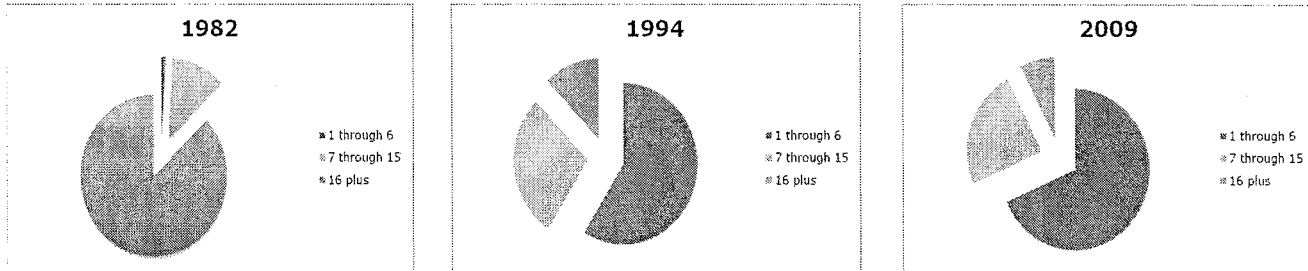


Senate Appropriations
 January 18, 2011
 SB 2012 – Department of Human Services
 Testimony from Teresa Larsen, Protection & Advocacy Project

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES GRANTS

North Dakota’s use of the Medicaid Waiver has expanded greatly over the years. This has been a good thing for people with developmental disabilities and the State, allowing for the use of federal dollars to help provide more residential services in non-institutional settings. As seen below, this has also meant the growth of smaller home sizes. In 1982, homes with 16-plus beds were “the norm”. By 1994, these large homes became the smallest size of the total residential pie and their use has continued to shrink through fiscal year 2009. It is important to continue this trend with the goal of providing residential services to all individuals in small home settings.



| Persons by Home Size | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|-------|
| | 1-6 Persons | 7-15 Persons | 16-Plus Persons | TOTAL |
| 1982 | 12 | 146 | 1,076 | 1,234 |
| 1994 | 1,093 | 535 | 226 | 1,854 |
| 2009 | 1,412 | 495 | 155 | 2,062 |

Residential Services for Persons with Developmental Disabilities: Status & Trends Through 2009;
 University of Minnesota; 2010

Regardless of the residential setting, providers for individuals with developmental disabilities have the goal of delivering quality services. In order to do so, adequate staff salaries and benefits are essential. Without these, we have seen turnover rates from 41% to 51% in the last ten years.

For the year ending June 30, 2010, salary increases were authorized at \$1.00/hour along with a 6% inflationary increase for providers. This brought the turnover rate down under 33% and was a huge gain for providers and the individuals they serve. We need to stay on this path by providing another significant hourly increase as well as a benefit multiplier to cover increased health insurance premiums. Without this, we will go backwards, losing quality staff to other businesses.

P&A supports the \$1.46/hour market adjustment for provider staff along with the 7.65% benefit multiplier. Thank you for your time and attention.