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Contact: Pamela Sagness, Prevention Administrator, N.D. Department of Human Services, 701-328-8824, or LuWanna Lawrence, Assistant Public Information Officer, 701-328-1892

Tribal Officials and State Agencies Launch New Tribal Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Campaign

North Dakota tribal communities are taking a stand against prescription drug abuse. Tribal prevention coordinators from the four North Dakota tribes, the N.D. Indian Affairs Commission, and the N.D. Department of Human Services announced today that they are joining forces to launch a prevention campaign to reduce prescription drug abuse.

“Prescription drug abuse is growing nationally and on our reservations in North Dakota,” said Scott Davis, executive director for the N.D. Indian Affairs Commission. “The key to this campaign is for individuals to become aware of the medications available in their homes and environment, and to learn how to protect their families and friends to prevent abuse.”

The prevention campaign includes radio and television public service announcements and printed materials including posters and brochures customized for each of the four tribal areas in the state. The campaign educates community members on how to safeguard medications that are commonly abused, and how to appropriately dispose of unused medications.

“We are pleased to be a partner in this prevention effort,” said Carol K. Olson, executive director for the Department of Human Services. “This is a chance for communities to come together and take action to achieve positive change through substance abuse prevention.”

As part of the prevention effort, the Department of Human Services contracts with each tribe to have a tribal prevention coordinator located in each region. The coordinators help tribal communities enhance their capacity to address issues related to alcohol and other drugs and to provide culturally appropriate technical assistance and resources to communities.

For more information on the tribal prescription drug prevention campaign, visit www.nd.gov/dhs/prevention or contract the North Dakota Prevention Resource and Media Center at 1-701-328-8919, ND Relay TTY: 1-800-366-6888, or toll-free 1-800-642-6744.

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