



69th Legislative Session Recap 2025

Behavioral Health



Health & Human Services



2025 Legislative Session Highlights

2025 Key Legislative Action

New State Hospital

- \$300 million in the OMB budget.
- Will begin construction in July 2025 with completion planned for 2027.
- Increase the hospital to 140 beds while also decreasing the physical footprint.
- The new hospital will be near but not on the same campus as the James River Correctional Center.

Free Through Recovery & Community Connect

- Funded at the requested level in the Governor's budget which means we will be increasing census from 1,500 individuals per month to 2,000.

Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers

- Legislators supported continued work for the clinics becoming Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHCs).
- This includes 103 positions in process of being hired to expand services.

Name Change

- "Human Service Centers" will be changed in code in state-operated "Behavioral Health Clinics" as requested by HHS in SB 2113.

Tele-health in jails and Avel E-Care

(crisis behavioral health support)

- Services will continue through support in HHS budget.

2025 Key Legislative Action

Continued

Private Behavioral Health Facilities

- 10 inpatient beds in Williston (CHI)
- 24 beds in Grand Forks (Altru)
- 30 beds in Bismarck (CHI)

SUD Voucher

- Additional funding was added with an expectation that the 45% cap for IMD providers will adjust to 50%.
- A new reimbursement is directed to be added to the SUD Voucher. After developing administrative rules, BHD will have \$250,000 to reimburse IMD providers for medical expenses in the 2nd year of the biennium.

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

- FirstLink will receive additional funding for 988 administration.

Partial Hospitalization

- Funding is included in the budget to continue establishing Partial Hospitalization Programs.

Opioid Settlement

- Opioid Settlement funding will continue at \$8 million per biennium for grants.

HB 1012 HHS Budget



Behavioral Health Key Budget Changes

- **Free Through Recovery and Community Connect** were funded at the requested level in the Governor's budget which means we will be increasing census from 1500 individuals per month to 2000.
- The HHS budget bill includes **funding for private behavioral health facilities** including 10 inpatient beds in Williston (CHI), 24 beds in Grand Forks (Altru) and HB1468 includes 30 beds in Bismarck (CHI). BHD is directed to provide reports with updates on the projects in the interim.
- Funding is included in the budget to continue establishing **Partial Hospitalization Programs**.
- The **Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Voucher** will see a few changes. Additional funding was added the SUD Voucher with an expectation that the 45% cap for IMD providers will adjust to 50%. We will also have the opportunity in the last quarter of the biennium to adjust beyond 50% if there is additional funding in the non-IMD funding.
 - A new reimbursement is directed to be added to the SUD Voucher. After developing administrative rules BHD will have \$250,000 to **reimburse IMD providers for medical expenses** in the 2nd year of the biennium.
- **Tele-behavioral health in jails and Avel E-Care** (crisis behavioral health support) will continue in HHS budget.
- **Opioid Settlement** funding will continue at \$8 million per biennium for grants.
- Legislators supported continued work for the clinics becoming **Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHCs)**. This includes 103 positions. 58 to meet current need and 45 to expand for CCBHC implementation.
- **BH revenue projection** was increased by \$2 million with expectation BHD continues to advance revenue process work underway.
- The BHD requested **IT projects** were included in the budget for the clinics and hospital.
- **Provider inflation** was included in the budget at 2%/2%.

Section 36. Department of Health and Human Services Long Term Structured Residences Plan

Report Required
Oct. 1 2026

- During the 2025-26 interim, the department of health and human services shall review options and develop a plan to establish long-term structured residences.
- The department shall review necessary changes to statutes, rules, policies, and the estimated fiscal impact of establishing the residences.
- A long-term structured residence must be a highly structured therapeutic residential mental health treatment facility that is staffed continuously and designed to treat adults under chapters 12.1-04.1 and 25-03.1 who have severe and persistent mental illness and who have reached the maximum benefit from the mental health resources available elsewhere in the community or hospital.
- The department shall present a report to the legislative management by October 1, 2026, regarding its plan to establish long-term structured residences.

SB 2079

Updates definitions
of Mental Health
Professional Tiers

Amends 25-01-01

- Licensed Professional Counselor is moved from Tier 3 to Tier 2a mental health professional
- Certified Peer Support Specialist is added to Tier 4 mental health professional

SB 2078

Clean up

Chapter 25 State Hospital clean up language related to policies and bylaws.

SB 2036

Creates 27-20.5 relating to **fitness to proceed and remediation of juveniles**

Amends 12.1-04-01, subsections 4 and 5 of section 12.1-04-08, and section 27-20.4-15 relating to the age of an offender, suspension or dismissal of proceedings, and pre-dispositional assessment; to provide an appropriation; and to provide an effective date.

SECTION 6. **Appropriation** – Department of Health and Human Services – Juvenile Fitness to Proceed Mental Health Services

- There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of **\$500,000**, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of health and human services for the purpose of defraying the costs associated with implementing and administering section 5 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

SB 2037

SECTION 20. **Appropriation** – Department of Health and Human Services – Contract Services – General Fund – One-time funding

There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of **\$300,000**, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of health and human services for the purpose of contracting for juvenile lack of criminal responsibility evaluation services, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funding in this section is considered a one-time funding item.

Contact Information

**Behavioral Health Division
Executive Director**

Pamela Sagness
psagness@nd.gov

