

CHAPTER 50-06
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

50-06-01. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Behavioral health" means the planning and implementation of preventive, consultative, diagnostic, treatment, crisis intervention, rehabilitative, and suicide prevention services for individuals with mental, emotional, or substance use disorders, and psychiatric conditions.
2. "Behavioral health provider" means any licensed or accredited behavioral health provider in this state.
3. "Department" means the department of health and human services.
4. "Human services" means:
 - a. A service or assistance provided to an individual or an individual's family in need of services or assistance, including child welfare services, economic assistance programs, medical services programs, and aging services programs, to assist the individual or the individual's family in achieving and maintaining basic self-sufficiency, including physical health, mental health, education, welfare, food and nutrition, and housing.
 - b. A service or assistance provided, administered, or supervised by the department in accordance with chapter 50-06.
 - c. Licensing duties as administered or supervised by the department or delegated by the department to a human service zone.

50-06-01.1. Department of health and human services to be substituted for public welfare board of North Dakota and social service board of North Dakota, members of board, executive director, and department of human services.

When the terms "public welfare board of North Dakota", "social service board of North Dakota", "executive director of the public welfare board", "executive director of the social service board", "department of human services", or "executive director of the department of human services", "member of the public welfare board", or "member of the social service board", or any derivative of those terms which, when used in context indicates an intention to refer to those persons or that board, appear in the North Dakota Century Code, the term "department of health and human services", or the term "executive director of the department of health and human services", as the case may be, must be substituted therefor. It is the intent of the legislative assembly that the department of health and human services must be substituted for, shall take any action previously to be taken by, and shall perform any duties previously to be performed by the public welfare board of North Dakota, by the social service board of North Dakota, by the department of human services, or by the state department of health. The legislative council may replace references to the "department of human services" or "executive director of the department of human services" or any derivatives of those terms with "department of health and human services" or "executive director of the department of health and human services" in any measure enacted by the sixty-seventh legislative assembly.

50-06-01.2. Department of human services - Creation.

Repealed by S.L. 2017, ch. 353, § 10.

50-06-01.3. Appointment of executive director - Compensation.

The governor shall appoint the executive director of the department who shall serve at the pleasure of the governor. The executive director shall take the oath of office required of civil officers by section 44-01-05. The executive director is entitled to receive compensation in the amount established by the governor within the limits of legislative appropriations.

50-06-01.4. Structure of the department.

1. The department includes the state hospital, the regional human service centers, a vocational rehabilitation unit, health division, and other units or offices and administrative and fiscal support services as the executive director determines necessary. The department must be structured to promote efficient and effective operations and, consistent with fulfilling its prescribed statutory duties, shall act as the official agency of the state in the discharge of the following functions not otherwise by law made the responsibility of another state agency:
 - a. Administration of programs for children and families, including adoption services and the licensure of child-placing agencies, foster care services and the licensure of foster care arrangements, certification of shelter care services, child protection services, children's trust fund, licensure of early childhood programs, refugee services, in-home community-based services, quality control, and administration of the interstate compacts on the placement of children and juveniles.
 - b. Administration of programs for individuals with developmental disabilities, including licensure of facilities and services, and the design and implementation of a community-based service system for persons in need of habilitation.
 - c. Administration of aging service programs, including nutrition, transportation, advocacy, social, ombudsman, recreation, and related services funded under the Older Americans Act of 1965 [42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.], home and community-based services, licensure of adult foster care homes, and the committee on aging.
 - d. Administration of behavioral health programs, including:
 - (1) A policy division responsible for reviewing and identifying service needs and activities in the state's behavioral health system in an effort to ensure health and safety, access to services, and quality of services; establishing quality assurance standards for the licensure of substance use disorder program services and facilities; and providing policy leadership in partnership with public and private entities; and
 - (2) A service delivery division responsible for providing chronic disease management, regional intervention services, and twenty-four-hour crisis services for individuals with behavioral health disorders.
 - e. Administration of economic assistance programs, including temporary assistance for needy families, the supplemental nutrition assistance program, home energy assistance, child care assistance, refugee assistance, work experience, work incentive, and quality control.
 - f. Administration of medical service programs, including medical assistance for children's health insurance program, Medicaid waivers, early and periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment, utilization control, autism services, and claims processing.
 - g. Administration of general assistance.
 - h. Administration of child support.
 - i. Administration of program, services, and licensing outlined in title 23 and other previous duties of the state department of health.
2. The executive director shall consult with and maintain a close working relationship with the department of corrections and rehabilitation and the superintendents of the school for the deaf and the North Dakota vision services - school for the blind to develop programs for individuals with developmental disabilities; and with the superintendent of public instruction to maximize the use of resource persons in regional human service centers in the provision of special education services. The executive director shall also maintain a close liaison with human service zones.
3. By August 1, 2019, the department shall establish a template for the development of human service zone plans, including process and content requirements, access point expectations, client grievances procedures, human resources, and locally funded programs or services and how those services will be addressed.

4. The department shall develop, with assistance from the North Dakota association of counties, a process for consultation and technical assistance for human service zone working groups by August 1, 2019.

50-06-01.5. Office and office equipment.

Repealed by S.L. 2017, ch. 331, § 14.

50-06-01.6. Human services advisory board - Membership - Meetings - Compensation and expenses - Responsibilities.

Repealed by S.L. 1995, ch. 457, § 6.

50-06-01.7. Behavioral health division - Administration - Fees.

1. The department shall administratively restructure the behavioral health division to require the division to develop and revise, when necessary, the state mental health plan and provide the behavioral health division the authority to implement and supervise a unified mental health delivery system and to assure the mental health services provided by the human service centers, the state hospital, and contracted services are in accordance with the state plan.
2. The behavioral health division may establish nonrefundable application fees not to exceed three hundred dollars for administration and enforcement of licensing and certification activities. The department shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this section. All fees collected under this section must be paid to the behavioral health division and must be used to defray the cost of administering and enforcing licensing and certification activities.

50-06-01.8. Department to seek waiver to establish training, education, employment, and management program - Waiver may be terminated - Program characteristics - Cooperation with governmental bodies - Interim rulemaking.

Repealed by S.L. 2001, ch. 418, § 6.

50-06-01.9. Criminal history record checks.

In accordance with section 12-60-24, the department may require criminal history record checks as the department determines appropriate for:

1. Job applicants of the department and employees of the department upon hiring;
2. Job applicants of the human service zone and the department's and human service zones' contractors and contractors' subcontractors that may have access to federal tax information received from the United States internal revenue service through a computer match and stored in the department's eligibility system;
3. A criminal history record check conducted under subsections 1 and 2 is valid for ten years, after which the department shall require another criminal history record check on employees of the department, human service zones, and the department's and human service zones' contractors and contractors' subcontractors that may have access to federal tax information received from the United States internal revenue service through a computer match and stored in the department's eligibility system;
4. Providers licensed by the department under chapter 50-12, as well as for any employees of those providers;
5. Providers holding, applicants for, and emergency designees and staff members of providers holding and applicants for early childhood services licensure, self-declaration, or in-home provider registration under chapter 50-11.1. The department also may require criminal history record checks for household members of a residence out of which early childhood services within the provider's home are provided; and
6. Medicaid services applicant providers, Medicaid services providers, or an individual with a five percent or more direct or indirect ownership interest in the applicant provider or provider under chapter 50-24.1.

50-06-02. Social service board - Members - Appointment.

Repealed by S.L. 1981, ch. 486, § 37.

50-06-03. Social service board - Term of office - Removal.

Repealed by S.L. 1981, ch. 486, § 37.

50-06-03.1. Social service board members with unexpired terms.

Repealed by S.L. 1981, ch. 486, § 37.

50-06-04. Members of board - Compensation.

Repealed by S.L. 1981, ch. 486, § 37.

50-06-05. Officers and meetings of board.

Repealed by S.L. 1983, ch. 82, § 154.

50-06-05.1. Powers and duties of the department. (Effective through June 30, 2025)

The department has the following powers and duties to be administered by the department through its state office or regional human service centers, human service zones, or otherwise as directed by the department:

1. To act as the official agency of the state in any social welfare or human service activity initiated by the federal government not otherwise by law made the responsibility of another state agency.
2. To administer, allocate, and distribute any state and federal funds that may be made available for the purpose of providing financial assistance, care, and services to eligible persons and families who do not have sufficient income or other resources to provide a reasonable subsistence compatible with decency and health.
3. To provide preventive, rehabilitative, and other human services to help families and individuals to retain or attain capability for independence or self-care.
4. To do needed research and study in the causes of social problems and to define appropriate and effective techniques in providing preventive and rehabilitative services.
5. To provide for the study, and to promote the well-being, of a child in need of protection, a child in need of services, and delinquent children.
6. To provide for the placing and supervision of children in need of substitute parental care, subject to the control of any court having jurisdiction and control of any such child.
7. To recommend appropriate human services related legislation to the legislative assembly.
8. To direct and supervise human service zone activities and administer a statewide program for state-funded human services, staffing, and administration costs related to the administration of human services.
9. To secure, hold, and administer for the purpose for which it is established any property and any funds donated to it either by will or deed, or otherwise, or through court order or otherwise available to the department, and to administer those funds or property in accordance with the instructions in the instrument creating them or in accordance with the instructions in the court order or otherwise.
10. To formulate standards and make appropriate inspections and investigations in accordance with such standards in connection with all licensing activities delegated by law to the department, including early childhood programs, nonmedical adult care facilities and maternity homes, and persons or organizations receiving and placing children, and to require those facilities, persons, and organizations to submit reports and information as the department may determine necessary.
11. To permit the making of any surveys of human service needs and activities if determined to be necessary.

12. To issue subpoenas, administer oaths, and compel attendance of witnesses and production of documents or papers whenever necessary in making the investigations provided for herein or in the discharge of its other duties. A subpoena may not be issued to compel the production of documents or papers relating to any private child-caring or child-placing agency or maternity hospital or to compel the attendance as a witness of any officer or employee of those facilities except upon the order of a judge of the district court of the judicial district in which the facilities are located.
13. To provide insofar as staff resources permit appropriate human services, including social histories, social or social-psychological evaluations, individual, group, family, and marital counseling, and related consultation, when referred by self, parent, guardian, human service zone, court, physician, or other individual or agency, and when application is made by self (if an adult or emancipated youth), parent, guardian, or agency having custody; also, on the same basis, to provide human services to children and adults in relation to their placement in or return from the life skills and transition center, state hospital, or North Dakota youth correctional center.
14. To provide insofar as staff resources permit social services, including social-psychological evaluations, predisposition reports, treatment, probation, and aftercare services when requested by the judge of a juvenile court.
15. To provide insofar as staff resources permit social services, including social-psychological evaluations, predisposition reports, treatment, and probation and parole services, when requested by the judge in a criminal case.
16. To act as the official agency of the state in the administration of the supplemental nutrition assistance program and to direct and supervise human service zone administration of that program. The department with the consent of the legislative assembly or the budget section if the legislative assembly is not in session may terminate the program if the rate of federal financial participation in administrative costs provided under Public Law 93-347 is decreased or limited, or if the state or counties become financially responsible for all or a portion of the coupon bonus payments under the Food Stamp Act. Any request considered by the budget section must comply with section 54-35-02.9. The department may not deny assistance under the supplemental nutrition assistance program to any individual who has been convicted of a felony offense that has as an element the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance as defined in section 102(6) of the Controlled Substances Act [21 U.S.C. 802(6)].
17. To administer, allocate, and distribute any funds made available for the making of direct cash assistance payments, housing stabilization supports, and rental assistance and to promote cooperation and working agreements with public agencies and including the housing finance agency and department of commerce, and private human service agencies.
18. To act as the official agency of the state in the administration of the home energy assistance program; to direct and supervise human service zone administration of that program; and to take such actions, give such directions, and adopt such rules, subject to review in the courts of this state, as may be necessary or desirable to carry out this subsection. For purposes of the administration of the energy assistance program, funds are obligated at the earlier of the time a written commitment is made to pay a vendor or contractor for services or supplies delivered or to be delivered, or at the time payment is made to a vendor or contractor for services or supplies delivered or to be delivered. The provisions of this subsection concerning obligation of funds apply to payments and commitments made on or after July 1, 1991. The department with the consent of the legislative assembly or the budget section if the legislative assembly is not in session may terminate the program if the rate of federal financial participation in administrative costs is decreased or limited to less than fifty percent of total administrative costs, or if the state or counties become financially responsible for all or a portion of the cost of energy assistance program benefits. Any request considered by the budget section must comply with section 54-35-02.9

19. To administer, allocate, and distribute any funds made available for the payment of the cost of the special needs of any child under the age of twenty-one years, who is living in an adoptive home and would probably go without adoption except for acceptance by the adopted family, and whose adopted family does not have the economic ability and resources, as established by the department, to take care of the special needs of the child, including legal fees, maintenance costs, medical and dental expenses, travel costs, and other costs incidental to the care of the child.
20. To exercise and carry out any other powers and duties granted the department under state law.
21. To administer, allocate, and distribute any funds made available for the payment of supervised independent living services, to develop standards regarding a supervised independent living program, to approve supervised independent living services for the purpose of providing foster care placement, and to apply for and administer federal and other funds that may be made available to undertake any of the activities described in this subsection.
22. With the approval of the governor, to lease or transfer use of any part of the life skills and transition center facilities or properties, located in section thirteen, township one hundred fifty-seven north, range fifty-three west, located in Walsh County, North Dakota, to the federal government, or any public or private agency, organization, or business enterprise, or any worthy undertaking, under the following provisions:
 - a. The department determines that the facility or property is not needed to serve any present or reasonably foreseeable need of the life skills and transition center.
 - b. The transaction is exempt from the provisions of section 50-06-06.6.
 - c. The term of any lease may not exceed ninety-nine years.
 - d. All required legal documents, papers, and instruments in any transaction must be reviewed and approved as to form and legality by the attorney general.
 - e. Any funds realized by any transaction must be deposited in the state's general fund.
23. To act as a decedent's successor for purposes of collecting amounts due to the department or human service zone, unless otherwise directed or determined by the department. Any affidavit submitted by the department under section 30.1-23-01 must conform to the requirements of that section except that the affidavit may state that twenty days have elapsed since the death of the decedent.
24. To provide those services necessary for the department and for human service zones to comply with the provisions of any law, rule, order, or regulation of the United States or any federal agency or authority requiring civil service or merit standards or classifications as a condition for providing funds administered by the department.
25. For purposes of administration of programs, and subject to legislative appropriation, funds are obligated at the time a written commitment is made to pay a vendor or contractor for services or supplies either delivered or to be delivered. This subsection applies to payments and commitments made on or after January 1, 1997.
26. To determine eligibility for medical assistance and children's health insurance program benefits when the department receives a joint application for these benefits.
27. To develop a system of services and supports to provide behavioral health services and supports in the community for children at risk of or identified as having a behavioral health condition and for the families of these children. This system must include early intervention, treatment, and recovery services and supports and must interface with, but not include, child protective services or juvenile court.
28. To provide resources on mental health awareness and suicide prevention to the behavioral health resource coordinator at each public school and to the designated individual at a nonpublic school. The resources must include information on identifying warning signs, risk factors, and the availability of resources in the community, and also must include an evidence-based, online virtual mental health and suicide prevention simulation-based training program that incorporates hands-on practice, contextual learning, and personalized feedback through interactive role-playing. The provisions of

chapter 54-44.4 do not apply to the online virtual mental health and suicide prevention simulation-based training program under this subsection.

29. To administer, allocate, and distribute any funds made available for kinship care services and payments and services in response to the federal Family First Prevention Services Act as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 [Pub. L. 115-123].
30. To contract with another human service zone or any other public or private person to discharge any of the department's duties or exercise any of the department's powers to administer human services.
31. To act on behalf of the department of public instruction to administer part B, section 619 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act [Pub. L. 108-446; 229 Stat. 2647; 20 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.].

Powers and duties of the department. (Effective after June 30, 2025) The department has the following powers and duties to be administered by the department through its state office or regional human service centers, human service zones, or otherwise as directed by the department:

1. To act as the official agency of the state in any social welfare or human service activity initiated by the federal government not otherwise by law made the responsibility of another state agency.
2. To administer, allocate, and distribute any state and federal funds that may be made available for the purpose of providing financial assistance, care, and services to eligible persons and families who do not have sufficient income or other resources to provide a reasonable subsistence compatible with decency and health.
3. To provide preventive, rehabilitative, and other human services to help families and individuals to retain or attain capability for independence or self-care.
4. To do needed research and study in the causes of social problems and to define appropriate and effective techniques in providing preventive and rehabilitative services.
5. To provide for the study, and to promote the well-being, of a child in need of protection, a child in need of services, and delinquent children.
6. To provide for the placing and supervision of children in need of substitute parental care, subject to the control of any court having jurisdiction and control of any such child.
7. To recommend appropriate human services related legislation to the legislative assembly.
8. To direct and supervise human service zone activities and administer a statewide program for state-funded human services, staffing, and administration costs related to the administration of human services.
9. To secure, hold, and administer for the purpose for which it is established any property and any funds donated to it either by will or deed, or otherwise, or through court order or otherwise available to the department, and to administer those funds or property in accordance with the instructions in the instrument creating them or in accordance with the instructions in the court order or otherwise.
10. To formulate standards and make appropriate inspections and investigations in accordance with such standards in connection with all licensing activities delegated by law to the department, including early childhood programs, nonmedical adult care facilities and maternity homes, and persons or organizations receiving and placing children, and to require those facilities, persons, and organizations to submit reports and information as the department may determine necessary.
11. To permit the making of any surveys of human service needs and activities if determined to be necessary.
12. To issue subpoenas, administer oaths, and compel attendance of witnesses and production of documents or papers whenever necessary in making the investigations provided for herein or in the discharge of its other duties. A subpoena may not be issued to compel the production of documents or papers relating to any private child-caring or child-placing agency or maternity hospital or to compel the attendance

- as a witness of any officer or employee of those facilities except upon the order of a judge of the district court of the judicial district in which the facilities are located.
13. To provide insofar as staff resources permit appropriate human services, including social histories, social or social-psychological evaluations, individual, group, family, and marital counseling, and related consultation, when referred by self, parent, guardian, human service zone, court, physician, or other individual or agency, and when application is made by self (if an adult or emancipated youth), parent, guardian, or agency having custody; also, on the same basis, to provide human services to children and adults in relation to their placement in or return from the life skills and transition center, state hospital, or North Dakota youth correctional center.
 14. To provide insofar as staff resources permit social services, including social-psychological evaluations, predisposition reports, treatment, probation, and aftercare services when requested by the judge of a juvenile court.
 15. To provide insofar as staff resources permit social services, including social-psychological evaluations, predisposition reports, treatment, and probation and parole services, when requested by the judge in a criminal case.
 16. To act as the official agency of the state in the administration of the supplemental nutrition assistance program and to direct and supervise human service zone administration of that program. The department with the consent of the legislative assembly or the budget section if the legislative assembly is not in session may terminate the program if the rate of federal financial participation in administrative costs provided under Public Law 93-347 is decreased or limited, or if the state or counties become financially responsible for all or a portion of the coupon bonus payments under the Food Stamp Act. Any request considered by the budget section must comply with section 54-35-02.9. The department may not deny assistance under the supplemental nutrition assistance program to any individual who has been convicted of a felony offense that has as an element the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance as defined in section 102(6) of the Controlled Substances Act [21 U.S.C. 802(6)].
 17. To administer, allocate, and distribute any funds made available for the making of direct cash assistance payments, housing stabilization supports, and rental assistance and to promote cooperation and working agreements with public agencies and including the housing finance agency and department of commerce, and private human services agencies.
 18. To act as the official agency of the state in the administration of the home energy assistance program; to direct and supervise human service zone administration of that program; and to take such actions, give such directions, and adopt such rules, subject to review in the courts of this state, as may be necessary or desirable to carry out this subsection. For purposes of the administration of the energy assistance program, funds are obligated at the earlier of the time a written commitment is made to pay a vendor or contractor for services or supplies delivered or to be delivered, or at the time payment is made to a vendor or contractor for services or supplies delivered or to be delivered. The provisions of this subsection concerning obligation of funds apply to payments and commitments made on or after July 1, 1991. The department with the consent of the legislative assembly or the budget section if the legislative assembly is not in session may terminate the program if the rate of federal financial participation in administrative costs is decreased or limited to less than fifty percent of total administrative costs, or if the state or counties become financially responsible for all or a portion of the cost of energy assistance program benefits. Any request considered by the budget section must comply with section 54-35-02.9
 19. To administer, allocate, and distribute any funds made available for the payment of the cost of the special needs of any child under the age of twenty-one years, who is living in an adoptive home and would probably go without adoption except for acceptance by the adopted family, and whose adopted family does not have the economic ability and resources, as established by the department, to take care of the special needs of the

- child, including legal fees, maintenance costs, medical and dental expenses, travel costs, and other costs incidental to the care of the child.
20. To exercise and carry out any other powers and duties granted the department under state law.
 21. To administer, allocate, and distribute any funds made available for the payment of supervised independent living services, to develop standards regarding a supervised independent living program, to approve supervised independent living services for the purpose of providing foster care placement, and to apply for and administer federal and other funds that may be made available to undertake any of the activities described in this subsection.
 22. With the approval of the governor, to lease or transfer use of any part of the life skills and transition center facilities or properties, located in section thirteen, township one hundred fifty-seven north, range fifty-three west, located in Walsh County, North Dakota, to the federal government, or any public or private agency, organization, or business enterprise, or any worthy undertaking, under the following provisions:
 - a. The department determines that the facility or property is not needed to serve any present or reasonably foreseeable need of the life skills and transition center.
 - b. The transaction is exempt from the provisions of section 50-06-06.6.
 - c. The term of any lease may not exceed ninety-nine years.
 - d. All required legal documents, papers, and instruments in any transaction must be reviewed and approved as to form and legality by the attorney general.
 - e. Any funds realized by any transaction must be deposited in the state's general fund.
 23. To act as a decedent's successor for purposes of collecting amounts due to the department or human service zone, unless otherwise directed or determined by the department. Any affidavit submitted by the department under section 30.1-23-01 must conform to the requirements of that section except that the affidavit may state that twenty days have elapsed since the death of the decedent.
 24. To provide those services necessary for the department and for human service zones to comply with the provisions of any law, rule, order, or regulation of the United States or any federal agency or authority requiring civil service or merit standards or classifications as a condition for providing funds administered by the department.
 25. For purposes of administration of programs, and subject to legislative appropriation, funds are obligated at the time a written commitment is made to pay a vendor or contractor for services or supplies either delivered or to be delivered. This subsection applies to payments and commitments made on or after January 1, 1997.
 26. To determine eligibility for medical assistance and children's health insurance program benefits when the department receives a joint application for these benefits.
 27. To develop a system of services and supports to provide behavioral health services and supports in the community for children at risk of or identified as having a behavioral health condition and for the families of these children. This system must include early intervention, treatment, and recovery services and supports and must interface with, but not include, child protective services or juvenile court.
 28. To provide resources on mental health awareness and suicide prevention to the behavioral health resource coordinator at each school. The resources must include information on identifying warning signs, risk factors, and the availability of resources in the community.
 29. To administer, allocate, and distribute any funds made available for kinship care services and payments and services in response to the federal Family First Prevention Services Act as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 [Pub. L. 115-123].
 30. To contract with another human service zone or any other public or private person to discharge any of the department's duties or exercise any of the department's powers to administer human services.
 31. To act on behalf of the department of public instruction to administer part B, section 619 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act [Pub. L. 108-446; 229 Stat. 2647; 20 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.].

50-06-05.2. Regional human service centers - Licensure.

Human services must be delivered through regional human service centers in the areas designated by the governor's executive order 1978-12 dated October 5, 1978. The department shall request appropriations and resources sufficient for accreditation and to ensure maintenance of the accreditation for the regional human service centers, including associated facilities, by the council on accreditation or by a similar national accrediting body accepted by the department. The regional human service centers are subject to licensing by the department. The department may use the accreditation as a basis for licensing in lieu of adopted rules for the operation of the regional human service centers. The department shall adopt rules for the operation of the regional human service centers. A human service center may not operate without a license issued in accordance with this section. Regional human service centers are authorized to receive federal and other funds available to finance, in whole or in part, the services and operations of the centers.

50-06-05.3. Regional human service centers - Powers - Duties - Human service advisory groups.

1. Regional human service centers shall provide human services to all eligible individuals and families to help individuals and families achieve or maintain social, emotional, and economic self-sufficiency by providing human services to:
 - a. Prevent, reduce, or eliminate dependency;
 - b. Prevent or remedy the neglect, abuse, or exploitation of children and of adults unable to protect their own interests;
 - c. Aid in the preservation, rehabilitation, and reuniting of families;
 - d. Prevent or reduce inappropriate institutional care by providing for care while institutionalized or providing for community-based or other forms of less restrictive care;
 - e. Secure referral or admission for institutional care;
 - f. Provide outpatient diagnostic and treatment services;
 - g. Provide information concerning guardianship to people interested in becoming or who are guardians; and
 - h. Provide rehabilitation and crisis services for patients with mental, emotional, or substance use disorders, an intellectual disability, and other psychiatric conditions, particularly for those patients who have received prior treatment in an inpatient facility.
2. Regional human service centers shall deliver services in the manner prescribed by the department.
3. Each human service center must have a human services advisory group consisting of the human service zone directors of the region served, the public health directors of the region served, two current county commissioners appointed by the executive director of the department, and five additional members appointed by the executive director of the department. Each advisory group member must be a resident of the region the member is appointed to serve. The term of office for each appointed member is two years and arranged so that the term of three of the appointed members expires at the end of the first year and the term of the remaining four appointed members expires at the end of the second year, except for those first members appointed, three members shall serve a one-year term and four members shall serve a two-year term. The director shall select the appointed members of each human service advisory group on the basis of population of the counties in the region served by the human service center. Each county in the region must be represented by at least one member on the human service advisory group. To the extent possible, appointed membership of the advisory group must reflect regional interests in the fields of developmental disabilities, social services, mental health, and substance use disorders. The executive director of the department shall appoint a chairman for each advisory group from the membership of the advisory group. The executive director of the department shall fill a vacancy occurring within an advisory group for other than the expiration of a term in the same manner as original appointments, except that

appointments must be made only for the unexpired term. The department shall compensate appointed members of a human service advisory group at the rate of forty-five dollars per day, not to exceed twenty-five days in any one year. The department also shall pay members for mileage and actual expenses incurred in attending meetings and in the performance of their official duties in the amounts provided by law for other state officers.

50-06-05.4. Duties of human service advisory groups.

Each human service advisory group of the regional human service centers shall perform the following duties:

1. Provide information to the department relative to needs assessment and the planning and development of health and social resources for the effective and efficient delivery of high-quality human services fully accessible to all citizens.
2. Review services and programs provided by the regional human service centers and make periodic recommendations for improvement in services, programs, or facilities.
3. Promote cooperation and working agreements with public agencies, including public health and corrections and private human service agencies.
4. Promote local and regional financing from public and private sources.

50-06-05.5. Director of regional center - Medical director.

Each regional human service center must be headed by a regional director appointed by the executive director of the department. The regional director must be accountable to the executive director or the director's designee. Each regional director may employ the staff necessary to discharge the center's responsibilities. A regional director, subject to the approval of the executive director of the department or the director's designee, and within the limit of legislative appropriations, may make contractual arrangements with public or private agencies or with individuals and organizations to discharge the regional human service center's service delivery responsibilities. Each regional director shall hire a qualified medical professional who must be designated as the medical director of the center. The medical director is responsible for coordinating mental health and medically related services. The medical director's position may be part time or full time as determined appropriate by the regional director, with the concurrence of the executive director or the director's designee. As used in this section, "qualified medical professional" means a board-eligible or board-certified psychiatrist, when such an individual can be employed, and when this is not possible, an individual possessing at least a medical degree.

50-06-05.6. Committee on aging - Appointment - Expenses.

There is hereby established a committee on aging. The governor shall appoint each committee member for a term of three years, staggered so that the terms of one-third of the members of the committee expire July first of each year, except that initial appointments to the committee must be made on the basis of a one-year term for one-third of the members of the committee; a two-year term for one-third of the members of the committee; and a full three-year term for the remaining members of the committee. A vacancy occurring other than by reason of the expiration of a term must be filled in the same manner as original appointments, except that the appointment may be made for only the remainder of the unexpired term. The members must be paid for mileage and actual expenses incurred in attending meetings and in performance of their official duties in amounts provided by law for other state officers.

50-06-05.7. Multicounty agreement to administer social service programs - Selection of regional administration.

Repealed by S.L. 2019, ch 391, § 139.

50-06-05.8. Department to assume costs of human services.

The department shall pay each human service zone's expenses for administering human services for calendar years after December 31, 2019, based on the payment amount calculated for each human service zone under chapter 50-35. The executive director of the department

shall authorize expenditures from the human service finance fund to reimburse the department for the department's costs of providing human services that historically have been provided by a county or human service zone, or for a new service or program based on federal or state law.

50-06-05.9. Long-term care services providers - Home and community-based services.

The department of human services shall establish guidelines for long-term care services providers to deliver home and community-based services to allow individuals to remain in their homes and communities.

50-06-06. Powers and duties of the board.

Repealed by S.L. 1971, ch. 466, § 8.

50-06-06.1. Indians - General assistance contract authorized.

Repealed by S.L. 2019, ch 391, § 139.

50-06-06.2. Clinic services - Provider qualification - Utilization of federal funds.

Within the limits of legislative appropriation therefor and in accordance with rules established by the department, the department may defray the costs of preventive diagnostic, therapeutic, rehabilitative, or palliative items or services furnished medical assistance eligible individuals by regional human service centers or designated behavioral health providers. Within the limits of legislative appropriations and to the extent permitted by state and federal law and regulations established thereunder, it is the intent of the legislative assembly that federal funds available under title XIX of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.] be utilized to defray the costs of identifiable mental health clinic services furnished eligible individuals in regional human service centers and that federal funds available under title XX of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 1397 et seq.] be utilized to defray the costs of identifiable human services furnished to eligible individuals by human service zones and regional human service centers.

50-06-06.3. Facility staff training.

It is the intent of the legislative assembly that the department design and implement a facility staff training system in cooperation with the board of higher education to assure adequate and appropriate staff development and training for the providers of community-based care on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities.

50-06-06.4. Comprehensive community residential program.

It is the intent of the legislative assembly that the department implement a comprehensive community residential program for children with developmental disabilities, including the use of intermediate care facilities and other such foster home and group home resources as deemed appropriate.

50-06-06.5. Continuum of services for individuals with serious and persistent mental illness.

1. The department shall develop a plan for an integrated, multidisciplinary continuum of services for individuals with serious and persistent mental illness. The continuum may consist of an array of services provided by private mental health professionals, private agencies, human service zones, human service centers, community-based residential care and treatment facilities, and private and public inpatient psychiatric hospitals. When appropriate, access to the continuum must be through human service centers. Within the limits of legislative appropriations, the plan for a continuum may include:
 - a. Programs, and appropriate related facilities, to provide socialization skills.
 - b. Programs, and appropriate related facilities, to provide basic living skills.
 - c. Appropriate residential facilities and other housing options.
 - d. Appropriate training, placement, and support to enhance potential for employment.

- e. Appropriate delivery and control of necessary medication.
 - f. Appropriate economic assistance.
 - g. An inpatient facility with appropriate programs to respond to persons who require hospitalization.
 - h. Peer and recovery support.
 - i. Crisis service that is available twenty-four hours a day seven days a week.
2. The continuum of care must provide that a person requiring treatment be submitted to the least restrictive available conditions necessary to achieve the purposes of treatment. The department shall ensure appropriate cooperation with human service zones and private providers in achieving the continuum of care.

50-06-06.6. Department may lease real and personal property.

The executive director of the department may lease surplus farm and pastureland at the state hospital and the life skills and transition center. The executive director also may enter into further leases of real or personal property at the life skills and transition center or the state hospital upon a specific finding that the granting of each such leasehold interest will result in a net economic gain for the department, taking into account all identifiable costs. Any lease of space for the purpose of providing child care services must meet requirements as determined by the department. The executive director may prescribe the terms and conditions of any leases entered into pursuant to this section and may renew existing leases. Any lease entered into must be subject to renewal or cancelable each biennium.

50-06-06.7. Sale of surplus steam heat - Terms - Not to be construed as the distribution of heat.

The department, with the approval of the governor, is authorized but not required to determine if surplus steam heat is or may be produced at the life skills and transition center, and to sell any surplus steam heat to the city of Grafton. The sale may be on such terms and conditions as may be deemed necessary by the department, provided that no sale may be made for less than the cost of producing the surplus steam heat. A sale of steam heat, if made by the department to the city of Grafton, may not be construed as the distribution of heat under title 49.

50-06-06.8. Administration of child care block grant and at-risk child care programs.

Repealed by S.L. 1997, ch. 404, § 78.

50-06-06.9. Insurance payments by the department.

Notwithstanding any other eligibility requirements for human services programs, the department, pursuant to rules adopted by the department, may pay health insurance premiums, copayments, and deductibles for a person with human immunodeficiency virus infection, or for any person maintaining a health insurance policy covering a person with human immunodeficiency virus infection if:

1. The payment of premiums, copayments, and deductibles is determined to be a cost-effective alternative to the payment of future medical assistance and economic assistance costs for that person; and
2. The department determines that the person is otherwise unable to afford the cost of the premiums, copayments, and deductibles.

50-06-06.10. Family life education program.

The department shall enter into an agreement with the North Dakota state university extension service for the design of a program to educate and support individuals at all points within the family life cycle. The program must provide support for families and youth with research-based information relating to personal, family, and community concerns and must contain a research component aimed at evaluation of planned methods or programs for prevention of family and social problems. The program must address the following inter-related topics:

1. Child and youth development.
2. Parent education with an emphasis on parents as educators.
3. Human development.
4. Interpersonal relationships.
5. Family interaction and family systems.
6. Family economics.
7. Intergenerational issues.
8. Impact of societal changes on the family.
9. Coping skills.
10. Community networks and supports for families.

50-06-06.11. Child care provider payments.

Within the limits of federal regulations, the department, at the election of the early childhood facility, shall directly pay early childhood facilities monthly under child care assistance programs administered by the department.

50-06-06.12. Child care provider reimbursement system.

Repealed by S.L. 1995, ch. 462, § 2.

50-06-06.13. Treatment services for children with serious emotional disorders.

1. The department shall establish a program to provide out-of-home treatment services for a Medicaid-eligible child with a serious emotional disorder. The department may not require a parent or legal guardian to transfer legal custody of the child in order to have the child placed in an out-of-home treatment program if the sole reason for the placement is the need to obtain services for the child's emotional or behavioral problems. With departmental approval, a parent with legal and physical custody of the child may obtain treatment services for the child through the program. A parent without physical custody of a child, who disagrees with a child's treatment under this section, may request a judicial determination regarding the child's treatment.
2. The department may establish a program to prevent out-of-home placement for a Medicaid-eligible child with a behavior health condition as defined in the "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders", American psychiatric association, fifth edition, text revision (2013).

50-06-06.14. Placement of children - Least restrictive care.

The department and human service zones shall explore the option of kinship care if a child is unable to return home due to safety concerns. Absent kinship options, the department and human service zones shall provide permanency options that are in the least restrictive care and near the family's home as required by the federal Adoption and Safe Family Act of 1997 [Pub. L. 105-89; 111 Stat. 2115; 42 U.S.C. 671].

50-06-06.15. Mental health program registry.

The department shall establish and maintain a registry of mental health programs in the state. A mental health program shall provide the information and documentation necessary to the department at least annually in the form and manner prescribed by the department. The department shall make the registry available to the public on the department's website.

50-06-07. Office and office equipment.

Repealed by S.L. 1981, ch. 486, § 37.

50-06-08. Executive director and employees - Appointment - Compensation.

Repealed by S.L. 1981, ch. 486, § 37.

50-06-09. Executive director - Qualifications - Term of office.

Repealed by S.L. 1981, ch. 486, § 37.

50-06-10. Executive director - Oath of office - Bond.

Repealed by S.L. 1981, ch. 486, § 37.

50-06-11. Reciprocal agreements by department.

The department, with the approval of the attorney general, may:

1. Enter into reciprocal agreements with corresponding state agencies of other states having like statutory authority, regarding the interstate residence, care, and transportation of indigent persons.
2. Arrange with the proper officials in this state for:
 - a. The acceptance, transfer, and support of persons receiving any form of public aid or relief or likely to become a public charge in other states; and
 - b. The acceptance, transfer, and support of persons from another state receiving any form of public aid or relief or likely to become a public charge in this state, in accordance with the terms of the reciprocal agreement with other states.

50-06-12. Human service zone bound by reciprocal agreements of department - Duty of state and human service zone when person determined not entitled to support.

Any agreement made by the department under the provisions of section 50-06-11 for the acceptance, transfer, and support of any person from another state is binding on the human service zone where such person is residing. Neither this state nor any human service zone in this state shall be committed to the support of any person who is held by the department not to be entitled to public support under the laws of this state.

50-06-13. Biennial report to governor and office of management and budget.

Repealed by S.L. 1981, ch. 486, § 37.

50-06-14. Financing of welfare programs.

Repealed by S.L. 2021, ch. 356, § 2.

50-06-14.1. Limitation on state reimbursement for rental expenses of long-term care facilities.

The department shall limit the reimbursement for rental expense paid by a provider of services when a provider sells its skilled nursing facility, intermediate care facility, basic care facility, or other facility furnishing care to its residents, when a care rate is based, in part, upon property costs unique to that facility, to a third party who leases the facility back to the provider. The department's reimbursement for rental expense may not exceed the lesser of the rental expense paid by the provider or the cost of ownership of the facility. The cost of ownership includes depreciation, interest, real estate taxes, and other expenses properly related to the facility. The department shall apply this limit to rates set for each facility's first fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 1985, but shall consider, in setting such rates, all sales occurring on or after July 18, 1984.

50-06-14.2. Department to establish reasonable rates.

Repealed by S.L. 1993, ch. 2, § 28.

50-06-14.3. Department of human services to develop basic care facility ratesetting methodology.

Repealed by S.L. 1999, ch. 428, § 3.

50-06-14.4. Alzheimer's and related dementia and twenty-four-hour care projects.

Repealed by S.L. 1999, ch. 424, § 1.

50-06-15. Confidentiality of information contained in records - Penalty.

1. Individually identifiable information concerning an individual applying for or receiving assistance or services under any program administered by or under the supervision

- and direction of the department is confidential, except that any such information, including an individual's social security number, may be used and disclosed:
- a. In the administration of any such program;
 - b. In accordance with a program's participation in the department's master client index data matching system, unless prohibited by federal law;
 - c. As specifically authorized by the rules of the department; or
 - d. As permitted or required by other law.
2. A vendor, agent, or contractor of the department must agree to maintain the confidentiality of individually identifiable information disclosed to that person by the department or by any individual applying for or receiving assistance or services and may use and disclose confidential information only to the extent that person's agreement with the department permits the use and disclosure of any such information.
 3. As used in this section, "individually identifiable information" means information, including an individual's name, address, telephone number, facsimile number, social security number, electronic mail address, program identification number, or any other unique identifying number, characteristic, or code, as well as demographic information collected from an individual, that:
 - a. Is created or received by the department; and
 - b. Relates to:
 - (1) The past, present, or future assistance or services applied for or received by an individual under any program administered by or under the supervision and direction of the department that identifies the individual or with respect to which there is a reasonable basis to believe the information can be used to identify the individual; or
 - (2) A report, or any other information obtained, concerning an applicant or a provider of or an individual applying for or receiving assistance or services under any program administered by or under the supervision and direction of the department.
 4. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, a report concerning an applicant or a provider of or an individual applying for or receiving assistance or services under any program administered by or under the supervision and direction of the department, as well as any other information obtained, is confidential if the report is made in good faith, and may be disclosed to:
 - a. Authorized staff of the department and its authorized agents who further may disclose to persons who have a definite interest in the well-being of the adults or children concerned, who are in a position to serve their interests, and who need to know the contents of the records to assure the well-being and interests of the adults or children concerned.
 - b. Any person who is the subject of the report; provided, however, that the identity of the persons reporting or supplying information under this chapter is protected until the information is needed for use in an administrative or legal proceeding arising out of the report.
 - c. Public officials and their authorized agents who require the information in connection with the discharge of their official duties.
 - d. A court, including an administrative hearing officer, when the court determines the information is necessary for the determination of an issue before the court.
 - e. A person engaged in a bona fide research purpose approved by the department's institutional review board; provided, however, that no individually identifiable information as defined in subsection 3 is made available to the researcher unless the information is absolutely essential to the research purpose and the department gives prior approval.
 5. Any person who discloses, authorizes, or knowingly permits, participates in, or acquiesces in the disclosure of any confidential information in violation of this section is subject to the penalty provided in section 12.1-13-01.

50-06-15.1. Exchange and transfer of patient records.

The department shall implement a procedure for the exchange and transfer, among treatment units within the department and treatment units of agencies under contract with the department, of records relating to the examination, custody, care, and treatment of mental health clients receiving services supported by public funds, subject to standards for confidentiality. The department shall adopt, in accordance with chapter 28-32, rules necessary to implement this section.

50-06-16. Rulemaking authority.

The department may adopt rules necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the department in conformity with any statute administered or enforced by the department. All rules adopted must be published in the North Dakota Administrative Code. Rules adopted by agencies prior to January 1, 1982, which relate to functions or agencies covered by this chapter remain in effect until such time as they are specifically amended or repealed. The department is not required to adopt rules to establish the process for the administration of funds appropriated to the department in an appropriation identified by the legislative assembly as a one-time funding item.

50-06-17. Biennial report - Budget estimates.

The department shall submit to the governor and the office of management and budget the biennial report and budget estimate in accordance with sections 54-06-04 and 54-44.1-04.

50-06-18. Developmental disabilities service providers.

Repealed by S.L. 2003, ch. 231, § 3.

50-06-19. Exemption from insurance premium tax.

No tax otherwise due under section 26.1-03-17 may be required of a stock or mutual insurance company, nonprofit health service corporation, or health maintenance organization with respect to service fees collected by any third-party administrator providing administrative services or premiums, capitation payments, or policy fees paid by the department for coverage or services provided to a recipient of benefits.

50-06-20. Programs funded at state expense - Interpretation.

1. The state shall bear the cost, in excess of the amount provided by the federal government, of:
 - a. As provided in section 50-24.1-14, medical assistance services provided under chapter 50-24.1;
 - b. Energy assistance program benefits provided under subsection 18 of section 50-06-05.1;
 - c. Supplements provided under chapter 50-24.5 as basic care services;
 - d. Services, programs, and costs listed in section 50-09-27;
 - e. Welfare fraud detection programs;
 - f. Human services provided by the human service zones or the department;
 - g. General assistance under chapter 50-01;
 - h. Special projects approved by the department and agreed to by any affected human service zone; and
 - i. Programs and services unique to the human service zone which have been included in the approved human service zone plan.
2. The state shall bear the costs of amounts expended for service payments for elderly and disabled and expanded service payments for elderly and disabled.
3. This section does not grant any recipient of services, benefits, or supplements identified in subsection 1, any service, benefit, or supplement that a recipient could not claim in the absence of this section.

50-06-20.1. Human services grant program - Eligible counties - Reports. (Suspended through July 31, 2019)

Repealed by S.L. 2019, ch. 391, § 138.

50-06-21. Gambling disorder prevention, awareness, crisis intervention, rehabilitation, and treatment services.

The department shall contract with qualified treatment service providers for the development and implementation of a program for gambling prevention, awareness, crisis intervention, rehabilitation, financial counseling, and mental health treatment services. The program may provide outpatient services, partial care services, aftercare services, intervention services, financial counseling services, consultation services, or other forms of preventive, rehabilitative, or treatment services for individuals with a gambling disorder. An individual who provides treatment services must be a licensed professional operating within the individual's scope of practice. An individual who provides financial counseling services must be a certified consumer credit counselor with an accredited financial counseling agency. The department may establish a sliding payment scale for services under the program. The department may establish a centrally located repository of educational materials on identifying and treating gambling disorders. Any service fee collected by qualified treatment service providers for services provided under the contract must be applied toward the program's gambling disorder services. The term "qualified treatment service provider" means an entity based in North Dakota which is experienced in and capable of delivering gambling disorder education, prevention, awareness, crisis intervention, rehabilitation, financial counseling, and mental health treatment services as defined by the department of health and human services. The term "gambling disorder" means a chronic, progressive disease that is characterized by a preoccupation with gambling, loss of control over gambling behaviors, and oftentimes disregard for the negative consequences as a result of gambling. Gambling disorder includes gambling behavior that compromises, disrupts, or damages personal, family, or vocational pursuits.

50-06-22. Gambling disorder prevention and treatment fund - Continuing appropriation.

Funds deposited in the gambling disorder prevention and treatment fund under section 53-12.1-09 are appropriated to the department on a continuing basis for the purpose of providing the services under section 50-06-21.

50-06-23. Placement of children - Least restrictive care.

Repealed by S.L. 2017, ch. 353, § 10.

50-06-24. Guardianship services.

The department may create and coordinate a unified system for the provision of guardianship services to vulnerable adults who are ineligible for developmental disabilities program management services. The system must include a base unit funding level at the same level as developmental disability corporate guardianship rates, provider standards, staff competency requirements, and guidelines and training for guardians. The department shall adopt rules for guardianship services to vulnerable adults which are consistent with chapters 30.1-26, 30.1-28, and 30.1-29.

50-06-25. Biennial report on programs and services.

Expired under S.L. 2005, ch. 411, § 3.

50-06-26. Alternatives-to-abortion services program.

The department shall disburse funds available through title IV-A of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.] to nongovernmental entities that provide alternatives-to-abortion services and expend funds to inform the public about this program. The services must be outcome-based with positive outcome-based results. The department, in consultation with a nongovernmental entity that provides alternatives-to-abortion services, shall contract to inform

the public about this program. For purposes of this section, "alternatives-to-abortion services" are those services that promote childbirth instead of abortion by providing information, counseling, and support services that assist pregnant women or women who believe they may be pregnant to choose childbirth and to make informed decisions regarding the choice of adoption or parenting with respect to their children.

50-06-27. Prescription drug monitoring program.

Repealed by S.L. 2007, ch. 212, § 2.

50-06-28. Substance abuse treatment pilot program.

Expired under S.L. 2005, ch. 414, § 4.

50-06-29. Application for aging and disability resource center funding.

The department shall operate an aging and disability resource center for the state. The resource center will be a single point of information program at the community level which will help people make informed decisions about the full range of long-term care service and support options, including both institutional and home and community-based care, and which will provide unbiased information and assistance to individuals needing either public or private resources, to professionals seeking assistance on behalf of their clients, and to individuals planning for their future long-term care needs. The resource center must be free from a conflict of interest which would inappropriately influence or bias the actions of a contractor, staff member, board member, or volunteer of the resource center to limit the information given to a consumer to steer the consumer to services that may also be provided by the resource center.

50-06-30. Interagency agreement between the department of health and human services and the department of corrections and rehabilitation.

The executive director of the department and the director of the department of corrections and rehabilitation may amend the interagency agreement entered under this section which became effective August 1, 2007. The amended agreement must provide that the department of corrections and rehabilitation shall train, consult, and assist the department of health and human services with the provision and enforcement of safety and security procedures at the state hospital for all patients at the state hospital, including those committed to the state hospital under chapter 25-03.1 or placed at the state hospital for evaluation or civil commitment and treatment under chapter 25-03.3 and for all staff, visitors, and volunteers at the state hospital. The amended interagency agreement must provide that the executive director of the department shall continue to be responsible for the custody and care of patients at the state hospital, including those committed to the state hospital under chapter 25-03.1 or placed at the state hospital for evaluation or civil commitment and treatment under chapter 25-03.3, including responsibility for all assessments, evaluations, and treatment required under chapter 25-03.3, the provision of all necessary staffing, including maintenance staff, and the provision of all daily care and health care.

50-06-31. Report to legislative council - Individuals committed to state hospital.

Before March first of each even-numbered year, the department shall report to the legislative council on services provided by the department of corrections and rehabilitation relating to individuals at the state hospital who have been committed to the care and custody of the executive director of the department.

50-06-32. Autism spectrum disorder task force - Appointment - Duties - Annual reports.

1. The autism spectrum disorder task force consists of:
 - a. (1) The state health officer, or the officer's designee;
 - (2) The director of the department, or the director's designee;
 - (3) The superintendent of public instruction, or the superintendent's designee;and

- (4) The executive director of the protection and advocacy project, or the director's designee; and
- b. The following members appointed by the governor:
 - (1) A pediatrician with expertise in the area of autism spectrum disorder;
 - (2) A psychologist with expertise in the area of autism spectrum disorder;
 - (3) A college of education faculty member with expertise in the area of autism spectrum disorder;
 - (4) A behavioral specialist;
 - (5) A licensed teacher with expertise in the area of autism spectrum disorder;
 - (6) An occupational therapist;
 - (7) A representative of a health insurance company doing business in this state;
 - (8) A representative of a licensed residential care facility that provides care and services to individuals with autism spectrum disorder;
 - (9) A representative who is an enrolled member of a federally recognized Indian tribe;
 - (10) An adult self advocate with autism spectrum disorder;
 - (11) A parent of a child with autism spectrum disorder;
 - (12) A family member of an adult with autism spectrum disorder; and
 - (13) A member of the legislative assembly.
2. The director of the department, or the director's designee, shall serve as the chairman. The task force shall meet at the call of the chairman, at least quarterly.
3. The task force shall examine early intervention services, family support services that would enable an individual with autism spectrum disorder to remain in the least restrictive home-based or community setting, programs transitioning an individual with autism spectrum disorder from a school-based setting to adult day programs and workforce development programs, the cost of providing services, and the nature and extent of federal resources that can be directed to the provision of services for individuals with autism spectrum disorder.
4. The task force shall develop a state autism spectrum disorder plan and present the plan to the governor and the legislative council before July 1, 2010. Thereafter, the task force shall continue to review and periodically update or otherwise amend the state plan so that it best serves the needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorder. The task force shall provide an annual report to the governor and the legislative council regarding the status of the state autism spectrum disorder plan.

50-06-32.1. Autism spectrum disorder voucher program pilot project - Legislative management report - Appeal.

1. The department shall establish a voucher program pilot project beginning July 1, 2014, to assist in funding equipment and general educational needs related to autism spectrum disorder for individuals below two hundred percent of the federal poverty level from age three to under age eighteen who have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. The program may include funding for assistive technology; video modeling videos or equipment; language-generating devices; training and educational material for parents; parenting education; sensory equipment; tutors; safety equipment; travel tools; self-care equipment; timers; visual representation systems; respite care; specialized day care; language comprehension equipment; and registration and related expenses for workshops and training to improve independent living skills, employment opportunities, and other executive or social skills.
2. The department shall adopt rules addressing management of this voucher program pilot project and establishing the eligibility requirements and exclusions for this voucher program pilot project. The program may not provide a voucher for early intensive behavioral intervention, including applied behavioral analysis, intensive early interventional behavioral therapy, intensive behavioral intervention, the Lovaas method, the Denver model, LEAP (learning experiences - an alternative program for preschoolers and parents), TEACCH (treatment and education of autistic and related

communication handicapped children), pivotal response training, or discrete trial training.

3. A decision on a voucher application which is issued by the department under this section may be appealed as provided under chapter 28-32.
4. The department shall report to the legislative management regarding the autism spectrum disorder program pilot project.

50-06-33. Dementia care services.

As used in this section, "dementia" means the condition of an individual involving loss of memory and impairment of cognitive functions severe enough to interfere with the individual's daily life. The department shall contract with a private provider for a dementia care services program in each area of the state served by a regional human service center. The dementia care services must include:

1. Identifying available services within the region;
2. Providing information to medical professionals, law enforcement, and the public regarding the symptoms of dementia, the benefits of early detection and treatment, and the services available to individuals with dementia and their caregivers;
3. Assessing the needs of individuals with dementia and their caregivers;
4. Training care providers to manage and provide for the care of individuals with dementia;
5. Providing consultation services to individuals with dementia and their caregivers; and
6. Facilitating the referral of individuals with dementia and their caregivers to appropriate care and support services.

50-06-34. Program for services to transition-aged youth at risk - Definition - Rules - Continuing appropriation.

1. The department shall develop, within current appropriations, a program for services to transition-aged youth at risk. The department shall use a wraparound planning process. The department shall adopt rules to establish eligibility, services, and a distinct statewide interagency advisory council on transition-aged youth at risk, with youth and family representation, and with regional subcommittees. For the purposes of this section, "transition-aged youth" means children and young adults at risk due to:
 - a. Deprivation or other activities resulting in youth being involved with the foster care or juvenile justice system;
 - b. Serious mental illness or serious disabilities that do not qualify the youth for developmental disabilities program management; or
 - c. Suicidal tendencies.
2. Services under the program must include:
 - a. Individualized assessments to determine the needs and appropriate services to individual transition-aged youth at risk;
 - b. Single plan of care to coordinate services among available service systems, emphasizing existing case management resources;
 - c. Independent living skills, including self-advocacy training;
 - d. Enhanced or extended vocational rehabilitation, including transition from education to employment and from secondary education to higher education;
 - e. In-home support, including mentors, individual and family training, and access to respite care; and
 - f. Development of a statewide independent living skills curriculum for youth and families.
3. Services to an individual youth must be appropriate to that individual and need not include all services of the program.
4. The department may accept and receive grants and other sources of funding for the development of a program for services to transition-aged youth at risk. All moneys received by the department as gifts, grants, or donations for the development of a program for services to transition-aged youth at risk under this section are appropriated on a continuing basis to the department.

50-06-35. Department food assistance contracts.

The department shall contract with a statewide charitable food recovery and distribution organization to develop and implement new methods of delivering charitable food assistance services in underserved counties, to include a mobile food pantry program and prepacked food basket program; expand the recovery of surplus food from the retail and wholesale food industry for distribution to charitable feeding programs; provide training, technical assistance, and equipment grants to community food pantries and emergency meal programs; and develop a cross-referral system between charitable feeding programs and government assistance programs that help clients achieve self-sufficiency.

50-06-36. Developmental disability provider review.

Repealed by S.L. 2017, ch. 331, § 14.

50-06-36.1. Regional crisis support services for individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability.

The department shall establish regional crisis support services for individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability. The regional crisis support services teams shall provide timely crisis assistance to individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability.

50-06-37. Developmental disabilities system reimbursement project.

The department, in conjunction with developmental disabilities community providers, shall maintain a prospective payment system based on a state-approved assessment.

1. The department shall maintain a steering committee consisting of no more than eighteen representatives from all interested providers which must include no more than two clients, no more than one family member of a client, a representative of the department, and a representative of the North Dakota protection and advocacy project.
2. The department may contract with a consultant to continuously improve, in collaboration with the steering committee, the payment system and the resource allocation model tying funding to the state-approved assessment.
3. The department shall conduct the standardized assessment of eligible individuals residing at the life skills and transition center.
4. Data must be analyzed by the steering committee, and the steering committee shall recommend to the department any rate adjustments, resource allocation modifications, or process assumptions, including the state-approved assessment.
5. The department and the steering committee shall report development activities and status information to an interim legislative committee.

50-06-38. Review and limitation.

Intermediate care facility providers shall submit all facility construction or remodeling proposals to the department prior to enactment of a contract for the completion of the project. The department shall review all intermediate care facility construction or remodeling proposals and may limit allowable construction and remodeling costs to ensure the costs are reasonable and appropriate.

50-06-39. Expedited ratesetting process - Nursing and basic care facilities.

Repealed by S.L. 2017, ch. 331, § 14.

50-06-40. Medication therapy management program.

1. The department shall establish a medication therapy management program available to Medicaid-eligible individuals in the medical and hospital benefits coverage group. The purpose of the medication therapy management program is to coordinate health care and improve the health of individuals in the identified health populations and to manage health care expenditures.
2. The department may involve physicians, pharmacists, and other health professionals in the program. Any physicians, pharmacists, and other health professionals who

provide face-to-face or telephonic medication therapy management services to covered individuals in the identified health population are entitled to reimbursement.

3. The department may request the assistance of the North Dakota pharmacists association or a specified delegate to implement a formalized medication therapy program. This program must facilitate enrollment procedures, provide standards of care, enable consistent documentation of clinical and economic outcomes, and structure an outcomes reporting system.

50-06-41. Behavioral health services quarterly report.

The department shall publish a quarterly report of all behavioral health services provided by or supported by the department. The report must include each type of behavioral health service, the number of clients served for each service, and the amount of state and federal funds budgeted and spent for each service. Data must be identified for behavioral health services by human service region and by mental health services provided to children, mental health services provided to adults, and substance abuse services.

50-06-41.1. Peer support certification.

The behavioral health division shall establish and implement a program for the certification of peer support specialists. In developing the program, the division shall:

1. Define a peer support specialist;
2. Establish eligibility requirements for certification;
3. Establish application procedures and standards for the approval or disapproval of applications for certification;
4. Enter reciprocity agreements with other states as deemed appropriate to certify nonresident applicants registered under the laws of other states having requirements for peer support specialists; and
5. Establish continuing education and certification renewal requirements.

50-06-41.2. Community behavioral health program.

1. The department of health and human services shall establish and implement a community behavioral health program to provide comprehensive community-based services for individuals who have serious behavioral health conditions.
2. In developing the program, the department shall:
 - a. Establish a referral and evaluation process for access to the program.
 - b. Establish eligibility criteria that includes consideration of behavioral health condition severity.
 - c. Establish discharge criteria and processes.
 - d. Develop program oversight and evaluation processes that include outcome and provider reporting metrics.
 - e. Establish a system through which the department:
 - (1) Contracts with and pays behavioral health service providers.
 - (2) Supervises, supports, and monitors referral caseloads and the provision of services by contract behavioral health service providers.
 - (3) Requires contract behavioral health service providers to accept eligible referrals and to provide individualized care delivered through integrated multidisciplinary care teams.
 - (4) Provides payments to contract behavioral health service providers on a per-month per-referral basis based on a pay-for-performance model that includes consideration of identified outcomes and the level of services required.

50-06-41.3. Behavioral health bed management system.

The department shall establish and maintain a behavioral health bed management system to improve utilization of behavioral health bed capacity. Public and private providers of residential or inpatient behavioral health services, except the department of corrections and

rehabilitation, shall participate in and report daily to the department the information and documentation necessary to maintain the behavioral health bed management system in the form and manner prescribed by the department.

50-06-42. Substance use disorder treatment voucher system. (Retroactive application - See note)

1. The department shall establish and administer, within the limits of legislative appropriations, a voucher system to address underserved areas and gaps in the state's substance abuse treatment system and to assist in the payment of addiction treatment services provided by licensed substance abuse treatment programs, excluding regional human service centers, hospital- or medical clinic-based programs for medical management of withdrawal, and any institution for mental diseases in accordance with subsection 2. An out-of-state licensed substance abuse treatment program located within a bordering state may participate in the voucher program to serve an underserved area of this state pursuant to the rules adopted by the department. The department shall develop rules to include processes and requirements for an out-of-state provider to receive reimbursement only for outpatient and community-based services upon a provider completing an assessment of need and receiving approval from the department.
2. The department shall deny a licensed substance abuse treatment program's substance use disorder treatment voucher system application and deny reimbursement by the substance use disorder treatment voucher system if the licensed substance abuse treatment program is an institution for mental diseases and reimbursement is requested for residential beds added on or after July 1, 2020.
3. Services eligible for the voucher program include only those levels of care recognized by the American society of addiction medicine, with particular emphasis given to underserved areas and programs. The department shall ensure that a licensed substance abuse treatment program, hospital, and medical clinic program accepting vouchers collects and reports process and outcome measures.
4. The department shall develop requirements and provide training and technical assistance to a licensed substance abuse treatment program, hospital, and medical clinic program accepting vouchers. A licensed substance abuse treatment program, hospital, and medical clinic program accepting vouchers shall provide evidence-based services.
5. The department shall allocate funding appropriated for the substance use disorder treatment voucher as follows:
 - a. No more than forty-five percent of the appropriated amount may be allocated for residential substance use disorder services administered by licensed substance abuse treatment programs with more than sixteen beds.
 - b. The remaining appropriation must be allocated for residential programs with sixteen or fewer beds, nonresidential outpatient, and ancillary substance use disorder services administered by licensed substance abuse treatment programs.

50-06-42.1. Substance use disorder treatment voucher system grants. (Expired July 1, 2027)

1. A licensed substance abuse treatment program, excluding regional human service centers and hospital or medical clinic-based programs for medical management of withdrawal, may apply for a competitive substance use disorder treatment voucher system grant. A licensed substance abuse treatment program is eligible for a one-time grant award. To receive a grant, a licensed substance abuse treatment program shall:
 - a. Submit an application in the form and manner prescribed by the department;
 - b. Enter a grant agreement with the department;
 - c. Use grant funds for a licensed substance abuse treatment program with fewer than seventeen beds in an underserved area, as determined by the department, in the state's substance abuse treatment system;

- d. Use the grant funds to support the provision of substance use disorder treatment in underserved areas of the state's substance abuse treatment system;
 - e. Provide and disclose information needed to comply with the department's data collection requirements; and
 - f. Operate in compliance with grant requirements.
2. The department, within legislative appropriations, may distribute up to two grants under this section to licensed substance abuse treatment programs.
 3. The department may recapture grant funds distributed to a licensed program found by the department to be out of compliance with the requirements established by the grant program, including ending or reducing the operation of the substance use disorder treatment services in the underserved area.
 4. The department may not collect property, equipment, or supplies purchased with grant funds from the licensed substance abuse treatment program after successful completion of the terms of the grant.
 5. The grant term must be for five years.

50-06-43. Task force on children's behavioral health - Membership - Duties - Reports to governor and legislative management.

Repealed by S.L. 2019, ch. 394, § 5.

50-06-43.1. Children's cabinet - Membership - Duties.

1. The children's cabinet is created to assess, guide, and coordinate the care for children across the state's branches of government and the tribal nations.
2. The children's cabinet consists of the following members:
 - a. The governor, or the governor's designee;
 - b. The chief justice of the supreme court, or the chief justice's designee;
 - c. The speaker of the house of representatives, or the speaker's designee;
 - d. The president pro tempore of the senate, or the president pro tempore's designee;
 - e. The superintendent of public instruction, or the superintendent's designee;
 - f. The director of the committee on protection and advocacy, or the director's designee;
 - g. A representative of the tribal nations in the state, who is appointed by the governor; and
 - h. Four individuals representing parents, private service providers, or other community interests, who are appointed by the governor to serve a term of two years, at the pleasure of the governor, and who are entitled to reimbursement from the department for travel and lodging at the same rate as provided for state officers and employees.
3. The chairman of legislative management, or a member of the legislative assembly appointed by the chairman of the legislative management shall serve as the presiding officer of the cabinet. The cabinet shall meet at least quarterly. Additional meetings may be held at the discretion of the presiding officer.
4. The children's cabinet shall:
 - a. Coordinate broad-based leadership across programs, agencies, branches of government, and tribal nations to meet the needs of children;
 - b. Develop strategies to address gaps or needs regarding early care and education, medical and behavioral health, community, child welfare, and juvenile justice;
 - c. Develop strategies to provide for the full continuum of care in the delivery of services, including promotion, prevention, early identification and intervention, service delivery, and recovery;
 - d. Seek to engage cooperation across public and private service providers;
 - e. Provide a comprehensive vision for how and where children are best served, attending to children in a respectful and relevant manner;
 - f. Seek strategies to provide services to children without consideration of prior engagement with juvenile services;

- g. Provide for the active participation of consumers and providers statewide on advisory committees; and
 - h. Receive information and recommendations from the department of health and human services, department of corrections and rehabilitation, and other state agencies.
5. The department shall provide the children's cabinet with staffing and administrative services.

50-06-43.2. Commission on juvenile justice - Reports.

1. The commission on juvenile justice is composed of:
 - a. Three members of the house of representatives, two of whom must be selected by the majority leader of the house of representatives and one of whom must be selected by the minority leader of the house of representatives;
 - b. Three members of the senate, two of whom must be selected by the majority leader of the senate and one of whom must be selected by the minority leader of the senate;
 - c. The governor, or the governor's designee;
 - d. The superintendent of public instruction, or the superintendent's designee;
 - e. The executive director of the department, or the executive director's designee;
 - f. The director of the department of corrections and rehabilitation's division of juvenile services, or the director's designee;
 - g. The executive director of the Indian affairs commission, or the executive director's designee;
 - h. A director of juvenile court services, appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court;
 - i. A representative from the commission on legal counsel for indigents; and
 - j. The following members appointed by the governor:
 - (1) A state's attorney;
 - (2) A representative of a children's advocacy center; and
 - (3) A representative of local law enforcement.
2. The chairman of the legislative management shall designate one of the members of the commission to serve as the presiding officer. The governor's appointees serve at the pleasure of the governor. Excluding ex officio members, the term of a commission member is two years.
3. The commission shall meet at least four times per year at the times and locations designated by the presiding officer. The office of the governor shall provide staffing for the commission.
4. The commission shall:
 - a. Review chapters 27-20.1, 27-20.2, 27-20.3, and 27-20.4;
 - b. Gather information concerning issues of child welfare, including education, abuse, and neglect;
 - c. Receive reports and testimony from individuals, state and local agencies, community-based organizations, and other public and private organizations, in furtherance of the commission's duties;
 - d. Advise effective intervention, resources, and services for children;
 - e. Report to the children's cabinet; and
 - f. Annually submit to the governor and the legislative management a report with the commission's findings and recommendations which may include a legislative strategy to implement the recommendations.
5. A member of the commission who is not a state employee is entitled to reimbursement for mileage and expenses as provided by law for state officers and employees to be paid by the department of corrections and rehabilitation. A state employee who is a member of the commission is entitled to receive that employee's regular salary and is entitled to reimbursement for mileage and expenses to be paid by the employing agency. A member of the commission who is a member of the legislative assembly is entitled to receive per diem compensation at the rate provided under section 54-35-10

for each day performing official duties of the commission. The legislative council shall pay the per diem compensation and reimbursement for travel and expenses as provided by law for any member of the commission who is a member of the legislative assembly.

50-06-44. Alcohol and drug education program - Rules - Fees.

The department shall adopt rules for an evidence-based alcohol and drug education program for individuals under the age of twenty-one who violate section 5-01-08. The rules must allow for the program provider to charge a fee to a participant in the program.