

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Prevent Child Abuse ND hosts training for child care providers ***April is Child Abuse Prevention Month***

BISMARCK, N.D. – Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota is partnering with the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division to hold training sessions for child care providers this spring in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Their message is this: preventing child abuse and neglect is everybody's business – especially if your business is child care.

“Child care professionals offer a vital service to families and are a valuable resource for parents,” said Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota director Tim Hathaway. “They can tell if parents are under undue stress and are in a perfect position to acknowledge that and to offer support as well as suggestions on dealing with behaviors and other issues.”

Training opportunities are scheduled for the following dates, times, and locations:

- April 11 – Stanley, American Lutheran Church on Fourth Avenue, 7 – 9 p.m.
- April 25 – Devils Lake, Ramsey County Courthouse, Public Meeting Room, 7 – 9 p.m.
- May 4 – Hettinger, Hettinger Public School, Cafeteria, 7 – 9 p.m.
- May 9 – Williston, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1821 19th Ave W., 6:30 – 9 p.m.
- May 12 – Wahpeton, N.D. State College of Science, Tech Center, Room 11, 7 – 9 p.m.

The FREE training has been approved by the department and meets annual training requirements for licensed child care providers. North Dakota has about 2,040 licensed and registered child care programs, which have the capacity to care for about 36,000 children.

To register for the training or for information on the prevention of child abuse and neglect, contact Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota at 1-800-403-9932.

The N.D. Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division funds child abuse and neglect prevention efforts across the state and partners with Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota to provide statewide education and prevention programming. The department is also responsible for child care licensing and registration in cooperation with county social service offices and Tribal governments.

During the 2010 Federal Fiscal Year, child welfare professionals in North Dakota received and responded to 9,540 reports of possible child abuse and neglect. Of those, about 7,000 cases were offered voluntary services such as counseling, parent education, and parent aide services. Officials confirmed abuse or neglect in 584 cases and services were required. Other cases were referred to law enforcement, other states, or Tribal jurisdictions.

In North Dakota, most confirmed cases (85 percent) involved neglect. Ten percent dealt with physical abuse, and five percent involved sexual abuse.

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