

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services and Head Injury Association of North Dakota

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Brain Injury Awareness Day is March 10 at the State Capitol

BISMARCK, N.D. – As part of a month-long traumatic brain injury awareness effort, the Head Injury Association of North Dakota (HIAND) and other partnering organizations will host a **Brain Injury Awareness Day** at the **State Capitol** on **Thursday, March 10, 2011** from **8 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

The awareness day will gather advocates, caregivers, families, board members from HIAND, and others to talk about traumatic brain injuries and what support services and resources are available to help people and families affected by a brain injury. The event will also feature a display near the legislative chambers with a variety of educational materials on the causes, treatments and prevention strategies for traumatic brain injuries.

In recognition of the importance of supporting people affected by brain injuries, Governor Jack Dalrymple has proclaimed March *Brain Injury Awareness Month*. His proclamation is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/docs/proclamation-tbi-2011.pdf.

“It is important to talk about and educate people about brain injuries and the long-lasting effects an injury could have on a person’s daily life,” said Richard Ott, executive director of HIAND.

About 10,000 North Dakotans are affected by a traumatic brain injury, which is a result of a direct impact to the head. Often brain injuries are caused by car crashes, falls, sports-related injuries, firearms, and physical violence. Traumatic brain injuries have also been called the “signature injury” of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

Families caring for individuals with traumatic brain injuries and individuals affected by traumatic brain injuries who need information and support are encouraged to contact the Head Injury Association of North Dakota at 877-525-2724 or 701-255-2120 or via e-mail at rdott2@bis.midco.net.

The Department of Human Services is the lead state agency serving people dealing with traumatic brain injuries and their families. The department contracts with providers to offer supports and services as well as partnering in the North Dakota Traumatic Brain Injury Partnership Grant Program.

For more information about brain injury services and supports, contact the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division of the N.D. Department of Human Services at 701-328-8920, toll-free 1-800-755-2719 or TTY: 1-800-366-6888.

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