



The Council

Did You Know?



North Dakota Vision Services - School for the Blind

The North Dakota School for the Blind has been serving individuals with vision impairments since 1908, when the school opened in Bathgate, in Pembina County, with 25 students. The school relocated to its current location in Grand Forks in 1961, and became a division of the Department of Public Instruction in 1991. During the 2001 legislative session, the Legislative Assembly changed the school's name to the North Dakota Vision Services - School for the Blind and clarified its mandate to serve individuals of all ages.

Today, the agency operates eight regional offices throughout the state, providing specialized programs for infants, preschoolers, K-12 students, families, and adults. During the 2023-25 biennium, the agency served 534 clients, provided 2,183 consultations, and conducted 378 evaluations. More information can be found on the agency's [website](#).

Human Services Committee

The Human Services Committee held its fourth meeting of the interim on May 27. The committee continued its study on homelessness in North Dakota with an update from the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency on the Interagency Council on Homelessness. An update also was provided on the Continuum of Care Program and expected changes to the federal funding for the program. North Dakota Vision Services - School for the Blind presented information on the services it offers and indicated its screening process is working well.

The committee received a report on child care provider licensing and the Department of Health and Human Services provided information from the Child Care Services Advisory Committee. The report provided recommendations relating to streamlining provider types; changes to child-to-staff ratios and group sizes; qualifications for teaching staff, supervisors, and directors; training requirements; the age of children served; and working closely with local municipalities on ordinances.

The Legislative Council's Policy and Program Evaluation Division provided an update on the progress of its work on the program evaluation of child care services, which indicated surveys were completed by 1,772 parent respondents and 218 child care provider respondents. A final program evaluation report will be presented at the next committee meeting.

The committee also received several reports, including information on psychiatric residential treatment facilities regarding the rate model and value-based purchasing, an update on the direct payments made to child care providers, information on alternatives to the Life Skills and Transition Center and ineligible youth at the facility, an update on the developmental disabilities system reimbursement project, a presentation on the Tribal Health Care Coordination Fund, an update on the family caregiver service pilot project, and an update on the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Upcoming Meetings

June

- 2 Energy Development and Transmission
- 3 Higher Education Funding Review
- 10 Water Topics Overview
Legislative Procedure and Arrangements
- 11 Administrative Rules
Legislative Management
- 16 Advanced Nuclear Energy
- 17 Agriculture and Water Management
Judiciary
Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review
- 18-19 Higher Education Institutions
- 24 Budget Section
(including divisions)
- 30 Legislative Task Force on Government Efficiency

July

- 1 Information Technology
- 15 Health Care