

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

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Contacts: Russ Cusack, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Director, 701-328-8926, or LuWanna Lawrence, Assistant Public Information Officer, 701-328-1892

ND Protection and Advocacy Project Awarded ND Client Assistance Program Contract

BISMARCK, N.D. – The N.D. Department of Human Services’ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) has awarded a contract to the North Dakota Protection and Advocacy Project to operate the state’s Client Assistance Program. The contract goes into effect July 1, 2011.

The Client Assistance Program is an independent program that advocates for people with disabilities in North Dakota who are seeking or receiving services through the department’s Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Projects, and Independent Living Centers. The program offers information and referrals, negotiation services, mediation, and assistance with fair hearings for clients and program applicants.

“This is an opportunity to assure people receive independent help to address any concerns they may have,” said Russ Cusack, director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. “The Protection and Advocacy Project and the Department of Human Services share the goals of providing quality services to people with disabilities and enhancing their employment opportunities.”

Protection and Advocacy Project was awarded the contract through a formal request for proposal process. They are an independent state agency established in 1977 to advance human and legal rights for people of all ages with disabilities.

For more information on services and supports offered by the N.D. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, go online to <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/dvr>, or call 701-328-8950, or ND Relay TTY 1-800-366-6868.

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