

January 6, 2017 • No. 2

During the North Dakota Legislative Session, CHAD monitors bills that may be of interest to CHCs and provides weekly reports each Friday. If you are aware of any issues CHAD should know about or if you have any questions, contact:

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Governor's Budget Address

The first week of the legislative session started with another blizzard, cold weather and Governor Burgum's [Budget Address](#). Unfortunately, there were no specifics in the address. Health care was not mentioned nor was there any discussion about Medicaid Expansion Reauthorization. The Governor mentioned revenue projections reflected less than what was proposed in Governor Dalrymple's proposed budget last month. Governor Burgum mentioned he would be offering several amendments in the next few weeks to Governor Dalrymple's proposal. As a result, there is no clarity of what we can expect. In an unusual step, neither house "gaveled in" for a floor session on Wednesday or Thursday and instead reserved both entire days to committee hearings. By not "gaveling in," the legislature theoretically saved two days of their constitutionally limited 80-day legislative session.

Recap: Week of Jan. 3-6

Below is a summary of some of the bills CHAD is monitoring that had hearings this past week.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

HB 1040 – Behavioral health funding

<http://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/65-2017/documents/17-0183-04000.pdf>

HB 1040 was heard in the House Human Services Committee and provides appropriations to the Department of Human Services (DHS) for adopting rules for an evidence-based alcohol and drug education program for certain individuals under 21 years of age (\$10,000), expanding children's prevention and early intervention behavioral health services (\$2M), establishing a behavioral health provider database (\$70,000), expanding peer-to-peer and family-to-family support services (\$2M), and providing targeted case management services for individuals with severe mental illness and severe emotional disturbance (\$24M). The committee raised concerns about the amount of funding in the interim bill given the current budget situation, but no action was taken.

SB 2038 – Task force on children's behavioral health

<http://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/65-2017/documents/17-0182-05000.pdf>

SB 2038 was heard in the Senate Human Services Committee and provides several items dealing with children's behavior health. Among the items included are a task force on children's behavioral health,

behavioral health training for educators and early childhood service providers, and a required report to the governor and the legislature. While the bill was generally supported by a packed hearing room, there were some concerns expressed about how the required training was to be administered and having it apply to prekindergarten settings. There also was a lot of committee concern about the size of the specified task force. The committee took no action, but asked the supporters to consider the committee's concerns and come back with some other options.

SB 2089 – Relating to medical peer reviews for controlled substances <http://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/65-2017/documents/17-0379-01000.pdf>

This bill was heard in the Senate Human Services Committee and dealt with the number of deaths occurring from opioid overdoses. It has been identified there needs to be a process to establish a peer review process for some of these overdose deaths to identify if actions could be taken with medical professionals that may have prescribed opioid prescriptions inappropriately or if there were other practitioners who also prescribe narcotic drugs. The intent is not meant to be punitive, but instead to do an investigation to avoid future situations. There appeared to be some changes needed in the bill, so the committee did not take action yet. However, it appeared the committee was generally supportive of the bill with some necessary changes.

WORKFORCE

HB 1035 – Removal of payback for dentist loan repayment program

<http://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/65-2017/documents/17-0283-01000.pdf>

HB 1035 was heard in the House Human Services Committee and makes technical corrections to the dentist loan repayment program. The bill removes the repayment requirement if a dentist does not fulfill the five-year contract, making the dentist loan program comparable to other health professional loan programs, as was the intent when changes were made to both programs during the 2015 session. CHAD has supported this program in the past, and we signed in support of this bill as well. It received a unanimous do pass recommendation from the committee and is on Friday's House floor calendar.

SB 2034 – Nursing faculty student loan repayment program

<http://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/65-2017/documents/17-0282-02000.pdf>

This bill was heard by the Senate Human Services Committee and provides for the creation of a student loan repayment program for nursing faculty similar to those offered to dentists, veterinarians and other professional programs. The room was packed with supporters from different nursing programs throughout the state. The demand for nurses is great, but nursing programs are filled to capacity. These programs are having a difficult time recruiting nursing faculty. It was reported programs are currently filled to capacity at 113%. However, the shortage of nursing faculty is not the only issue. At some locations, space is an issue and also for finding slots in nursing/hospital facilities for their training. However, expanding nursing faculty is currently the greatest need. There appeared to be a lot of support for the bill, but no action was taken yet.

SB 2040 – Scope of practice for addiction counselors

<http://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/65-2017/documents/17-0289-02000.pdf>

This bill, heard by the Senate Human Services Committee, was an interim committee bill and was being offered by the Board of Addiction Counselors and expands the scope of practice for addiction counselors to be able to treat individuals for gambling addictions in addition to smoking and nicotine. Counselors stated the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders already identifies these as addictive behaviors which they are already trained to treat. No action was taken by the committee.

SB 2088 – Scope of practice and licensure authority for addiction

counselors <http://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/65-2017/documents/17-0376-01000.pdf>

This bill heard by the Senate Human Services Committee was very similar to SB 2040. After testimony, the committee talked about merging SB 2040 into SB 2088. No action was taken by the committee.












SB 2117 – Medicaid provider background checks

















<http://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/65-2017/documents/17-8070-01000.pdf>

SB 2117, heard before the Senate Judiciary Committee, brings DHS into compliance with federal requirements by providing for criminal history record checks to be conducted for Medicaid services applicants, providers and staff members and for job applicants for DHS, county social services, contractors and subcontractors that have access to federal tax information received from the IRS. The cost of the additional background checks will be offset by DHS’s ability to charge a fee for the background check. It received a unanimous do pass recommendation from the committee.

Hearing Schedule: Jan. 9-13

This is next week’s hearing schedule for bills CHAD is monitoring this session. If you have comments on bills being heard by committee or if you plan to testify, please let [Rod](#) know as soon as possible.

01/09/2017 08:30 AM 	HB 1012 HB 1072	DHS appropriation	House Appropriations - Human Resources Division	Sakakawea
01/09/2017 09:00 AM 	SB 2052	Insurance coverage of telehealth	Senate Human Services	Red River
01/09/2017 09:30 AM 	SB 2099	Immunization program	Senate Human Services	Red River
01/09/2017 11:00 AM 	SB 2039	DHS restructuring	Senate Human Services	Red River
01/09/2017 02:00 PM 	HB 1117	DHS language re: behavioral health	House Human Services	Fort Union
01/09/2017 02:30 PM 	HB 1136	Substance abuse vouchers	House Human Services	Fort Union
01/09/2017 02:30 PM 	HB 1012 HB 1072	DHS appropriation	House Appropriations - Human Resources Division	Sakakawea
01/10/2017 08:30 AM 	HB 1012 HB 1072	DHS appropriation	House Appropriations - Human Resources Division	Sakakawea
01/10/2017 09:30 AM 	SB 2033	Licensure requirements for behavioral health professionals	Senate Human Services	Red River
01/10/2017 09:30 AM 	SB 2131	Criminal history record checks for physical therapist and physical therapist assistant	Senate Judiciary	Fort Lincoln
01/10/2017 02:00 PM 	HB 1093	Respiratory care licensure	House Industry, Business and Labor	Peace Garden

01/10/2017 02:30 PM 	HB 1012 HB 1072	DHS appropriation	House Appropriations - Human Resources Division	Sakakawea
01/11/2017 08:00 AM 	HB 1086	WSI notice to doctor	House Industry, Business and Labor	Peace Garden
01/11/2017 08:30 AM 	HB 1012 HB 1072	DHS appropriation	House Appropriations - Human Resources Division	Sakakawea
01/11/2017 08:30 AM 	HB 1015 HB 1075	OMB	House Appropriations - Government Operations Division	Medora
01/11/2017 09:00 AM 	SB 2042	Tiered system of mental health professionals	Senate Human Services	Red River
01/11/2017 09:00 AM 	HB 1096	APRN licensure compact	House Human Services	Fort Union
01/11/2017 09:45 AM 	HB 1097	Nurse licensure compact	House Human Services	Fort Union
01/11/2017 10:30 AM 	SB 2116	Disclosure of patient records relevant to an assessment of reported child abuse or neglect	Senate Human Services	Red River
01/11/2017 11:00 AM 	HB 1120	Prior authorization for Medicaid drugs	House Human Services	Fort Union
01/11/2017 02:00 PM 	HB 1157	Physical therapy licensure compact	House Human Services	Fort Union
01/11/2017 02:30 PM 	HB 1012 HB 1072	DHS appropriation	House Appropriations - Human Resources Division	Sakakawea
01/12/2017 08:30 AM 	HB 1012 HB 1072	DHS appropriation	House Appropriations - Human Resources Division	Sakakawea
01/12/2017 08:30 AM 	SB 2004 SB 2064	DOH appropriation	Senate Appropriations	Harvest
01/12/2017 01:30 PM 	SB 2004 SB 2064	DOH appropriation	Senate Appropriations	Harvest
01/12/2017 02:30 PM 	HB 1012 HB 1072	DHS appropriation	House Appropriations - Human Resources Division	Sakakawea
01/13/2017 08:30 AM 	HB 1012 HB 1072	DHS appropriation	House Appropriations - Human Resources Division	Sakakawea

How to Contact Your Legislators

During the session, legislators can be reached at the Capitol by leaving a message with the legislative telephone message center at 888-NDLEGIS (635-3447). A legislator can also be reached by email, phone or mail as listed in the legislator's online bio: [Senate](#) or [House](#). Detailed information on legislative activities is available on the [Legislative Assembly website](#).

2017 Legislative Deadlines

Jan. 16	Deadline for representatives to introduce bills
Jan. 23	Deadline for senators to introduce bills
Feb. 2	CHAD Legislative Briefing and Reception
Feb. 24	Crossover for bills
Feb. 27-28	Recess
April 28	Session limited to 80 days

Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas (CHAD)