



# NORTH DAKOTA FEDERATION OF FAMILIES

*For Children's Mental Health*

WINTER 2022

## Stories in this newsletter



Interim Committee

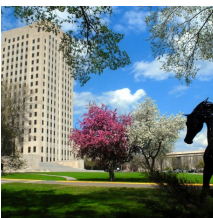


New Schulte Study



Mental Health Advocacy  
Network Podcast

## Interim Acute Psychiatric Treatment Committee



Carlotta McCleary, Executive Director for NDDFCMH, testified on behalf of the Mental Health Advocacy Network (MHAN) for the January 20 hearing of the Interim Acute Psychiatric Treatment Committee.

MHAN's testimony raised concerns with the state of peer support services in North Dakota. Peer support services, like those NDDFCMH provides, are vital to people with mental health disorders and their families and there is substantial demand for those services. To expand the peer support field as a whole, service providers need to be able to fund those services. One of those potential avenues is to allow for Medicaid billable peer support services. The legislature authorized the pursuit of Medicaid reimbursable peer support services in previous legislative sessions, but that has yet to be submitted for approval to the federal Centers for Medicaid Services (CMS).

MHAN inquired from the Interim Acute Psychiatric Treatment Committee what the legislative intent was regarding Medicaid-billable peer support services.

The Interim Acute Psychiatric Treatment Committee is tasked with several studies regarding the provision of mental health services in North Dakota. The committee is tasked with studying "the acute psychiatric hospitalization and related step down residential treatment and support needs of individuals with mental illness" including the option of replacing the existing State Hospital facility in Jamestown. The committee is also tasked with studying "the behavioral health needs of incarcerated adults." The committee is also studying "the implementation of expanded behavioral health services, including Section 1915(i)" implementation and recommendations of the Human Services Research Institute. Finally, the committee is also tasked with studying occupational boards that address mental health and behavioral health issues and must include a review of the boards and "whether there are barriers to practice and barriers to admission of foreign practitioners, and whether there is adequate training for board members and executive directors of these boards."

---

## Renee Schulte to Study Acute Psychiatric Treatment Needs



Renee Schulte, of Schulte Consulting, has been hired by the ND legislature to study the acute psychiatric needs of North Dakotans. Given the accumulating costs and safety concerns of failing utilities and old buildings of the State Hospital complex, the legislature was wanting an updated assessment of the state's mental health crisis system. If the state is to move forward on building a new State Hospital, knowing how many people need to be served in such a facility is important, as is knowing how else the state can meet the needs of those people. Schulte promised research and recommendations on the following topics:

- 1) Number, types, specialties, and locations of beds (with level of care identified) recommended in the state.
- 2) Evaluate opportunities for enhanced psychiatric service delivery by level of care in ND including definitions and Medicaid billing codes as applicable.
- 3) Workforce review of public and private providers in service areas to determine the viability of existing and added programming and/or beds.
- 4) Resource Mapping of existing services across the state and potential to scale for expanded beds/specialty programming.

Recommendations are expected during the interim legislative session so that legislation can be crafted for the legislative session starting in January 2023.

---

## Mental Health Advocacy Network Podcast Launches



The Mental Health Advocacy Network (MHAN) has launched a podcast to promote a consumer/family-driven mental health system of care in North Dakota by thoroughly discussing the services that are available and gauge what remains to be done to have a fully functional mental health system of care.

The hosts of the MHAN podcast are Patrick Kirby, the founder of Do Good Better Consulting, and Matthew McCleary, Deputy Director of North Dakota Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health and Mental Health America of ND.

The first episode of the podcast, “Everything You Should Know About Your State Hospital,” has Dr. Rosalie Etherington as a guest. Dr. Etherington is the Chief Clinical Officer for the Human Service Centers and the State Hospital Superintendent. The episode focuses on how the North Dakota State Hospital operates, the current condition of the facility and the need for significant upgrades, and whether it has become necessary to build a new State Hospital.

The MHAN Podcast is available on many Podcast platforms, including Google Podcasts, Amazon Podcasts, and Apple Podcasts.

---

North Dakota Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health  
cmcclary@ndffcmh.com (Email)  
PO BOX 3061  
Bismarck, ND 58502  
(701) 222-3310

Next edition: Spring 2022