



**Resolution in Support of
Improved Behavioral Health, Chemical Dependency,
and Addiction Services in N.D.**

Whereas, prevention of disease and substance abuse promotes optimal health and enhancement of quality of life while reducing pain, suffering and financial burdens, and

Whereas delayed detection of mental health and substance abuse conditions contributes to prolonged duration and increased severity of disease, and

Whereas, mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and mental illness will affect one in four adults in a given year¹ but nearly 60% of people with psychiatric disorders receive no treatment;² and

Whereas, more than half of all prison and jail inmates have a mental illness and/or chemical dependency;³ and


Whereas, there is a documented shortage of licensed addiction counselors (LAC) and mental health providers in North Dakota, with approximately 78% of LAC's in ND over the age of 50;⁴ and

Whereas, numerous public health units in North Dakota have identified the need to increase access to mental health treatment resources as a key public health problem;⁵ and

Whereas, people with mental health problems need and deserve easy access to mental health treatment services; and

Whereas, people with addictions need and deserve easy access to comprehensive addiction treatment services.

Now therefore be it resolved that to assure access to mental health and addiction services for all North Dakotans, **North Dakota Public Health Association supports legislation** that will provide significant additional funding specifically to increase the number of mental health counselors and licensed addiction counselors in ND; and to establish additional inpatient mental health, addiction treatment, and detoxification facilities.

Signed:  Date: 9-23-2014

References

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3. September 2006, NCJ 213600 ... Bureau of Justice Statistics
Special Report - Mental Health Problems of Prison and Jail Inmates
http://www.nami.org/Content/ContentGroups/Press_Room1/2006/Press_September_2006/DOJ_report_mental_illness_in_prison.pdf
4. Discussion at April, 2013 meeting of South Central Human Service Center Advisory Committee.
http://www.legis.nd.gov/files/committees/63-2013nma/appendices/15_5060_03000appendixh.pdf?20140512092928
5. Testimony of Theresa J. Will presented to ND Interim Human Services Committee, 01-07-14