

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force to Meet May 12 in Bismarck**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force will meet Thursday, May 12, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Prairie Hills Plaza, 1237 W. Divide Ave., Suite 1C, in Bismarck. The public is invited to attend.

Agenda items include a legislative review, updates on the annual autism spectrum disorder state plan, autism waiver and task force work plan, and changes in the diagnosis of autism and autism-related conditions. Members will also discuss Senate Bill 2268, authorizing an autism spectrum disorder early intervention and achievement pilot program. Representatives from the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities at Minot State University will provide a report on the Great Plains Autism Spectrum Disorders Treatment Program. Other business may be discussed.

The Autism Spectrum Disorder 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.

The council consists of 16 members appointed by the governor who are 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](http://www.governor.nd.gov/boards/boards-query.asp?Board_ID=159) or call 701-328-8920.

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