

**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 August 31 in Bismarck

BISMARCK, N.D. – The Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force will meet Wednesday, August 31, 2011, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Prairie Hills Plaza, 1237 W. Divide Ave., Suite 1C, in Bismarck. The public is invited to attend.

The 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.

Agenda items include presentations from Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Sanford Health, and North Dakota Medicaid on insurance coverage, the annual autism spectrum disorder state plan, autism waiver, legislative interim Human Services Committee autism study, and a report from the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities at Minot State University. Other business may also be discussed.

The council consists of 16 members appointed by the governor and includes representatives from the mental health profession, developmental disabilities system, state agencies, and 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, call 701-328-8920 or ND Relay TTY 1-800-366-6888.

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