

Testimony
House Bill No. 1043
House Human Services Committee
Representative Robin Weisz, Chairman
January 11, 2023

Chairman Weisz, and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Kelli Ulberg, Manager of Children's Behavioral Health Program and Policy with the Department of Health and Human Services (Department), Behavioral Health Division. I appear before you in support of House Bill No. 1043, which was introduced at the request of the Department.

The Behavioral Health Division is responsible for the regulation of Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities for children (PRTFs) as prescribed by North Dakota Century Code Chapter 25-03. PRTFs are residential based services that serve children with the most difficult behavioral health needs and who cannot be effectively treated in a less restrictive setting. This bill applies to the six PRTFs licensed in our state.

Section 1

The proposed changes in Section 1 of this Bill amends section 25-03.2-01 of the North Dakota Century Code. The proposed changes on page 2, lines 8 through 14 of this Bill adds a definition of serious risk of harm to align to current best practice.

Section 2

The proposed changes in Section 2 of this Bill amends section 25-03.2-03 of the North Dakota Century Code. The changes on page 2, lines 22 and 23 amends the program director requirements from a master's degree to a bachelor's degree and amends the years of professional experience from two years to four years. The duties of a program director often include human resources, budgeting, scheduling, operations, policies and procedures, and strategic planning.

Section 3

The proposed changes in Section 3 of this Bill amends section 25-03.2-06 of the North Dakota Century Code. The changes on page 3, lines 19 through 27 amends the admission criteria to provide clarity and be in alignment with current best practice and operation.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions.
Thank you.