

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 14, 2011

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

Dept. of Human Services Mental Health and Child Welfare Professionals Featured in National Webinar on Sept. 15

BISMARCK, N.D. – Mental health and child welfare professionals from the N.D. Department of Human Services will participate in a national webinar on North Dakota’s innovative and strategic approaches in meeting the mental health needs of children, youth, and families. The webinar on Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011, from noon to 1:30 p.m. central time is sponsored by the National Technical Assistance Center for Children’s Mental Health at Georgetown University Center for Children and Human Development.

This live webinar will feature results from an on-site review conducted in December 2010 by Georgetown officials assessing North Dakota’s promising approaches to therapeutic and supportive services for children with emotional challenges and their families in the child welfare system. North Dakota was the only state selected to participate in the project.

“This is an incredible honor to be chosen to showcase our best practices used in the mental health and child welfare systems with representatives from other states,” said Tara Muhlhauser, director of the Children and Family Services Division. “Youth, children, and families have benefited from our system of care and this is an opportunity to share positive outcomes with others.”

Wendy LaMontagne, the department’s children’s mental health program administrator; Tara Muhlhauser, Children and Family Services Division director; Debra Cady, associate professor; and Erin Thompson, research and policy intern from Georgetown University will participate in the webinar. Topics include cross agency collaboration, family engagement, holistic and coordinated service planning, and strategies for finding effective mental health services and more.

Following the presentation, individuals will have the opportunity to comment and post questions to the panel of participants.

The webcast is free, but registration is required to participate. People can register online at <http://gucchdtacenter.georgetown.edu/resources/2011calls.html>. Over 200 individuals from across the country have registered.

#####