

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services

600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 31, 2011

Contacts: LuWanna Lawrence, Assistant Public Information Officer, 701-328-1892

Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force to Meet Nov. 2

BISMARCK, N.D. – The Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force will meet Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2011, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. through various video conference sites located in North Dakota.

The public is invited to participate in the meeting from any of these locations:

- **Fargo** – Southeast Human Service Center, 2624 Ninth Ave. S., Red River Room
- **Grand Forks** – Northeast Human Service Center, 151 S. Fourth St., Suite 401
- **Jamestown** – South Central Human Service Center, 520 Third St. NW, Conference Room 124
- **Minot** – North Central Human Service Center, 1015 S. Broadway, Suite 18, or Minot State University, Memorial Hall, Room 207

The task force was created by the legislature in 2009 to examine early intervention and family support services for individuals with autism spectrum disorder to help them remain in their homes and communities.

Agenda items include presentations from the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities at Minot State University and the Department of Public Instruction on certification options and tracking methods. There will be discussion on the recent Human Services Interim Committee autism agenda item, annual autism spectrum disorder state plan, and Medicaid autism waiver. Other business may also be discussed.

The council consists of 16 members appointed by the governor and includes representatives from the mental health profession, developmental disabilities system, state agencies, legislators, educators, and family members. JoAnne Hoesel, director of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division of the N.D. Department of Human Services chairs the task force.

For more information on the task force, go online to www.governor.nd.gov/boards/boards-query.asp?Board_ID=159, or call 701-328-8920 or ND Relay TTY 1-800-366-6888.

###