

Southwestern District Health Unit

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COUNTY OFFICES

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Hettinger, ND 58639-0227
567-2720

Billings County
Public Health Nurse
70 1st St. S.E.
P.O. Box 185
Beach, ND 58621-0185
872-4533

Bowman County
Public Health Nurse
104 1st St. N.W. #6
Bowman, ND 58623-4342
523-3144

Dunn County
Public Health Nurse
215 Central Ave.
P.O. Box 111
Killdeer, ND 58640-0111
764-5513

Golden Valley County
Public Health Nurse
0 1st St. S.E.
P.O. Box 185
Beach, ND 58621-0185
872-4533

Hettinger County
Public Health Nurse
309 Millionaire Ave.
Mott, ND 58646-7267
824-3215

Slope County
Public Health Nurse
104 1st St. N.W. #6
Bowman, ND 58623-4342
523-3144

Stark County
Public Health Nurse
2869 3rd Ave. W.
Dickinson, ND 58601-2600
483-0171

Emergency Preparedness & Response
2893 3rd Ave. W.
Dickinson, ND 58601-2600
483-3765

Pathways to Healthy Lives
2893 3rd Ave. West
Dickinson, ND 58601-2600
483-3050

Tobacco Prevention & Control
2893 3rd Ave. W.
Dickinson, ND 58601-2600
483-3760

WIC
2869 3rd Ave. W.
Dickinson, ND 58601-2600
483-1942

Women's Way
2893 3rd Ave. W.
Dickinson, ND 58601-2600
483-3052
1-800-44WOMEN

Southwestern District Health Unit Report to the Interim Health Services Committee Study on the desirability and feasibility of placing Fort Berthold in a single health unit. Rough Rider Room October 26th, 2011

Good Morning Chairman, Judy Lee and members of the Interim Health Services Committee. I am Sherry Adams, Executive Officer for Southwestern District Health Unit (SWDHU). I will comment on the legislative study of the feasibility of putting the entire Fort Berthold Reservation in a single public health unit. SWDHU covers eight counties in southwestern North Dakota, including Stark, Dunn, Golden Valley, Billings, Bowman, Slope, Adams, and Hettinger. We serve a small portion of Fort Berthold Reservation in Dunn County, which includes the city of Twin Buttes.

Twin Buttes has a small population of about 250 people. We do provide limited services to Twin Buttes including:

- Nursing—Changing Program, Health Tracks
 - Vaccinations and such are done by the IHS nurse
- Environmental Health— there is only one Convenience store, so it is done by Food & Lodging, which is a state entity; we would provide other EH help if the need arises.
- Emergency Preparedness—there is not a set POD (Point of Dispensing) plan for Twin Buttes, because of the size. We have figured in the numbers, and they would be taken care of either in the Killdeer POD (about 40 miles away) or the New Town POD.
- Pathways Program---This is a federal grant (which ends April, but we are reapplying). With this grant, we have offered free cancer screenings in Twin Buttes

- Woman's Way---This program attends the Pathways screenings as well as direct program contact with Twin Buttes clients.

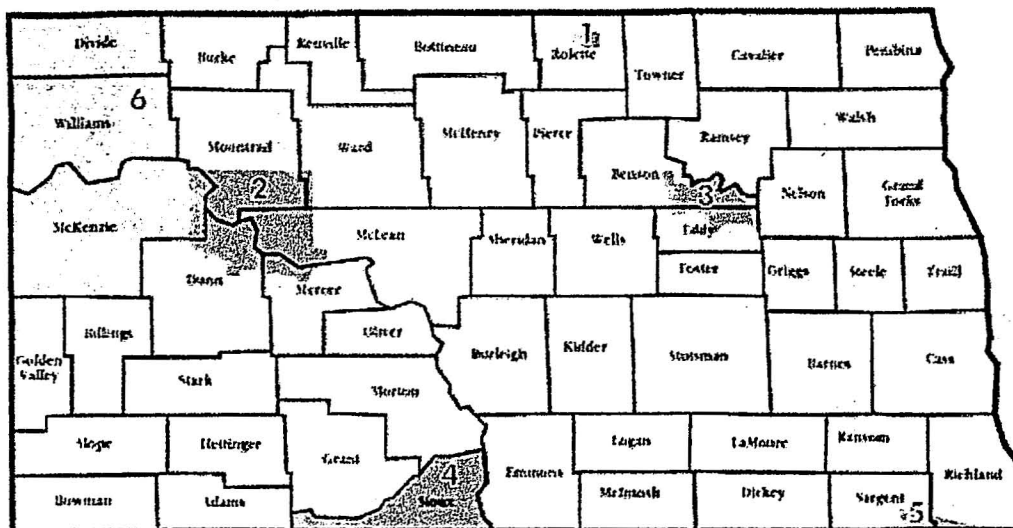
I think there are several large challenges that would arise by putting the reservation services in a single health unit. One is the fact that geographically the area is divided by the river, so driving time would be an issue. The same is true, because road damage causes many detours, and lengthy drives going from our region into UMDHU region and vice versa. I do not expect the road situation to change very quickly in the near future, and will likely become worse before they get better due to the increased oil activity. This brings me to my second point, with increased oil activity all health units in the west, are being stretched beyond their limits, challenges finding staff, increased workloads and needs, adding extra driving time to come the whole reservation, will also be a challenge. Our county health nurse in Dunn County is retiring. She could have retired this month, but has agreed to stay on until January, as we have had no applicants. If that position cannot be filled by then, we will have to have a nurse from Dickinson cover that office and that area, which will add more challenges locally. We will continue the above services to our reservation population, as well as our population, but I think adding more to a region will be a large challenge.

The only idea that I have if putting the whole reservation into one health unit, would be to keep the services within the health unit already serving that tribal city and bill that health unit for services. We have a similar agreement with Food and Lodging, as their small number of staff is challenged, so when we are in a community, we do their inspections, still under their auspice, but then bill back the services.

With the oil industry, all of the health units are stretched. It is hard to replace staff with the current wages we can offer, and with less staff, come more challenges.

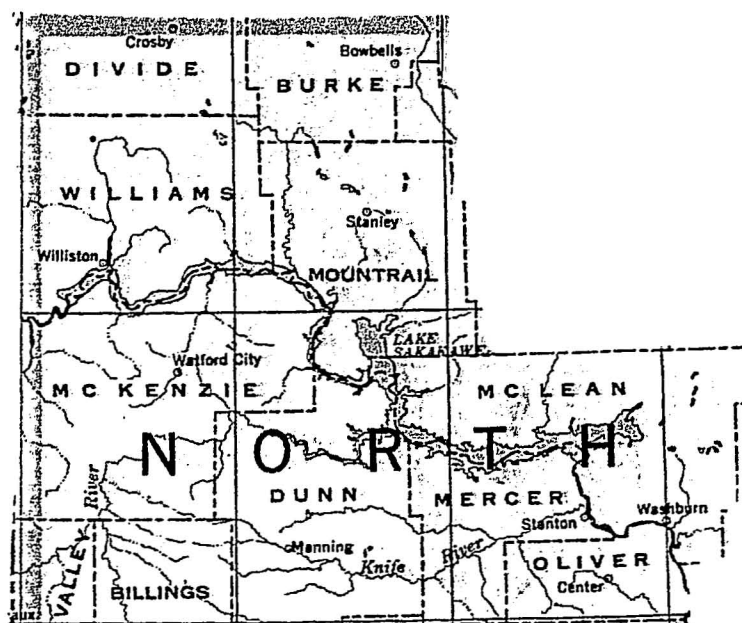
Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I would be happy to take any questions as this time.

North Dakota State Data Center



1. Turtle Mountain (includes city of Belcourt; also known as Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa)
2. Fort Berthold (includes city of New Town; also known as Three Affiliated Tribes - Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara)
3. Spirit Lake (includes city of Fort Totten; also known as Spirit Lake Dakota Sioux Nation)
4. Standing Rock (includes city of Fort Yates; also known as Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, members of the Dakota and Lakota nations; the other half of this reservation is in South Dakota)
5. Lake Traverse (also known as Sisseton and Wahpeton Sioux; most of this reservation is in South Dakota)
6. Trenton Indian Service Area

http://www.ndsu.edu/sdc/data/ndamericanindians_map.htm



http://www.yellowmaps.com/maps/img/US/base/northdakota_9...