



930 N. 3rd St., Grand Forks, ND 58203-2408

March 3, 2021

To: Chairman Ray Holmberg and Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee

HB: 1012 – In Opposition

Good day:

I am Debra Johnson, CEO of Prairie Harvest Mental Health in Grand Forks. Thank you for your work and support of programs that affect our most vulnerable adults – those with serious mental illness. Today I will provide testimony that indicates why Prairie Harvest Mental Health is in opposition to HB1012 which if approved as it stands now will put the safety and wellbeing of consumers who are at risk of losing vital housing and services that support them on their mental health recovery journey.

Prairie Harvest Mental Health provides Therapeutic Services as well as Supported Residential Services under a contract with Northeast Human Service Center.

Since our inception in 1991 Prairie Harvest Mental Health has worked in a unique and successful partnership with Northeast Human Service Center. This structure has allowed us to focus on our respective strengths. Northeast Human Service Center provides the treatment services and along with Prairie Harvest Mental Health in a team approach with the consumer Therapeutic Services as well as Supported Residential Services are delivered in a recovery based, consumer focused manner.



Over the years Prairie Harvest Mental Health has raised over \$4 million in grants to build 42 units of permanent supportive housing all at varying levels of support (see attached Exhibit A). These properties were grant funded and currently have zero debt. Development was accomplished by working with Northeast Human Service Center to provide long-term supportive services so that consumers who need long-term support are able to live in an environment that suits their sometimes complex needs. In addition to the bricks and mortar raised to build the Prairie Harvest Mental Health Permanent Supportive Housing revenues are generated in the form of rents (paid by vouchers) to pay the utilities and maintenance as well as funds to replace needed capital expenses (roof, furnace, etc.). There are no remaining funds for programming needs.

The State Contract has historically contracted for the therapeutic needs by establishing a daily rate (Exhibit A).

Our partnership with Northeast Human Service Center has allowed consumers to remain in the community which is, of course healthier as well as cost effective. Our data indicates for example that one young man prior to receiving Prairie Harvest services experienced 193 days in institutional care. He lived in Prairie Harvest Housing beginning in 2004. The Prairie Harvest permanent supportive housing enabled him to work on his recovery, resulting in his hospitalization days decreasing to 46 in 2009, two in 2010 and he has not been in the hospital since. He currently lives and works in the community with minimal staff contact (just brief medication monitoring assistance).

In addition to the Therapeutic Services and Supported Residential Services, Prairie Harvest Mental Health provides:

- Representative Payee (63 consumers) (No State funds)
- Life Skills/Job Development (40 consumers) (No State funds)

Also included in Exhibit A are the costs associated with institutional care, transitional housing and crisis care, as well as the Supportive Services and Therapeutic Services provided by Prairie Harvest Mental Health.

Working with consumers on a daily basis has given us insight of their on-going needs.

During the COVID pandemic Prairie Harvest Mental Health has worked tirelessly to keep the consumers safe and healthy. We implemented policies related to PPE and other precautions immediately. Mask mandates and limited visits from others was required. As a result, we only had two positive individuals with no symptoms and one who was hospitalized and later recovered. Our staff implemented programs and services over Zoom to help keep consumers busy and connected as they work on their recovery journey. Staff helped keep them connected to family and friends using Zoom and Facetime and established telehealth procedures. As this document is being written Prairie Harvest Mental Health consumers and staff have received vaccines. Prairie Harvest Mental Health services are vital to continued success in living in a least restrictive yet supportive environment.

The following is a summary of the recommendation of the Department of Human Services Behavioral Health Department as well as the House Appropriations Human Resource Committee.

In the chart prepared by the Behavioral Health Department and approved by the Human Resources Legislative Appropriations Committee you will note that the Prairie Harvest Mental Health budget reduction is \$1,061,100 and an ending contract available for the provider of \$1,644,260. This reduction was made in response to the approval of the 1915(i) Amendment to the State Medicaid Plan. Note that the 1915(i) does not support Therapeutic Services.

**Department of Human Services
1915I Contracts reduced in the Executive Budget Request
2021-2023 Biennium**

Division	Description	Executive Budget Request Savings	Notes	Remaining Contract Total for Provider	Actual House Restoration	Total Reduction by contract with House Changes
Behavioral Health	Reduce Parent to Parent - 1915I Realignment	(11,250)	Added back 25% of reduction for 6 months of biennium (through December 30, 2021)	69,375	5,625	(5,625)
Behavioral Health	Reduce Brain Injury - Resource Facilitation (NDBIN) - 1915I realignment	(279,247)	Not direct services - 15% reduction of total contract for efficiencies	474,719	195,472	(83,775)
Behavioral Health	Reduce Brain Injury - Pre-voc program (Skillsmart) - 1915I realignment	(168,750)	Added back 25% of reduction for 6 months of biennium (through December 30, 2021)	253,125	84,375	(84,375)
Behavioral Health	Reduce Brain Injury - Return to work (Workstart) - 1915I realignment	(174,277)	Added back 25% of reduction for 6 months of biennium (through December 30, 2021)	261,416	87,139	(87,138)
Behavioral Health	Reduce peer support certification	(13,590)	no change	0		(13,590)
Behavioral Health	Reduce Peer support pilot	(15,000)	no change	0		(15,000)
Subtotal Behavioral Health		(662,113)		1,058,634	372,611	(289,502)
Children and Family Services	Reduce Family Peer Support (Family Health Info & Ed Ctr) - 1915I re-alignment	(100,000)	Not direct services - 15% reduction of total contract for efficiencies	148,750	73,750	(26,250)
Human Service Center	Reduce LaGrave contract - 1915I re-alignment	(103,500)	All tenants pay rent; NEHSC gives services; remaining \$ support until 1915I efficient	281,455	22,725	(22,725)
Human Service Center	Reduce Prairie Harvest Mental Health contract - 1915I re-alignment	(1,414,800)	All tenants pay rent; NEHSC gives services; remaining \$ support until 1915I efficient	1,644,260	353,700	(1,061,100)
Human Service Center	Reduce Cooper House contract - 1915I re-alignment	(283,464)	services; remaining \$ support until 1915I efficient	425,196	141,732	(141,732)
Human Service Center	Reduce Supportive Employment contract - 1915I re-alignment	(583,226)	Added back 25% of reduction for 6 months of biennium (through December 30, 2021)	291,613	291,613	(291,613)
Human Service Center	Eliminate Gerridee's Place contract for long-term residential - 1915I re-alignment	(901,008)	Added back 25% of reduction for 6 months of biennium (through December 30, 2021). All clients quality under 1915I and contract	450,504	450,504	(450,504)
Human Service Center	Reduce Supportive Employment contract - 1915I re-alignment	(62,000)	Added back 25% of reduction for 6 months of biennium (through December 30, 2021)	31,000	31,000	(31,000)
Subtotal Human Service Centers		(3,431,998)		3,123,823	1,362,299	(2,069,699)
Total DHS Savings Plan		(4,856,224)		5,389,841	2,181,271	(2,674,953)

Following the actions taken in the House further analysis allowed Prairie Harvest Mental Health Management to conclude the following:

(1) In the 2019/2021 budget our services are categorized as

a. \$1,357,200 Supported Residential

and

b. \$1,395,336 Therapeutic Services

\$2,752,536 Total Provider Contract

When the Behavioral Health Department calculated the Prairie Harvest Mental Health budget reduction, they used the full \$2,752,536.

To properly calculate that budget reduction, they should have used the Supported Residential Services portion amount of \$1,357,200. Therapeutic Services of \$1,395,336 are not funded by 1915(i).

In this case the budget reduction to Prairie Harvest Mental Health contracted services would be \$339,250 (if using 50%) and the total available in the provider contract would be \$2,413,286 for 2021/2023.

(2) When the 1915(i) Amendments were considered Prairie Harvest Mental Health was grouped in with Housing First Providers (LaGrave, Cooper House, etc.).

The Prairie Harvest Mental Health services greatly differ in that we operate under the SAMHSA Permanent Supportive Housing Model as well as our array of services available under the Supported Residential Program.

Because we believe our forecasted contract was calculated using incorrect data, I am requesting that if providers are not fully restored that the Prairie Harvest Mental Health calculation is re-visited and corrected.

Prairie Harvest Mental Health is committed to developing the systems necessary to implement 1915(i) and are currently in the application stage as well as attending the on-line trainings as they become available. We are also utilizing technical assistance from the 1915(i) team at the State.

Prairie Harvest Mental Health has a stable supportive Board of Directors and staff. We advocate for individuals living in the least restrictive housing of their choice.

Following are letters of support from family members, consumers, and professionals.

In closing, I am not only the Chief Executive Officer of Prairie Harvest Mental Health, I am also a daughter, sister and mom to people with behavioral health concerns. My late Mom struggled her entire life with schizoaffective disorder and chronic anxiety. Because services such as those provided by Prairie Harvest Mental Health were not available to help, my Mom lived in a nursing home for 12 years beginning when she was 69 years old. I am asking you to help us remain a source of support for those who have long been underserved or overlooked. My true calling is advocacy. The end goal for this advocacy effort is that those we currently serve continue to learn, grow, and recover and that the services are uninterrupted.

Exhibit A



930 North Third Street * Grand Forks, ND 58203-2408

Phone: 701-795-9143 * Fax: 701-772-5560 * E-Mail: info@prairieharvest.net * www.prairieharvest.net

Prairie Harvest Mental Health Permanent Supportive Housing

Harvest Homes 12 apartments 24-hour support		Prairie Lodge 6 bedrooms Peer support	
Harvest Lodge 6 bedrooms Peer support		Single Family Residence Limited staff support	
Siewert Plains 8 bedrooms 24-hour support		Stern Place 9 apartments Limited staff support	

Total asset value: \$4,031,607

Debt: \$0

Operating Funding

	<u>2019-2021 Biennium</u>	<u>2021-2023 Biennium</u>
Northeast Human Service Center	\$2,752,536	\$1,337,736

Other Funding Used to Augment State Funded Services

Rents	\$ 464,400 (covers fixed costs)
Grants (includes PPP grants)	\$ 302,000
Work Contracts	\$ 14,000
Donations/Fundraising	\$ 96,000
Thrift Store Sales	\$ 240,000
Client Service Fees	\$ 68,600
Federal	<u>\$ 187,200</u>
	\$1,372,200

Mental Health Daily Rates Comparison

Local Hospital Psychiatric Ward	\$2,126
State Hospital	\$ 535
Basic Care Nursing Home	\$ 147
Transitional Housing – State Run	\$ 82
Local Jail	\$ 75
Crisis Beds	\$ 74

Prairie Harvest Mental Health

24 Hour Group Living	\$ 82
24 Hour Apartment Complex	\$ 82
Peer Lodge	\$ 38
4 Hour Supported 9 Plex	\$ 28

Revised 1/15/2021



Exhibit B

January 22, 20221

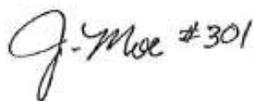
To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my support for Prairie Harvest Mental Health and the work that they perform in the city of Grand Forks. There is no doubt that the commitment Prairie Harvest Mental Health has shown to our community has improved the lives of many of our citizens suffering from mental illness. The support and services provided by Prairie Harvest Mental Health to the persons they serve is an integral part of the Grand Forks network of support service entities. Furthermore, their services have likely reduced expenses to other entities, such as the shelters, jails, and hospitals.

I have recently learned that Prairie Harvest Mental Health is facing a potential State budget cut of \$1,414,800 in the 2021/2023 biennium. It is my understanding that the Department of Human Services believes these cuts could be re-couped through the yet to be finalized Medicaid 1915(i) amendment. Aside from the uncertainty of the 1915(i) amendment, reimbursement under this proposal would require Prairie Harvest Mental Health staff to set up an insurance billing procedure, receive training, and begin the Medicaid billing process. These endeavors take time to accomplish and a temporary loss in funding could vastly impact the services provided by Prairie Harvest Mental Health.

Due to the potential temporary loss in funding and the necessary services provided by Prairie Harvest Mental Health, I would respectfully request restoration of the full \$1,414,800 to the 2021/2023 biennium budget to be allocated for their continued efforts. Your continued support, will ensure that the citizens of Grand Forks can continue to depend on them as an important resource and partner. I have no doubt that they have positively impacted the lives of community members and enriched the community as a whole through their efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Moe #301". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jeremy Moe

Prairie Harvest Board Member

January 22, 2021

Debra Johnson
Prairie Harvest Mental Health
930 N 3RD ST
Grand Forks, ND 58203

Dear Ms. Johnson,

It has been brought to my attention that Prairie Harvest Mental Health is facing a potential State budget cut of \$1,414,800 in the 2021/2023 biennium. The Department of Human Services believes that the organization can re-coup this amount from Medicaid under the newly approved 1915(i) amendment.

Prairie Harvest has been providing permanent supportive housing and recovery-based services in Grand Forks since 1992 in a successful public/private partnership with Northeast Human Services. I am very concerned that if these funds are cut many individuals with mental illness will not receive adequate services that enable them to live in permanent supportive housing and/or receive services that allow them to work on their mental health wellness and recovery. This would create a situation where the consumers you serve end up in a more restrictive setting such as in jail, shelters, long term care, etc..

I would like you to ask on my behalf, that the State consider restoring the \$1,414,800 back into the budget for 2021/2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SHAUN L. HAVIS', written over a horizontal line.

Shaun L. Havis

January 26, 2021

Debra Johnson, CEO
Prairie Harvest Mental Health
930 North 3rd Street
Grand Forks, ND 58203

Dear Ms. Johnson:

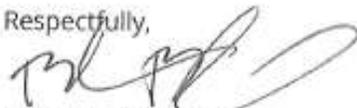
The City of Grand Forks is home to many agencies that provide innumerable vital services to our community and its residents. Prairie Harvest Mental Health is one of these agencies and, as is the case throughout the state, the work of these agencies has a daily positive impact on the health and wellbeing of our citizens.

At their meeting on January 25, 2021, Grand Forks' City Council expressed their opposition to DHS budget cuts that would endanger your agency and clients. The proposed cuts to the Department of Health and Human Services budget for the 2021/23 biennium have the potential to do serious damage to your agency and the clients you serve. While the 1915(a) amendment is *expected* to provide a welcome source of additional Medicaid funding, there are still many unknowns associated with rolling this out.

Given the recent loss of Lutheran Social Services and the ongoing impacts of Covid-19, now is not the time to put to North Dakota's network of service providers at further risk. While we understand the budgetary challenges that are present to the State of North Dakota at this time, the Grand Forks City Council feels that eliminating DHS funding at this time would be premature.

We are proud of the long and successful partnership that has grown between the City of Grand Forks and Prairie Harvest. Permanent supportive housing providers are a key component of our continuum of care and an essential element of our community. The work that you and similar agencies do is invaluable. Please accept this letter on behalf of the Grand Forks City Council as support for you and your work.

Respectfully,



Brandon Bochenski
Mayor of Grand Forks



January 25, 2021

To whom it may concern,

It is my understanding that Prairie Harvest Mental Health is facing a potential State budget cut of \$1,414,800 in the 2021/2023 biennium. At this time of public health crisis when social distancing and health protocols are exacerbating people's mental illnesses - this budget cut will negatively impact Grand Forks and likely result in many people with mental illness losing their homes.

In 2016, an estimated 17% of adults aged 18 and older in North Dakota (about 99,199 people) met the criteria for any mental illness. A total of 4.0% of North Dakota adults aged 18 or over (about 23,454 people) in 2016 had a serious mental illness (SMI) in the past year (ND Behavioral Health Systems Study, 2018 pg. 15).

Recently, High Plains began to notice an increase in calls from people who were in the process of being evicted or were evicted as a direct result of behaviors related to their disabilities, in particular mental illness. Many of these clients became homeless. In response to these concerns, High Plains completed a series of housing discrimination testing based on mental disabilities, in particular mental illness. The results of the study showed 25% instances of discrimination based on mental illness. Furthermore, a statewide survey of mental health practitioners revealed that 57% of their clients experienced housing discrimination.

Prairie Harvest Mental Health has absolutely improved the quality of life of the Grand Forks by providing housing, counseling and support services to persons with mental illness. Especially during this pandemic, we need Prairie Harvest's services in our community to remain fully funded or we may end up with a new public health crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Rydz".

Michelle Rydz
Executive Director

www.highplainsfhc.org

High Plains Fair Housing Center | info@highplainsfhc.org
PO Box 5222 | Grand Forks, ND 58206 | 701-203-1077

Nothing in this letter is legal advice, for legal advice please see an attorney.



Protection & Advocacy Project

400 East Broadway, Suite 409

Bismarck, ND 58501-4071

Phone: (701) 328-2950 Fax: (701) 328-3934

January 22, 2021

Debra Johnson, CEO
Prairie Harvest Mental Health
930 North Third Street
Grand Forks, ND 58203-2408

Dear Deb:

As I understand it, the proposed DHS budget for the 21-23 biennium includes a cut of \$1,414,800 to your contract. While it is suggested that this amount can be recouped from Medicaid through the 1915(i), this is really an unknown as the 1915(i) is not yet being implemented in ND. I'm further concerned that this means it is expected that individuals you serve must be on Medicaid and additionally eligible for services through the 1915(i); that individuals not on Medicaid and otherwise eligible for the 1915(i) will not be able to access services through you without another funding source.

Your organization is essential to the types of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) needed in ND, including the provision of permanent supportive housing and recovery-based services. Without these services, individuals will be at a greater risk for institutionalization.

Please consider this is a letter of support for Prairie Harvest Mental Health. State funding for Prairie Harvest Mental Health should not be cut. ND is trying to expand HCBS to try to meet the needs of individuals with behavioral health issues... not cut them.

Sincerely,

Teresa Larsen
Executive Director

www.ndpanda.org

Relay ND: 711

Toll Free: 1-800-472-2670

24 hour emergency service: 1-800-642-6694

The independent, federally
mandated protection and advocacy
system for the State of North Dakota

January 12, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my support for Prairie Harvest Mental Health and the positive impact it has on my brother and my family. My brother has been a client and resident of PHMH for 4 1/2 years and in this time has he greatly improved his mental and physical health.

For 43 years he had lived with our mother in Minot, ND. With age and illness, she became unable to care for him. I took guardianship of him and moved him to Grand Forks in 2016. He moved into Siewert Plains, a group home operated by PHMH that has 24-hour staff. As with the majority of people with mental health illnesses, counseling and the adjustment of medication is an ongoing process. The staff at SP are able to monitor and address any changes that they see in his behavior before it becomes a larger issue. It is a great feeling knowing that he is under such great care in a positive, healthy environment and that he has someone there for him at all times.

PHMH has also provided a social outlet for my brother that he never had before. He enjoys his groups and social activities, such as cooking, games, exercise, and other activities. He has developed social interaction skills that he has never had. All of this has had an amazing impact on the mental health of my brother.

Prairie Harvest has been the perfect fit for my brother and I can't imagine what we would do without the support and care that they provide. My brother is as mentally healthy as he has ever been and has grown so much from the support that PHMH provides.

Sincerely,



Les Moore
3649 15th Ave South
Grand Forks, ND 58201
Mobile 701-330-3547
les@iconarchitects.com

To:

From: The Guardians of Gene Pelton, Dawn Pelton Malene, guardian and Sister and Ray Pelton, Father and Guardian

Re: Support for Harvest Home in Grand Forks, North Dakota

Date: January 13, 2021

Our family offers our heartfelt support for and thanks to the staff and administrators of Harvest Home in Grand Forks North Dakota where Gene Pelton , our brother and son, has been a client/resident for 15+ years. Without the safety and compassion shown to him, Gene would have been a street person many years ago and may not have survived.

Gene, diagnosed as having paranoid schizophrenia ,relies on medication to stabilize his medical condition; and the staff has monitored his medication which Gene proved not be able to do on his own. This truly has saved his life.

We are impressed that Gene has been taught to take responsibility for his own apartment keeping it clean and orderly. The staff provides support for off-campus needs such as transporting him to medical appointments, grocery shopping and occasional recreational activities.

This safe environment offers companionship when it is desired while providing the privacy dictated by his illness. Gene loves living at Harvest Homes and says often, " This is my home." He enjoys visit with us but is always ready to "get back to my home" .

Our family is so grateful that the state of North Dakota has developed and funded this forward thinking place for adults with mental illness. The caring staff provides a perfect balance of providing support and encouraging appropriate independence. Please continue the fund this life saving concept, safe and facility.

Respectively submitted,

Guardians: Dawn Pelton Malene
Ray Pelton

1-13-21

Sara Vogel's story:

Hi, my name is Sara Vogel and I live at Siewert Plains. I have been here for over 5 years. Prairie Harvest has helped me to reach my goals and become a better person. I have more confidence in myself than I did before I came here. My mental illness was horrible. Before I came here, I was using drugs, alcohol, hanging out with the wrong people. I was also manic. My symptoms got worse and I could not cope with the stress of my life. It got better for me when I got into Prairie Harvest and got on the right medicine, started attending groups, learned how to cope with stress and how to socialize. I have made a lot of friends through Prairie Harvest. Now that I feel better and able to cope with stress, I am looking for a job with my job coach and would like to get my own place. I would like to thank the staff and nurse at Prairie Harvest for everything that they have done for me.

David Hird

1/13/21

675 N 43RD ST #103

Grand Forks, ND 58203

To Whom it may concern:

PHMA means care for mental illness. My vital medication is given to me and for me.

PHMH means staff support and peer support for me.

Staff are both friendly and professional. I make connections with peers.

PHMH means security for me. I live in a safe place in an environment that is far better than anywhere else I formerly lived.

PHMK means that my daily needs are taken care of. My mother always asked what I had on the meal plan and she marvels at the variety of the things I eat.

PHMH means improvement in many types of living needs. The groups contribute to many facets of my life. From hypothermia to core-values I get patient education.

Sincerely,

David Wild

I like having Prairie Harvest to lead me during difficult times. I like having hellos and they always find a way to make you feel at home. I like it here at the Lodge and the support it shows me. Prairie Harvest is always involved and helpful.

Thank you,
Danny O.

Kelly – wishes to remain anonymous

I just got out of jail. I was in for mental health related reasons. Next, I went to the state hospital in Jamestown, ND. I was there for 8 months and was basically homeless and mentally distraught. Deeply distraught. I was afraid and homeless. My psychologist promised he would let me stay at the hospital until I was safe. The people I worked with at the hospital had never heard of PHMH in Grand Forks, and so, I was the first patient to get a tour of Prairie Harvest facilities.

There was a work sight permanent housing opportunity and programs to help with medication, help getting into school, and hundreds of other clients in my same position, mentally. I liked it. I met with Prairie Harvest staff and they invited me to be a client. I ended up in the Lodge Program, which is permanent housing for clients where we govern most of our own lifestyle without too much interference from staff.

Since I've been with Prairie Harvest, I've gone to college and worked steady for the entire time I've been here. I'm on my medication everyday and feeling much healthier. I made a ton of friends. I quit smoking, drinking, and using drugs for almost 16 years. I've been honored with being made Prairie Harvest client of the year as well as CCL Lodge Member of the Year, which is an award given to one person in the entire Lodge Program nation wide.

My family is so relieved that I'm getting the help from Prairie Harvest staff. They have a person to help me in any category of help I may need. I'll probably stay a client for the rest of my life. I pray that other with mental health problems are as lucky as I've been to find a place like this.


PRAIRIE HARVEST
MENTAL HEALTH
930 N. 3rd St., Grand Forks, ND 58203-2408


PRAIRIE HARVEST
MENTAL HEALTH
930 North 3rd Street
Grand Forks, ND 58203-2408

Phone: 701-795-9143
Email: info@prairieharvest.net
Web: www.prairieharvest.net



You can make a bigger difference than you think.

Mission Statement

We promote independence and an enhanced quality of life for adults with serious mental illness.

Phone: 701-795-9143 * Fax: 701-772-5560 * E-Mail: info@prairieharvest.net * Web: www.prairieharvest.net





Vision

Prairie Harvest Mental Health envisions people with serious mental illness living free from stigma and fully integrated into our community.

Values

Service: Serving people with serious mental illness is our highest value.

Dignity: We treat everyone we serve and each other with courtesy, compassion and respect.

Recovery: We focus on individuals maximizing their fullest potential.

Competence: We strive for excellence and effectiveness in all that we do.

Education: We educate ourselves and the community which decreases stigma and enhances community awareness.

Health: We believe there is no health without mental health.

Parity: We believe that health insurance plans should cover mental health at levels that are equal to any other medical benefits.

Prairie Harvest Mental Health

Who are We?

- A private non-profit organization classified as a 501 (C)(3) by the Internal Revenue Service;
- Concerned citizens serving on a volunteer board of directors;
- Community volunteers;
- Advocates, family and friends of clients;
- Clients;
- Paid Staff

What Do We Do?

Prairie Harvest Mental Health provides community and facility based services to vulnerable adults. Quality of life is greatly enhanced through improved living environment, access to services and programs and the opportunity for employment.

What Are Our Goals?

- To help improve the quality of life for clients;
- To expand housing choices;
- To increase employment opportunities;
- To incorporate peer-support in agency programming;
- To educate the public to a better understanding and acceptance of mental illness and other forms of human needs;
- To reduce stigma for individuals with serious mental illness;
- To encourage community involvement and support for community based programs;
- To develop financial resources to enhance and expand Prairie Harvest Mental Health and its activities;
- To expand delivery to rural communities.

Prairie Harvest Mental Health Programs For Adults with Serious Mental Illness

Community Based Services:

- Supported Residential Program
- Extended Services Program
- Representative Payee
- Life Skills
- Job Development

Facility Based Services:

- Harvest Homes - 12 apartment complex
- Prairie Lodge - Peer-supported 6 bedroom house
- Harvest Lodge - Peer-supported 6 bedroom house.
- Siewert Plains - 8 bedroom 24-hour support house
- Stern Place - 9 apartment complex
- Singe Family Dwelling

One out of five families is affected with mental illness.

Community Based Services Supported Residential

Daily Living Activities

Under the guidance of Direct Care Workers, clients learn skills that lead to independent living which include:

- Housekeeping
- Laundry
- Hygiene
- Grooming
- Grocery Shopping
- Meal Planning
- Nutrition
- Budgeting

Housing and Subsidies

Direct Care Workers provide assistance to clients in locating independent housing and applying for: Supplemental Security Income, Social Security Disability Income, Medical Assistance, Food Stamps and Fuel Assistance.

In addition, clients are assisted through subsidizing their rental and security deposits until housing assistance is received. Subsidies are also available for utility deposits and grocery allotments to get them on their feet. Through our Home Place Thrift Store, clients receive basic household items to furnish their apartments.

Financial Management: Representative Payee

Upon approval from the Social Security Administration, Prairie Harvest Mental Health provides Representative Payee services to individuals who are unable to manage his or her Social Security benefits. Prairie Harvest Mental Health helps ensure benefits are first used for the basic needs of the individual, providing the beneficiary with a more stable living environment.

Supported Residential - continued

Loan Fund

Clients are eligible to obtain interest free loans to obtain items such as medications, furniture, telephones, DVD players and televisions. Clients make regular payments based on their incomes.

Medication Management

We offer two medication monitoring programs:



1. Under the self administered medication program, a Prairie Harvest Mental Health nurse is available on a weekly basis, or as needed, to review, update and educate clients about medications and medical issues or questions.
2. For those needing closer supervision, a Prairie Harvest Mental Health nurse oversees certified Medication Monitors who go into the client's home up to two times a day to observe that medications are taken correctly and in compliance.

3. Medical Guidance

Prairie Harvest Mental Health nurse assists clients with any medical concerns they have;

- Notifies the appropriate medical staff;
- Schedules appointments;
- Arranges for annual physical, dental and vision exams;
- Compiles medical histories for clients;
- Maintains emergency data forms.



Socialization Activities

Socialization is encouraged through a variety of activities designed for our clients. Coordination and transportation are provided for clients.

- Birthday Club
- Recreational Activities
- Y Family Center - reduced rates
- Peace of Mind

Extended Services

Why is Extended Services Needed?

Extended Services is based on the premise that work should be accessible to everyone, regardless of disability. It offers a vocational solution for many individuals who were, in the past, considered unemployable. Extended Services is a concept that allows all persons with disabilities to work in the community and to ensure that the employer and the employee receive the assistance and support necessary for this to happen.

How Does Extended Services Work?

Extended Services match competent workers with available jobs in the community. Services include a careful matching of worker abilities and interests with specific job requirements. Specialized training is provided to the new employee at the job site by an Employment Training Specialist and follow-up services are available for as long as the worker is employed.

Who Will Benefit From Extended Services?

Employers:

- Will gain a conscientious, punctual, competent worker, receive free screening and training of supported employment workers, receive an opportunity for tax incentives, and reach equal opportunity affirmative action goals and positive public image.

Employees:

- Will gain increased self-esteem and a sense of fulfillment, structure to their daily lives, greater financial security, and have increased involvement in the community.

Who Will Benefit From Extended Services?

Our Community:

- Will have tax dollars redirected to independence and productivity, enhance rights and roles of all people, and expand the number of people looking for entry level positions.

What Does Extended Services Involve?

Job Placement – Qualified individuals are assisted in locating available jobs in the community. Many factors are considered when an individual is matched to a position such as: job duties, job locations and work hours, transportation available to the worker, worker's skills and interests, employer expectations.

Job Training – There is no cost to the company. If needed an Employment Training Specialist provides the new employee with one-on-one training and support at the job site. This on-site assistance is reduced as the employee becomes proficient in completing the job to company standards.

Ongoing Support – The employee's work performance is monitored by the Employment Training Specialist for as long as the individual is employed. Additional training or support, if needed, will be provided at any time.

Life Skills

What is Life Skills?

Life Skills promotes a well-balanced and healthy lifestyle to clients who would be homeless without services by:

- Teaching individuals how to care for their immediate needs,
- Preparing individuals to care for themselves on a long-term basis,
- Encouraging individuals to remain active through participation in various activities and hobbies, and
- Educating individuals, as well as the community, about mental illness.

How Does The Life Skills Program Work?

Prairie Harvest Mental Health clients are referred to the Life Skills Coordinator for Life Skills. Once individuals are referred, the Coordinator determines what assessments need to take place. Based upon those assessments, the Coordinator plans a program with the help of the client. For example, the client and Coordinator might conclude that they need to work on their laundry skills as well as developing a hobby. That client's program would focus on those needs.

Life Skills

Household Chores	Meal Planning	Meal Preparation
Grocery Shopping	Hygiene	Transportation Training
Budgeting	Laundry	Emergency Preparedness
Organization	Scheduling	Social Skills
Safety Training	Health Training	Medication Training
Hobbies	Recreation	Socialization Activities

Skill Groups

Leisure Club	Health & Wellness Group	Exercise Group
Walking Group	Road to Healthy Living Group	

Wellness Club

With health and wellness the primary focus, clients participate by earning points for healthy choices. Points are redeemed at the 'Wellness Store' for merchandise.

Job Development

What is Job Development?

Job Development provides a range of services to the community and clients who, without services would become homeless. This range of service includes: service coordination, client assessment, service monitoring and employment education to clients, businesses and the general public.

The Job Developer will work on expanding job opportunities in the community as well as providing participants with skill building activities so they can return to work. The Job Developer helps work on changing society attitudes about hiring people with disabilities as well as to work with participants in changing their perceptions about working. Social benefits that go along with work are: a reason to get up in the morning, respect from co-workers, improved self-esteem, to name a few. The Job Developer helps educate the community business leaders and citizens about the potential people with mental illness have in working in competitive jobs.

The Job Developer:

1. Provides an assessment of each client in the following areas: need to work, interest in working, ability to work and type of work that the client is interested in doing.
2. Establishes relationships with community employers.
3. Provides direction and assistance to participants in obtaining jobs with livable wages and benefits.
4. Helps to identify, secure and supervise potential work contracts for work teams.
5. Works to create better paying jobs with the opportunity for advancement for participants.
6. Conducts individual and group training sessions on various work related skills such as: Job Searching Skills, Interviewing, Resume Writing, Co-worker Relationships, Appropriate Hygiene and Clothing for Work, Accepting Change in Schedules, SSI and SSDI Benefits.

Employment Groups

- Pathways to Wellness
- Lodge Job Club

Facility Based Services

Harvest Homes

This 24-hour staffed facility is an important addition to the continuum of care for individuals with mental illness. It bridges the gap between living independently in one's own apartment and group home living.

Harvest Homes consists of twelve one bedroom apartments, where one is an accessible dwelling unit.

Facility includes a common area kitchen and recreation room, where meals and socialization can be shared by residents.

Supportive services are provided through the partnership with Prairie Harvest Mental Health and Northeast Human Service Center. Referrals to the facility are through the case management system at Northeast Human Service Center. The services provided are designed to enhance and maintain the individual's level of independence, while improving their quality of life.

These services include:

- Case Management
- Crisis Management
- Nursing
- Medication Monitoring
- Daily Living Activities
- Socialization Opportunities
- Community Involvement
- Employment Groups
- Skill Groups



Opened in 1997

Lodge

What is a LODGE?

A Lodge is an affordable dwelling for 6 people who share in running the home, including domestic chores and the purchase and preparation of food. The residents make their own house rules and manage their own activities. In addition, they are employed at a business run by their sponsoring agency, in this case, Prairie Harvest Mental Health. The work is part-time or full-time and organized so that one member can readily substitute for another whenever necessary.

The Lodge program at Prairie Harvest Mental Health is designed to follow the Fairweather Lodge Model. This is a national model developed by Dr. George Fairweather for adults with persistent mental illness. This model is currently implemented in 10 states, including North Dakota. The primary philosophy driving this model is that people that live together and work together can more easily recover and find stability for the long term.

What is a Prairie Harvest Mental Health Lodge like?

Prairie Harvest Mental Health supervises two Lodges in Grand Forks: Prairie Lodge and Harvest Lodge. Each Lodge has the capacity to accommodate 6 individuals in private bedrooms. The Lodge resembles a healthy family, with each member contributing to the maintenance and care of the house and of each other. Staff presences at the Lodge is very minimal. Their role is mainly to mentor, advise, mediate and help out in emergencies.



Prairie Lodge
Opened in 2000

Lodge - continued

How do I refer someone to the Prairie Harvest Mental Health Lodge Program?

Prairie Harvest Mental Health currently contracts with Northeast Human Service Center, located in Grand Forks, North Dakota. All referrals must come through Northeast Human Service Center. For more information on **Northeast Human Service Center**, call **701-795-3000**.

Groups:

- Job Club
- Exercise Group
- Other Groups as needed



Harvest Lodge
Opened In 2001

Siewert Plains

An 8-bed permanent living facility for adults with serious mental illness, Siewert Plains opened in May of 2008. In an effort to bridge the gap between transitional and permanent living, Siewert Plains offers 24-hour support along with educational groups and trainings to augment Prairie Harvest Mental Health's supportive services.

These services include:

- Case Management
- Crisis Management
- Nursing
- Medication Monitoring
- Daily Living Activities
- Socialization Opportunities
- Community Involvement
- Employment Groups
- Skill Groups



Opened in 2008

Stern Place Apartments

Stern Place has been made available through an Economic Stimulus grant through our local Grand Forks Urban Development. Stern Place augments the Grand Forks communities permanent supportive housing with the addition of 9 self-contained apartments. This complex opened March 2012

Supportive services are available on a limited basis. A nurse assures all tenants receive medications in the mornings. Additional staff work four hour shifts from 4:30—7:30 PM. Monday through Friday. Medication monitors ensure medications are taken twice daily over the weekends. Case Management is provided through Northeast Human Service Center. Limited staff support provided through Prairie Harvest Mental Health, includes Life Skills, Job Development and Case Assistance.

Stern Place is suited for independent individuals. With limited support services and staff presence, tenants need to be capable of supporting themselves. Expectations include: independence with self-care, housekeeping, cooking and laundry.



Opened in 2012

Single Family Dwelling

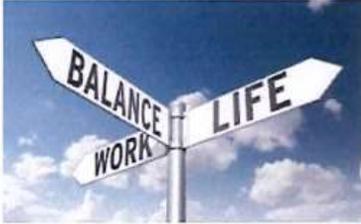
This residence houses one to two people, providing another choice for individuals with serious mental illness who prefer independent community living. All supportive services are available to tenants in this home.



Purchased in 1999

Work Opportunities

Prairie Harvest Mental Health believes that everyone deserves the opportunity to work in competitive employment and to be paid fair wages. Prairie Harvest Mental Health and the Home Place Corporation have various positions for people with disabilities.



Home Place Thrift Store

Clerking, sorting and custodial positions in a retail setting provide opportunities for learning the skills necessary for similar positions in the community.

Community Support

Prairie Harvest Mental Health provides one-on-one support to individuals with serious mental illness to help them succeed in the competitive employment field. Services are individualized and focus on the skills areas needed to strengthen work related activities.



Rag Contract

Prairie Harvest Mental Health cuts clothing into rags to sell to community and state agencies. State agencies can now order goods and services directly from work activity centers. The rags are cotton or cotton blend. We get out of style, stained, or overstock clothing from the Home Place Thrift Store to cut into rags. The rags are sold in 50 pound lots or as requested by customer.



Cleaning Contract

Prairie Harvest Mental Health provides cleaning services at Augustana Lutheran Church.



The Home Place Thrift Store

The Home Place Thrift Store is a division of Prairie Harvest Mental Health, a business in the Grand Forks community. The Home Place Thrift Store exists to provide customers with affordable goods and clothing and to provide resources to Prairie Harvest Mental Health.

The Home Place Thrift Store provides a great shopping experience for any member of the family.

You will find something for everyone at the "Home Place", located at **1811 S. Washington in the Town & Country Mall**. Clothing, furniture, household items and a variety of miscellaneous items make shopping fun at the Home Place. New or like new items at low prices. Affordable shopping for everyone.

Donations are always appreciated. All donations are tax deductible, stay in the community and benefit individuals in the Grand Forks community. The Home Place Thrift Store picks up donations of clothes, furniture, working appliances, computer equipment less than 3 years old, books, household items, etc. at no cost. Also accept ripped, stained or torn cotton/cotton blend clothing for the Prairie Harvest Mental Health work program.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all donations are accepted during business hours. Place your boxed or bagged donations in the back of The Home Place truck parked in front of the store. Accepting furniture donations, please call 701-795-9143 to schedule time to drop off donation.

The Home Place is in need of volunteers to work in the thrift store. Volunteering provides an excellent opportunity to give back to the Grand Forks community. Any time you can give is appreciated.

Thrift Store Hours

Monday - Friday: 10:00 AM—6:00 PM

Saturday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday: Closed



Board of Directors

Nicole Amsbaugh, MPAS, PA-C - Grand Forks, ND

Irene Dybwad - Grand Forks, ND - Retired - Grand Forks County Family Service Supervisor

Thomasine Heitkamp - Grand Forks, ND - UND - Chair of Department of Social Work

Kate Kenna—Grand Forks, ND - Retired - Licensor/Recruiter at PATH

Bill Lund - Grand Forks, ND - Retired RN

Kristi Magnuson-Nelson - Grand Forks, ND - Owner - Hugo's/Hugo's Wine & Spirits

Jeremy Moe—Grand Forks, ND— Grand Forks Police Department

Vicki Morrissette - Grand Forks, ND - UND Dean of Students Office - Director of Judicial Affairs & Crisis Program

Eric Scheffer - Grand Forks, ND - Bremer Bank - Assistant Vice President of Banking

Sue Shirek - Arvilla, ND - Northlands Rescue Mission - Executive Director

Dolly Stennes - Grand Forks, ND - Retired - Northeast Human Service Center

Paul Stenseth - Grand Forks, ND - Retired - Alerus Financial Senior Trust Officer

Sonia Zimmerman - Grand Forks, ND - UND - Associate Professor Occupational Therapy

Client Advisory Board

The Client Advisory Board is a client run entity with a Prairie Harvest Mental Health staff coordinator that reports directly to the Prairie Harvest Mental Health Board of Directors about the needs and wishes of the clients. It will be a way for the voice of the client to be heard as well as a way to better involve Prairie Harvest Mental Health clients in the workings and activities of Prairie Harvest Mental Health. The Client Advisory Board representatives will consist of 1 representative from Harvest Homes, 1 representative from Stern Place, 1 representative from Siewert Plains, 2 representatives from Supported Residential, 1 representative from Prairie Lodge and 1 representative from Harvest Lodge. Meetings will be held on the last Tuesday of the month.

Updated 7/1/2020



Updated 1/22/2021 20