

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 28, 2011

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

Dickinson to host Senior Forum on Aging May 3
May is Older Americans Month

BISMARCK, N.D. – North Dakota agencies who serve older adults are hosting a Senior Forum on Aging on Tuesday, May 3, 2011, at the Hillside Baptist Church, 1124 10th Street E., in Dickinson. The educational forum's theme is *Age Strong! Live Long!*, and will feature state and local experts on disease prevention, healthy living, mental health issues, financial protection, and more.

The first session features a presentation by the North Dakota Insurance Department on Medicare basics from 9:15 to 10 a.m. Mid-morning sessions include presentations on *"Aging in North Dakota: Financial Power of Attorneys, Advanced Directives, and the Realities of Medicaid"* and *"Depression and Aging: Is it Just the Blues or More and What Can I Do About It?"*

The afternoon will feature two presentations on reducing the risk factors for chronic diseases and prevention of financial exploitation of the elderly. There will also be bone density, hearing and vision screening services offered including 28 vendor booths. The forum is free and open to the public.

"This is a collaborate effort between organizations who share the same interest in providing useful information and services to older adults and their family members," said Jan Engan, director of the N.D. Department of Human Services' Aging Services Division. "It will be a great learning experience for everyone who attends."

The forum is sponsored by the Governor's Committee on Aging, Badlands Human Service Center's Aging Services Unit, Dakota Center for Independent Living, Elder Care, Experience Works, Stark County Social Services, and the Southwestern District Health Unit.

Registration is not required. For more information on the senior forum, contact Rene Schmidt at Badlands Human Service Center at 701-227-7582, toll-free 1-888-227-7525 or TTY: 1-701-227-7574.

###