



1. **[HCBS Case Managers] Email address:** *Will my email change?*

If you are transitioning into employment with the zone, this will be done on a case-by-case basis. If you are transitioning to the state, you will be onboarded onto a state address.

2. **[County Directors] Representative payee for social security clients:** *Would this be a responsibility of the zone director? Or how will this be handled?*

SB 2124 provides for any locally-funded services to continue to be provided. If a program was under the supervision of the county social service director, then it will become under the supervision of the zone director for those counties in the zone that participate.

This is currently the responsibility of the legal custodian or their designee. This will continue to remain the same despite changes post- TPR as DHS had the county serve as designee for this purpose in the past.

3. **[County Directors] Insurance and Workers Compensation premiums:** *How will insurance and Workers Compensation premiums be handled to address additional risk in smaller counties?*

Over 20 years ago, Workforce Safety Insurance (WSI) let the North Dakota Association of Counties (NDACo) pool all premiums (and claims and risk management) for counties to avoid the adverse impact that their experience rating structure had on small counties and to reduce overall premiums for the larger ones. WSI grouped all county employees into essentially one employer – NDACo, which pays the entire premium to capture the lower overall rate, but then allocates the premium cost to each county based on salary paid, worker classification and experience rating (as WSI would).

NDACo and the state are exploring “centralizing” workers compensation premiums by creating a subpool in the existing county pool for all the social service zone employees. This would allow for a single statewide payment of the premium because all the funds come from one source: the state.

This creates administrative efficiency and has the added benefit of keeping unrelated claims from impacting either the DHS funding or the host counties. This balances the risk of a single serious (costly) claim, or multiple smaller claims. Claims would still impact the experience rate of the entire pool with respect to how WSI sets their overall rate.

The goal is to create a separate subgroup by Jan. 1, 2020. DHS would be billed for the collective premium in March 2020 for calendar year (CY) 2020 based on the actual CY 2019 payroll of all social service employees, and (as possible) a segregation of their claims history. Along with this billing would be the proportionate administrative charge for NDACo claims adjudication/claims management, underwriting, and safety training that NDACo would continue for zone employees. NDACo anticipates allocating the administrative charge based on relative salary totals.

NDACo is analyzing the steps needed to segregate this within their software. Counties would need to isolate social service employees by the host county when they do payroll reporting.

The only other possible billing associated with this would be the medical assessments (\$350 max) that WSI levies for late reporting of a claim. Most county claims are filed within the 24-hour reporting window.

- 4. NEW Authorizations:** *Is an authorization still valid if it lists county social services instead of the human service zone?*

Yes, an existing authorization that lists a county social service office instead of a human service zone is still valid until the authorization expires or is revoked. However, future authorizations should list the human service zone.