daughter that was so **full of joy, love, and life** back. I hope that you continue to have the opportunity to save other young adults lives as you did with my daughter.

Forever grateful,
Mary

January 27, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

My family has utilized several services thru Youthworks. We have done family counseling, the Diversion program and also the Shelter Care program. The staff is very kind, knowledgeable and patient.

The shelter program was one of the services that we used this past summer for our daughter Ashley. Ashley was a runaway for approximately 2 weeks. I had been in touch with Youthworks prior to her being found and they advised me that the shelter care program was something that they had available when she was found until we decided what direction to proceed with her. When she was picked up, she did go to Youthworks instead of coming home for a couple of days. At first neither party was ready for her to be back in the home. Thru the next 2 days, we received updates and information from the counselors providing us with an assessment of Ashley and the options that were available such as the Independent Living program. They also checked other outside resources like Job Corps and Home on the Range for us as well to see if they might prove to be further options. They also counseled Ashley during this time. In the end, things were worked out so that both parties agreed to her being back in the home.

Youthworks shelter care program, provided a valuable resource for our family during this time both by giving Ashley a safer alternative to being out on the streets and providing the outside mediation and counseling that was needed at the time to provide resolution to the situation. I think that Youthworks shelter care program is an important program for not only children but parents as well. There's a lot more need these days it seems where more and more youth are in crisis or situations where they are both voluntarily or involuntarily not able to be in their homes. It is a lot safer situation providing an avenue for them to go versus living on the street or staying with unsavory type friends, or having to stay in a dangerous household and feeling like they have nowhere to turn, depending on each case.

My family is glad that the shelter care program exists.

Danette H

Youthworks

From:

Sent: Friday, April 18, 2008 2:40 PM

To: youthworks@btinet.net

Subject: attn:

To Whom it May Concern:

We are writing today to let you know how very much we appreciated having the Youthworks center as an option when we were having some trouble with our 15 year old son recently. He was having some out-of-control behaviors and had to be removed from our home by our local Sheriff's deputy. He was taken to Youthworks and spent a few days there giving us time to sort out our options. He received wonderful counseling and was able to spend time thinking about his behavior and what he could do differently to avoid a similar situation. The staff assisted us with explaining our options and how the different options worked. After a few days we made the decision to bring him home and he has been able to see how he can make better decisions about his attitude and behavior. I don't know what we would have done if this center hadn't been available to us. Based on his having been in foster care several times in his early life before we adopted him and his sisters when he was 12 we hated to think of having to turn over his custody to Social Services in order to get help with the situation. Having the Youthworks center gave us the few days of breathing room we needed to explore all of our options. This center truly provides a needed and necessary service for our community and our youth. Please feel free to contact us if we can offer any further thoughts on our experience with the Youthworks center.

Very truly yours,

Need a new ride? Check out the largest site for U.S. used car listings at [AOL Autos](#).

1715 Valle Moor Drive
Bismarck, ND 58501
January 27, 2009

Emily Yanish
Youthworks
221 W Rosser Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501

Dear Emily,


I would like to express my support, and the support of my family, in Youthworks' efforts to seek funding to continue their programs.

The programs Youthworks offered my daughter, when she was at risk, have enabled her and our family to stay together. The fact that she was able to utilize your safe house and counseling services have led to our family unit staying intact. Without this intervention, she would have most certainly become a ward of the state. Your safe house allowed for a time of 'cooling off' for all parties, and allowed for us to seek effective problem resolutions.

As a result of the efforts of the Youthworks programs and staff, our daughter has become a contributing member of society.

Thank you, and I wish you continued success in assisting at risk youth.

Sincerely,



Doug VerDouw

Testimony
Senate Bill No. 2355
Senate Human Services Committee
January 28, 2009 at 9:45 a.m.

My name is Dave McGeary, Director of Juvenile Court for the South Central and South West Judicial District or Unit 3. I have been employed with Juvenile Court for 34 years. With that said, I need to preface my comments with the statement that my opinions in this testimony are not meant to reflect those of the judiciary, or for that matter, the other Juvenile Courts across the state.

I am here to support Senate Bill No. 2355. The Short Term Care and Assessment Center at Youthworks is a product and model developed after a joint effort by many Bismarck/Mandan community agencies, law enforcement and corrections personnel, social services, community leaders, and Juvenile Court staff for nearly a year. The appropriate placement and assessment of youth is viewed as **critical**. Where do we place youth for up to 96 hours who are unruly or commit misdemeanor type offenses and cannot return home for various reasons? And, how do we accomplish short term placement using the least restrictive means for the child and family?

The Short Term Care and Assessment Center provides the most appropriate placement for youth who need emergency intervention. Without the Assessment Center, these youth would likely be placed in Attendant Care, Detention, or returned home under unsafe circumstances. Attendant Care is limited to 24 hours. If the child is unable to return home during that time, a shelter care hearing is scheduled pursuant to 27-20-17 (2) NDCC. As with most hearings in Juvenile Court, attorneys for the child and parents are needed, court time for the State's Attorney, Juvenile Court Officer, and the Judge, all at the expense of the state or county. More importantly, the parents lose custody of their

child if the court orders continued placement and the child enters the foster care system, all within 24 hours. Why should a parent lose custody of their child within 24 hours to access a community resource? With the Youthworks Assessment model, a child can remain at the facility for up to 96 hours consistent with 27-20-17 (2) NDCC, parents retain custody of their child, and the family receives professional assistance at Youthworks immediately upon the child's placement in an effort to reunite the family as quickly as possible. If Attendant Care is not an option, some youth would go into detention (lock up) because no other placements are available. I know because I get the calls at all hours of the night from law enforcement and social services. They do not know where to place the juveniles. Detention is used, but it is used for those juveniles who commit offenses that warrant detention and are at risk to the community and/or themselves. That is not the population at issue here. The juveniles in question are primarily between 12 and 17 years old who are placed in detention not because they need to be there, but because there are no other less restrictive placement options. Furthermore, there are juveniles who are returned home to unstable or even unsafe situations because of limited placement facilities. The Short Term Care and Assessment Center fills that gap in each one of these examples.

In conclusion, the Short Term care and Assessment Center works because it allows parents to retain custody of their children, it keeps juveniles out of the foster care system, it is a very efficient and cost effective program, it allows the juvenile to stay in his or her community and school, it provides professional assistance to the family, it protects the rights of the child and parents, and above all, it is in the best interest of the child and the public.

Thank you for your time. I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

#6

Dever, Dick D.

From: Bjergaard, Lisa J.
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2009 1:55 PM
To: Dever, Dick D.
Subject: SB2355

Senator Dever;

I appreciated the opportunity to observe testimony this morning regarding SB2355.

I am responding to your request regarding any amendments that might be helpful to the process should 2355 appropriate dollars to the DOCR for the purpose of piloting shelter care.

Because it is evident that the intent is to fund the existing Youthworks program, you might consider an amendment that **exempts this project from State procurement rules**. As the bill now stands, the DOCR would issue an RFP that would be open to all vendors. Perhaps there is another solution, such as naming Youthworks specifically. In any event, it is our feeling here that anything you can do to more clearly spell out your intent to continue Youthwork's existing program would be helpful in the long run.

Hope this is helpful.

I know these are very busy days for you, and time is short. If there are any other questions I can answer, please do not hesitate to give me a call. I am at 328-6674.

Regards,

Lisa Bjergaard, Director
North Dakota Division of Juvenile Services

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, my name is Diane Larson and I am in support of SB 2355.

I have been working at the Police Youth Bureau for 19 years. As a Youthworker at the Bismarck Police Department, when an officer has a problem with a juvenile that they need assistance with, they contact one of the Youthworkers. We are on call 24 hours a day.

About four years ago, our community had a problem. We no longer had the ability to place youth into a short term shelter care because the agency that provided that for us said that they no longer had the resources to handle those crisis situations, and they would only take those juveniles that were court ordered into placement.

That left us with a gap. We only had Attendant Care where youth could be placed up to 24 hours before a shelter care hearing would have to be scheduled, or detention which resulted in a detention hearing the next day. This was both expensive with the cost of court hearings and court placement, and was often devastating for families who were struggling.

Attached to my testimony you will find a list of members and agencies on the Out of Home Task Force which I currently chair that got together to brainstorm this problem.

We thought that if we could have a Short Term Care and Assessment Center where youth could be placed in a crisis situation for up to four days before a Shelter Care hearing was needed, that would give us time to have a trained counselor intervene with the family and counseling and reunification services could begin right away; even on the weekend. This would prevent a

much more expensive longer term placement, and would also keep the family in tact. Parents would not have to lose custody of their children in order to get the services they needed.

Youthworks has been providing the Attendant Care site for our area, and we found that partnering with the Attendant Care site we were able to use their facility, part time staff, and professionals to expand the 24 hour placement and incorporate a Short Term Care and Assessment Center. This was much more cost effective than a stand-alone program.

Through grants we were able to get our idea up and running. Now we are faced with depleting grant funds for this program. We are in support of Senator Dever's bill to use this program that we have developed to further study how other areas in the state can utilize this concept for the benefit of the families and to save the state the cost of deeper end placements for youth.

It was a concept that developed out of need and was addressed by many youth serving agencies that believe in preserving families. As I address the Appropriations Committee, I am also happy to say that this has and will save state dollars on the long-term placements too, so this is a win-win bill.

Diane Larson

Youthworker

Bismarck Police Youth Bureau

355-1888

Testimony Regarding
SENATE BILL NUMBER 2355

3

Senate Appropriations Committee
February 16, 2009
Lauren Bosch, Youthworks Program Manager

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Committee, my name is Lauren Bosch and I am the Program Director for the Short-Term Care and Assessment Center at Youthworks. My comments this morning will be brief. The Center accepts youth between the ages of 10-17 who are in need of immediate short-term shelter. The clients referred have all experiencing some form of crisis immediately prior to placement, most being cited with a juvenile offense linked to parent-child conflict. The Center handled 195 placements in 2008. Approximately 2/3 of the clients referred were at risk of placement and could not immediately be returned to their homes without professional assessment and/or reunification services. Long-term out-of-home placement was avoided for 93.4% of these youth.

What makes this particular crisis-response model effective is access to experienced professionals that can address the issues that lead to the crisis and provide on-going services after the crisis has passed. The parents that request crisis counseling services are upset, scared and feel they are out of options. Giving these parents and youth up to 96 hours of time to calm down and evaluation options is the right thing to do and prevents youth from entering the foster care system. As indicated in the attached FAQ, the annual cost for a child to be served in a local group home is over \$77,000. Adequately funding services that prevent placements into the foster care and corrections systems is both cost effective and the right thing to do to keep North Dakota families together.

#1

Mr. Chairman and members of the Human Services Committee, my name is Diane Larson and I am in support of SB 2355.

I have been working at the Police Youth Bureau for 19 years. As a Youthworker at the Bismarck Police Department, when an officer has a problem with a juvenile that they need assistance with, they contact one of the Youthworkers. We are on call 24 hours a day.

About four years ago, our community had a problem. We no longer had the ability to place youth into a short term shelter care because the agency that provided that for us said that they no longer had the resources to handle those crisis situations, and they would only take those juveniles that were court ordered into placement.

That left us with a gap. We only had Attendant Care where youth could be placed up to 24 hours before a shelter care hearing would have to be scheduled, or detention which resulted in a detention hearing the next day. This was both expensive with the cost of court hearings and court placement, and was often devastating for families who were struggling.

Attached to my testimony you will find a list of members and agencies on the Out of Home Task Force which I currently chair that got together to brainstorm this problem.

We thought that if we could have a Short Term Care and Assessment Center where youth could be placed in a crisis situation for up to four days before a Shelter Care hearing was needed, that would give us time to have a trained counselor intervene with the family and counseling and reunification services could begin right away; even on the weekend. This would prevent a

much more expensive longer term placement, and would also keep the family in tact. Parents would not have to lose custody of their children in order to get the services they needed.

Youthworks has been providing the Attendant Care site for our area, and we found that partnering with the Attendant Care site we were able to use their facility, part time staff, and professionals to expand the 24 hour placement and incorporate a Short Term Care and Assessment Center. This was much more cost effective than a stand-alone program.

Through grants we were able to get our idea up and running. Now we are faced with depleting grant funds for this program. We are in support of Senator Dever's bill to use this program that we have developed to further study how other areas in the state can utilize this concept for the benefit of the families and to save the state the cost of deeper end placements for youth.

It was a concept that developed out of need and was addressed by many youth serving agencies that believe in preserving families. This win-win bill allows families to stay in tact and saves state dollars by avoiding long-term placements.

Diane Larson

dilarson@nd.gov

Youthworker

Bismarck Police Youth Bureau

355-1888

#2

Testimony To The
House Human Services Committee
Prepared March 10, 2009 by
Lisa Jahner, Juvenile Justice Specialist
North Dakota Association of Counties

REGARDING SENATE BILL No. 2355

Chairman Weisz and members of the Committee, I am here in support Senate Bill 2355.

Under the direction of a juvenile justice advisory group, the North Dakota Association of Counties administers federal juvenile justice funding used to operate a statewide network of Attendant Care programs. Attendant Care provides for the non-secure supervision of youth that have been taken into custody by law enforcement due to a citable offense. In general, it is designed to provide short term supervision (24 hours or less) for those juveniles awaiting release to a parent/guardian or a court hearing. Attendant Care was established to provide a non-secure alternative for the holding of juvenile offenders, as research shows that the use of secure detention can have inadvertent negative outcomes.¹

Currently there are twelve Attendant Care programs operating in both urban and rural areas of the State. In the South Central Judicial District, the Attendant Care program works in conjunction with other services provided to youth and families as part of the Short Term Care and Assessment Center operated by Youthworks. This collaboration works well as it allows for a more efficient use of resources, reliability of services, and less staff turnover.

While Attendant Care fills the need for short term supervision of juvenile offenders, due to the limited amount of federal funds and the guidelines that have been established for their use, the program is not able to cover costs associated with professional assessment and family reunification services. Those services, however, are essential to addressing the factors that play into the youth's contact with the juvenile justice system and preventing further involvement. Research shows that the most effective strategies for preventing juvenile justice system involvement provide for: 1) early intervention with youth; 2) working with parents and family, not just with youth themselves; and 3) knowledgeable staff that know how to intervene effectively with youth, families, and communities. This bill would support all three. To understand the importance of working with the family, one just needs to look to the deep end of the system-the juvenile corrections system-where family instability is a factor for involvement of almost 70% of the youth.

Therefore, I urge your support of Senate Bill 2355 which will provide needed intervention and assessment services for at-risk youth.

¹ Research compiled by the Justice Policy Institute indicates that the use of secure detention can increase recidivism, negatively affect behavior, slow the natural process of "aging out of delinquency", and/or make mentally ill youth worse.

#3

Testimony Regarding
SENATE BILL NUMBER 2355

House Human Services Committee
March 10, 2009
Lauren Bosch, Youthworks Program Manager

Chairman Weisz and members of the Committee, my name is Lauren Bosch and I am the Program Director for the Short-Term Care and Assessment Center at Youthworks. I am here at the request of Senator Dever to provide background information on the project. With me today is Melanie Heitkamp, Executive Director of Youthworks, and Doug Herzog, Development Director. In anticipation of your questions and to facilitate discussion, we have included a FAQ fact sheet, budget and statistical summary for the project.

My comments this afternoon will be brief. The Center is a regional facility, designated by the South Central Juvenile Court that accepts youth between the ages of 10-17 who are in need of immediate short-term shelter. The Center handled 195 placements in 2008, a 25% increase over the number served in 2007. The clients referred have all experienced some form of crisis immediately prior to placement, most being cited with a juvenile offense linked to parent-child conflict. The facility is not a group home and accepts children with the permission of their parents, while a group home predominantly accepts children placed under a court order. The overall goal of the project is to keep children out of the law enforcement, juvenile justice and foster care systems and keep families in tact. The data supports that the agency has been successful meeting this goal and conservatively estimates that we prevent approximately 40 youth annually from moving further into the system.

Approximately 2/3 of the clients referred are at-risk of out-of-home placement and could not immediately be returned to their homes without professional assessment and/or reunification services. Long-term out-of-home placement was avoided for 93.4% of these youth. Approximately 1/3 of the youth referred were held pending longer-term placement, providing the time necessary to develop the most cost effective and appropriate placement plan. As indicated in the attached FAQ, the cost for a child to be served in a local group home is over \$77,000 annually, with the average length of

placement being 5.5 months. The current project would be cost neutral if placement could be avoided for just 5.6 of the 128 youth served in 2008 that were at-risk of out-of-home placement.

What makes this particular crisis-response model effective is immediate access to highly skilled counselors that can address the issues that led to the crisis and provide on-going services following the crisis. Parents that request shelter, intervention and assessment are upset, scared and feel they are out of options. Giving these parents and youth up to 96 hours to evaluate options is the right thing to do. The model assists families in handling complex family problems and as earlier testimony indicated, prevents at-risk youth from entering the foster care and corrections systems.

Without adequate ongoing funding, the shelter would close and we would no longer be able to provide assessment services. The juvenile court and child welfare systems will see an increase in volume and more youth will be placed out of their homes. Half of the costs of this project are provided by the partnering agencies who have made a commitment to continue this funding in the future. The other half has been provided by the Bush foundation on a one-time basis and this funding will run out this July. The \$100,000 annual appropriation provides only for the loss of one-time funding.

In summary, this project represents North Dakota values. It keeps parents in control, preserves families and limits government intervention into family decision making. It also saves valuable tax dollars that otherwise would be spent on more expensive and restrictive options such as foster care and correctional care.

#4

**Testimony
SB 2355
House Human Services Committee
March 10, 2009**

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee, my name is Shari Doe. I am the Director of Burleigh County Social Services and I support SB 2355.

Short-term care and assessment services for youth that can't be immediately returned to their home saves: it saves money as the child does not enter the foster care system; and it saves families. Generally the placements are less than 96 hours, but in these 96 hours, youth and parents can cool down, immediate family counseling and reunification services are provided, and if further services are warranted, they are put in place. Social service and court involvement are avoided and parents do not have to give up custody of their child.

In Burleigh County, the average daily cost for a youth placed in a group home facility is \$141 or \$4,284 per month. Burleigh County Social Services provides some of the funding for short term care and assessment at Youthworks because the model works in keeping youth out of the system which, as I said before saves money and helps keep families intact.

Mr. Chairman I urge a "DO PASS" recommendation on SB 2355 and I will answer questions you may have.

#5

Testimony
Senate Bill No. 2355
House Human Services Committee
March 10, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.

My name is Dave McGeary, Director of Juvenile Court for the South Central and South West Judicial District or Unit 3. I have been employed with Juvenile Court for 34 years. With that said, I need to preface my comments with the statement that my opinions in this testimony are not meant to reflect those of the judiciary, or for that matter, the other Juvenile Courts across the state.

I want to express my complete support to Senate Bill No. 2355. The Short Term Care and Assessment Center at Youthworks is a product and model developed after a joint effort by many Bismarck/Mandan community agencies, regional agency representatives, law enforcement and corrections personnel, social services, community leaders, and Juvenile Court staff for over a year. The appropriate placement and assessment of youth in need of shelter care in emergency situations is viewed as **critical**. Where do we place youth in emergency situations for up to 96 hours who are in need of shelter care and cannot return to the parental home for various reasons? And, how do we accomplish short term placement allowing parents to retain custody using the least restrictive means for the child?

The Youthworks Short Term Care and Assessment Center provides the most conservative, cost effective, and appropriate placement for youth who need emergency shelter care for up to 96 hours. Parents retain custody of their child during this time and the child and parents receive professional counseling services by Youthworks staff upon placement. Every effort is made to reunite the family prior to any Juvenile Court involvement. Data clearly indicates the Youthworks Short Term Care and Assessment Center has proven to be very effective and cost efficient. Without the shelter care center, a majority of these children would

have entered the foster care system after 24 hours of being placed in shelter care or worse yet, returned home to unsafe and unstable home conditions because of no other placement options. I know this issue is **critical** because I get the calls from law enforcement and social services at all hours of the night when emergency shelter care is needed. They don't know what to do and the safety of the child is at stake. The cost savings to keeping children out of the foster system and the court system has to be huge. One shelter care hearing alone can involve at least six (6) court personnel. The Judge, court reporter, State's Attorney, Juvenile Court Officer, attorney for the child (usually court appointed because parents are indigent) and/or Guardian ad Litem and attorney for parents (court appointed also), all or most at taxpayer expense. Include foster care and case management costs in the process and the figure increases. However, there is a way to control those costs and reduce or even prevent the need for numerous shelter care hearings and foster care placements. The Short Term Care and Assessment Center fills this gap.

In conclusion, the Youthworks Short Term Care and Assessment Center model has to be the most conservative and cost effective approach to dealing with emergency shelter care needs.

- It allows parents to retain custody of the children during shelter care placement.
- It keeps children out of the foster care system.
- It allows children to remain in their local school and community.
- It provides professional services to the family upon placement.
- It protects the rights of parents and children should a shelter care hearing be needed.
- It prevents or reduces government intrusion into lives of families, and above all,
- It is in the best interest of the child and the public.

Thank you for your time.

*Handed in
#6*

Legislative Testimony

Re: SB 2355

Submitted by: Janell Regimbal

Senior Vice President of Children and Family Services

Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony related to SB 2355, a bill to provide a short-term shelter and assessment pilot program for at risk youth as well as a legislative council study. My name is Janell Regimbal. I serve in the capacity of Senior Vice President of Children and Family Services of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota, a multi-service, comprehensive human service agency offering a variety of programs statewide. As a provider of many services to at risk youth, I speak in support of this bill, but ask that the following be considered:

- The current DOCR budget has limited funds for community based services for youth so it is urged that any funds for this bill be added to the budget, rather than taken away from existing vital initiatives currently funded by DOCR for juveniles.
- It is my understanding that in committee discussions the issue of a second location for the pilot project has been raised. I ask that you consider the Grand Forks area as a second site, as it is well suited due to the current infrastructure in place provided by the DIVERT program along with Attendant Care.

- It must be recognized that a variety of models may meet a community's unique needs. The current Grand Forks program (DIVERT) could be built upon and then further reviewed as well. Funding support is needed to help sustain this project and to possibly enhance it to meet the desires of SB 2355 as currently written.
- Many effective services are possible to be offered in the community that serve as effective alternatives to placement in foster care or as a diversion from the juvenile justice system. These options tend to be underfunded and not widely available due to difficulty in sustaining these efforts. This bill may be a good start but much more could and should be provided for.

In summary, SB 2355 helps to raise up the need for more effective options for at risk youth; options that help to alleviate the need for further progression in to systems that take away the choices of families.

For more information on the program noted, see the attached overview.

For further information please contact me at:

Janell Regimbal
412 Demers Avenue
Grand Forks, ND 58201
701.741.9110 cell
701.772.7577 work
jregimbal@lssnd.org

Overview of DIVERT Program

Offered by Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota

Purpose: Provide supportive early intervention services to youth and their families who are looking for an opportunity to assess what may be causing difficulties, to set goals for improvement and to find resources that exist within the community that may be of help. Through the provision of this service youth will not progress into the juvenile justice or foster care systems.

Target Population: Youth ages 6-17 who are not yet involved in the juvenile justice system but are involved in risky behaviors or who have received a first citation from law enforcement. This is a family based service so parents and other significant family members participate.

Geographic Area Currently Served: Grand Forks and Nelson counties

Key Components: Voluntary participation

Offered within the home environment if desired

Provided at no cost to families

Includes: Crisis Intervention

Assessment

Short-term solution based counseling

Goal setting

Resource finding and referral

Follow-up

History/Intent: DIVERT was implemented in November of 1997 based upon discussion of needs of key community stakeholders in Grand Forks, including Juvenile Court, law enforcement, school personnel and concerned community members. The program was designed to:

- Reduce the number of referrals to Juvenile Court, resulting in:
 - Lower probability of reappearance of 1st time offenders, allowing courts to focus their attention and resources on those youth who put the community at greatest risk.
 - Recognition that the traditional juvenile justice system takes an individual approach, whereby a family systems approach is more appropriate for cases of parent/child conflict, mental health and substance abuse issues.
 - Youth and their families are able to have their needs met without getting involved with a formal system like court or social services, especially assuring those families without financial resources to secure help on their own when problems are identified have an opportunity for assistance without losing authority as a family to a system.

- Increase supportive services to families who are experiencing stress related to their child's behavior, resulting in increased behavioral and emotional functioning.

Outcomes/Outputs:

- Approximately 80 families served/year.
- 75-90% families have fallen in very low, low or low to moderate income levels (\$18,050-48,100)
- 72-92% youth served have not progressed into the juvenile justice system as measured 90 days post service, which has been assessed annually over past 11 years.
- Behavioral & Emotional Rating Scale (standardized measure utilized) scores increase by an average of 11 points from time of referral to case closure as rated by parents.

Staffing: Services are provided via one FTE Master's level Social Worker.

Current FY 2009 Budget:

<u>Projected Revenue</u>	
United Way	23,000
City CDBG	23,000
County	6,352
Foundations	24,357
Donations	<u>2,500</u>
	\$79,209

<u>Projected Expenses</u>	
Salaries/Benefits	56,245
Occupancy/Technology	10,106
Operations	<u>12,858</u>
	\$79,209

Concerns:

- Revenues used to operate DIVERT are very volatile, with only 35% funds considered stable from year to year. Funds are needed to complement local funding to insure its continued viability and ability to deliver positive outcomes.

**SENATE BILL 2355
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS
MARCH 23, 2009**

Youthworks Short Term Care and Assessment Center for Unruly and Low Risk Youth.

2008 Statistics:

- A total of 195 placements at the Short Term Care and Assessment Center.
- 55 Youth or 25% were reunited with family within 96 hours of placement after professional assistance from Youthworks staff.
- Immediate professional intervention kept these 55 youth out of the Juvenile Court system and foster care.

Direct Cost Savings To The State:

- No shelter care hearings were needed in each case. (Minimum length of a shelter care hearing is 2 hours.)
- Court appointed attorneys were avoided through the Indigent Defense Commission in each case.
- Foster care costs were avoided. Average group home foster care placement is 5.5 months at a cost of ~~\$35,629~~ per child. *\$ 304 per day*
- School foundation aid payments stayed with the child's home community school.

Detention Costs Paid By County:

- Bismarck does not operate a detention center.
- Each county in the area contracts with ND Youth Correctional Center for detention services.
- In 2008, Burleigh County paid **\$118,356** in detention costs.
- In 2008, Morton County paid **\$39,128** for detention costs.
- ND Youth Correctional Center detention rate is **\$182.85** per day, per youth.
- Dickinson has a detention facility, limited to 24 hours, at a rate of **\$100** per day. Extended detentions are moved to the Youth Correctional Center.

Senate Bill 2355 provides:

- Funding for a pilot project that has already started in Bismarck (for region 7) using grant dollars
- Funding for one similar project in another region in the state (Dickenson, Grand Forks, Fargo and Standing Rock have already expressed an interest.) *amended out for this session*
- A study of the need and fit for other regions in the state

The Pilot project (model) started:

- Because short term shelter care was no longer provided without a court order because those crisis placements upset the other residents. (This is a growing trend among shelter care providers)
- With a wide range of interested parties (Police Youth Bureau, Standing Rock Tribe-IHS/PHS, Prairie Learning Center, Burleigh County Social Services, Dakota Central Social Services, Division of Juvenile Services, West Central Human Services, PATH, Mandan/Morton Youth Services, Youthworks, Association of Counties, Charles Hall Youth Services, Juvenile Court, and a State Senator)
- As a result of brainstorming what is in the best interest of the child

The model provides:

- Shelter and short term care up to 4 days without parent losing custody in order to get services
- Short-term counseling, family reunification, brief assessment and referral with the intent of returning the juvenile safely home and avoiding a longer term or deeper end placement (This begins right away and the family doesn't have to wait until after a weekend)
- A good fit for combining with Attendant Care sites due to some crossover use

The model saves money by:

- Avoiding Court costs for shelter care or detention hearings
- Other case-workers are rarely needed (Services are provided as a part of this model)
- Intervening quickly and often avoiding a placement requiring parents to lose custody of their child before getting a chance to step back and locate services (Average Group Home Placement is 5.5 months at a cost of \$35,629 per child.

*\$304 per day
\$9,150 per month*

The Pilot project provides half the cost or \$100,000 per year. The work put into this with grant money thus far will be lost without continued funding at this point, and the model will not have a chance to help other communities to provide the best for their families.

Youthworks Short-Term Care and Assessment Center Flow Chart

