

**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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North Dakota Olmstead Commission to meet July 29 in Bismarck

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Olmstead Commission, which focuses on providing services for people with disabilities in their communities in non-institutional settings, is meeting on Thursday, July 29, 2010, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., in the Red River Room in the State Capitol, 600 E. Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck. The public is welcome to attend.

Established by Gov. John Hoeven in 2001, the commission's name and purpose are derived from the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Olmstead vs. L.C.*, which addresses discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act and supports community living options for people with disabilities.

Agenda items include Olmstead subcommittee/work group reports and updates from the N.D. Department of Human Services on the Money Follows the Person Grant activities including transfers from institutions, housing needs, direct care service worker training, and federal changes; the Aging and Disability Resource Center pilot project; Medicaid waivers for children's hospice services and autism spectrum disorders; the Transition Age Youth pilot program; and developments in community-based mental health services. Commission members will also review draft State Plan updates and may consider other business.

The N.D. Department of Human Services complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who need accommodations, including appropriate auxiliary aids, to participate or anyone who has questions can contact Heather Steffl at 701-328-4933 or hsteffl@nd.gov, or through Relay ND at 800-366-6888 or 711.

The governor's Health and Human Services Policy Advisor Tami Wahl and N.D. Department of Human Services Executive Director Carol K. Olson co-chair the commission. Members are appointed by the governor.

Information about the Olmstead Commission is on-line at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/olmstead-commission.html.

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