

**Testimony  
Department of Human Services  
Human Services Committee  
Representative Alon Wieland, Chairman  
October 25, 2011**

Chairman Wieland and members of the Human Services Committee, I am Tina Bay, Director of the Developmental Disabilities Division with the Department of Human Services. I am here today to provide information to you regarding the committee's study of the autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

My comments will focus on three areas: 1) Infant Development Program, 2) information regarding the number of individuals with a diagnosis of autism served in the Developmental Disabilities, Vocational Rehabilitation and Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division's and 3) the status of the regional autism spectrum disorder centers of early intervention and achievement pilot program.

**Infant Development Program**

Currently there are eight providers licensed in the state to provide early intervention/infant development services. These providers are 1) Opportunity Foundation – Williston, 2) Minot Infant Development Program – Minot, 3) Anne Carlson Center – Lake Region Kids Devils Lake, NE Kids Grand Forks, SE Kids Fargo and SC Kids Jamestown, 4) Early Intervention Partners – Fargo, 5) Bismarck Early Childhood Education Program – Bismarck, 6) 3 Speed – Bismarck/Standing Rock, 7) Standing Rock Early Childhood Transition – Standing Rock, and 8) HIT Inc – KIDS Dickinson.

The Infant Development Program is a home-based, family focused service that provides information, support and training to assist families of eligible infants and toddlers at high risk for, or with developmental delays or disabilities, in maximizing their child's development. Services include home visits, consultations, evaluations/assessments and Individual Family Service Plan development/updates.

**Developmental Disabilities, Vocational Rehabilitation, Mental Health and Substance Abuse number of individuals in those systems with a diagnosis of autism**

Below is a chart that identifies the number of consumers during the period of 7/1/10 – 6/30/11 with a diagnosis on the Autism Spectrum that received DD Program Management.

| Age Group                      | Unduplicated Count |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Less than 3 years of age (yoa) | 11                 |
| 3-4 yoa                        | 34                 |
| 5-11 yoa                       | 194                |
| 12-17 yoa                      | 160                |
| 18-25 yoa                      | 167                |
| Older than 25 yoa              | 168                |
| TOTAL                          | 734                |

These consumers may also be served in residential, day services or family support. We currently serve 16 consumers in the Autism Spectrum Disorder waiver however this is limited to consumer's birth through 4 years of age.

Vocational Rehabilitation served 94 people in FFY 2011 (10/1/10 – 9/30/11) that had a primary disability of autism.

In the area of mental health, the Department's regional human service centers do not provide specific ASD services even though there are professionals skilled in this area employed at the regional human service centers. The majority of specific ASD therapies are provided by private providers in the state. The chart below identifies the number of individuals with a diagnosis on the Autism Spectrum that received services at the human service centers between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011.

| Age Group         | Unduplicated Count |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 5-11 yoa          | 45                 |
| 12-17 yoa         | 63                 |
| 18-25 yoa         | 56                 |
| Older than 25 yoa | 73                 |
| TOTAL             | 237                |

#### **Status of the regional Autism Spectrum Disorder Centers of Early Intervention and Achievement pilot program**

According to Senate Bill 2268, the Department of Human Services may use up to \$200,000 of funding from its 2011-2013 biennium appropriation to establish and operate a regional autism spectrum disorder centers of early intervention and achievement pilot program. No specific funds were appropriated for this effort. The Department built its

budget on anticipated caseloads and costs. It is too early in the 2011-13 biennium to know if utilization patterns will differ from what was anticipated.

It is important to note, that if such utilization or cost changes do occur, the Department's appropriation bill, Senate Bill 2012 contains intent language indicating the Department is to use unexpended appropriation authority related to DD grants case load and cost changes for costs associated with transitioning individuals from the Developmental Center to communities. The Department does not anticipate having the funds at this time to put toward this effort.

I am available to answer any questions you may have.