

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 East Boulevard Avenue – Department 325, Bismarck ND 58505-0250**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Agency to hold public hearing in Dickinson to update State Plan on Aging

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Aging Services Division is hosting a public hearing in Dickinson to gather comments about services necessary to help older individuals and adults with physical disabilities remain living independently in their homes and communities.

The public hearing will be held on **April 5** at the **Dickinson City Hall**, 99 Second St. E., from **10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. MT**. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the Region VIII Council on Aging event.

“The comments we gather will help us update North Dakota’s State Plan on Aging, which describes our priorities and the services we support with our federal Older Americans Act dollars,” said Aging Services Division Director Linda Wright. “We are seeking comments about services and needs in general, as well as division-funded services.”

The Aging Services Division funds a variety of valuable services including a toll-free information and assistance phone line and Web site, home-delivered meals, meals at senior meal sites, foot care, pulse and rapid health inspections, medication set-up, senior legal assistance and the senior companion program. The division also funds the Family Caregiver Support Program, long-term care ombudsman services, and services provided when people report potential abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation of seniors and other vulnerable adults.

Public hearing sites are accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who need auxiliary aids to participate or who have questions should call the department’s Aging and Disability Resource LINK at 1-800-451-8693 or Relay ND at 800-366-6888 or 711.

Individuals unable to attend the public hearing can submit **written comments by May 7, 2010**, to the N.D. Department of Human Services Aging Services Division at 1237 W. Divide Ave., Suite 6, Bismarck, ND 58501.

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