

**NEWS from the N.D. Department of Human Services
600 E Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505-0250**

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**ND Department of Human Services' Disability Determination Services
Honors Employees**

Bismarck, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Disability Determination Services (DDS) recently honored four **Bismarck** employees for their work assisting North Dakotans with Social Security Administration disability determinations during federal fiscal year 2010.

Sandy Heck and **Ellen Berg** received the *2010 Director's Award for Best Initial Processing Time*. This award honors individuals for efficiency and timeliness in processing initial disability claims.

Sandy Heck was honored with the *2010 Director's Award for Most Claim Clearances* for completing the largest volume of initial disability claims.

Crystal Knoepfle and **Wendy Connelly** received the *2010 Director's Award for Quality Decision Making*. This award highlights individuals who complete initial disability claims accurately and exceed accuracy goals set by the DDS management team in conjunction with federal standards.

Disability Determination Services employs 26 people in Bismarck who work under a contract with the Social Security Administration to determine eligibility for two disability programs. The Supplemental Security Income program provides monthly financial assistance for basic living needs to qualifying low income individuals who are over 65 years of age or disabled. The Social Security Disability Insurance program is designed to provide income to people under the age of 65 who are unable to work because of a disability.

Last year, DDS was awarded a federal Commissioner's Citation for assisting other federally contracted Disability Determination Services offices in other states with claim caseloads.

Information about Disability Determination Services is on the Web at www.nd.gov/dhs/services/disabilities/dds.html or by calling 701-328-8700, Toll Free at 800-543-2048 or TTY 701-328-8968.

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