

House Appropriations – Government Operations Division | Representative Don Vigesaa – Chairman | Testimony per House Bill 1015 | January 13, 2021

Chairman Vigesaa and Members of the House Appropriations-Government Operations Division, my name is Margo Haut.

I come before you, today to testify and respectfully request your support of House Bill 1015 per approval of the Public Administrators Support Services (PASS) Funding via the OMB Budget to include the requested increase allowing Guardianship Agencies to serve additional Protected Persons throughout ND in need of Guardianship Services.

Introduction

I am Founder & Director of “Guardian Angels, Inc” a nonprofit located in Jamestown, ND. “. Our slogan is “Putting People First” with the vision of providing services, being available 24/7 and giving a voice to those who cannot advocate for themselves.

I am a National & State Certified Guardian.

I am President & Member of GAND - Guardianship Association of ND and the ND State Affiliate & Member of the National Guardianship Association.

Stories of Success of a Few Protected Persons served by “Guardian Angels, Inc” via PASS Funds

- **Randy** is a 71-year-old man who lived on the streets in Fargo or a homeless shelter over the course of 40 years. Upon becoming Guardian, Randy experienced a significant change in health resulting in End of Life decisions and admission to Hospice. Randy transitioned from the Medical Hospital to a Nursing Home, with support of Hospice and Staff of SNF, Randy transitioned and continues to reside at a Basic Care facility in Fargo. A professional relationship assures Randy that he is not isolated nor alone with Randy expressing appreciation. Monthly visits and/or communication occurs on a regular basis.
- **Matt** is a 30-year-old who grew up in the system transitioning to an Adult Group Home at age 18. Per our continued involvement and assistance of Matt’s Team of Professionals, Matt was able to transition to his own apartment via a less restrictive environment with wrap-around services. Matt is very appreciative of the continued support consisting of availability via phone, text and email to assist in meeting any potential needs allowing continued communication.

- **Melissa** is a 42-year-old woman who resided in a Transitional Living Group Home experiencing readmissions to NDSH due to medication non-compliance. Numerous meetings occurred with Melissa, staff of the TL Group Home and potential resources. Medication monitoring was established resulting in a successful transition to her own apartment. Meeting directly with Melissa occurs on a monthly basis with weekly calls and/or availability to assist Melissa at any time. Over the course of this past year, Melissa obtained a valid driver's license; with the assistance of her family, a vehicle was obtained allowing more independence.

These are just a few examples of many Protected Persons served by Guardian Angels, Inc. throughout ND via PASS Funds. PASS Funds allow Guardian Angels, Inc to serve Protected Persons who lack a funding source to pay for services.

PASS Funds are crucial, allocating funds to Guardianship agencies offering services for the Protected Persons throughout ND. PASS Funds directly affect Guardian Angels, Inc.'s and other Guardianship agencies ability to serve not only our current caseloads, but those we hope to serve in the future.

Chairman Vigesaa and Members of the House Appropriations-Government Operations Division, I respectfully ask support of House Bill 1015.

Thank you for your time and consideration.