



Commissioners
Curt Kreun, Chair
Joan Johnson, Vice Chair
Bret Weber
Jeremy Morris
David Engren

WRITTEN TESTIMONY PROVIDED TO
ND House of Representatives
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION
67th LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
JANUARY 25TH, 2021
IN OPOSITION TO
HB 1012
REGARDING
FUNDING FOR HUMAN SERVICE CENTERS FOR SUPPORTIVE
HOUSING SUPPORT

Chairman Nelson
Vice Chairman Kreidt
Committee Members

I am testifying today to express my opposition of the level of funding being provided in HB 1012 for the Housing First - Permanent Supportive Housing facilities LaGrave on First in Grand Forks and Cooper House in Fargo, and to express support for additional funding for Edwinton Place in Bismarck. The level of funding provided in HB 1012 is inadequate. These facilities, developed over the past decade, are a demonstration, if you will, as to how the concept of Housing First – Permanent Supportive Housing provides much needed housing and services for our state’s chronic homeless population, greatly improving their quality of life, while, at the same time, reducing the financial burden for society.

LaGrave on First has been operational since August 2018. During this period significant success has been achieved in the betterment of individual’s lives, individuals who had previously lived on the street with their mental illness and/or chemical addictions. To show the benefits of this concept, LaGrave on First is the focus of a five-year longitudinal study. The “First Year Report” of this study is provided herewith for your review. The results of this study will ultimately show the benefits, but until that time we are in need of the level of funding being requested in order to adequately provide the services necessary for success.

The 66th Legislative Assembly appropriated only a portion of the \$550,000 requested for LaGrave on First, \$375,000, with the assumption that the 1915i Amendment to North Dakota’s



Medicaid program would supplement the needed funds. As you are aware, the 1915i has not yet been approved by CMS and not implemented by the State of North Dakota. Additionally, without daily rates for Housing Support Services, the amendment will only minimally contribute to the 24/7 operations of LaGrave Place.

Thank you in advance for your support in increasing the appropriations to NEHSC – Permanent Supportive Housing Support to \$515,000 for LaGrave on First and for adequately funding SEHSC and WCHSC in support of Cooper House and Edwinton Place, respectively, and Thank You for all you do.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Hanson
Executive Director

Enclosure: Study