

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contacts: Heather Steffl, Public Information Officer, 701-328-4933, 701-471-3116, or hsteffl@nd.gov, or LuWanna Lawrence, Assistance Public Information Officer, 701-328-1892, or lklawrence@nd.gov

Governor's Committee on Aging to meet Jan. 21 in Bismarck

BISMARCK, N.D. – The Governor's Committee on Aging will meet Friday, Jan. 21, 2011, in Bismarck to discuss issues impacting older adults and services and programs that help. The meeting is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Comfort Inn, 1030 E. Interstate Ave., Bismarck, and is open to the public.

Agenda items include the committee's budget, an overview of the N.D. Department of Human Services' Aging Services Division budget, reports by regional liaisons on training plans, and an update on the Volunteer Ombudsman Program and its capacity to inform residents of long-term care facilities about their rights and help them resolve concerns. Committee members will also discuss guardianship services for vulnerable adults and involvement in the Silver Hair Assembly.

Department of Human Services' representatives will update the committee on the Bismarck region's Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) pilot project, as well as efforts to ensure older adults and adults with disabilities are aware of care options that can help them remain living in their homes and communities longer. The agenda includes an update on support available to help individuals transition from nursing facilities and other institutions to home and community long-term support services if they desire and qualify for the Money Follows the Person program. Committee chairman Larry Wagner of Bismarck will also provide an update on the in-home services pilot. Other business may be discussed.

The Governor's Committee on Aging acts as an advisory body for the N.D. Department of Human Services' Aging Services Division, sponsors community forums, and works to achieve goals related to the needs of older individuals, including making recommendations on legislation and government policies. Members also participate in Regional Councils on Aging.

Committee information is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/services/adultsaging/gcoa.html, or by contacting Jan Engan, Aging Services Division Director, N.D. Department of Human Services, at 701-328-4601.

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