

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 4, 2012**

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N.D. Developmental Center in Grafton Earns Accreditation

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Developmental Center in Grafton, N.D., which is a part of the N.D. Department of Human Services, received a four-year accreditation from the national Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) for its person-centered community integration plan.

“This achievement is significant because it involved one of the largest collaborative efforts between staff, the community, and the people we serve to help them become fully integrated into our community,” said Developmental Center Superintendent, Alex Schweitzer.

The accreditation process began with officials completing an application and coordinating an on-site visit of the Developmental Center by CQL representatives. During the three-day visit, stakeholders including staff members, legislators, business and community leaders, volunteers, state agencies, providers, advocates, people receiving services, and family members discussed strategies, priorities, and timelines in creating an action plan called *“What Really Matters: A Guide to Person-Centered Excellence”* to integrate people into community living.

The accreditation was awarded at the conclusion of the on-site visit based on the center’s commitment to implementing the action plan, which will become part of the center’s strategic plan.

Schweitzer said in 18 months officials from CQL will assess the center’s progress on attaining the goals and objectives in the plan and determine the future of the accreditation status. The Developmental Center first earned CQL accreditation in 1989.

The Council on Quality and Leadership is an accrediting organization that provides leadership to organizations and communities on improving the quality of life for people with disabilities, people with mental illness, and older adults.

The Developmental Center is a state-operated, comprehensive support agency for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The center currently serves 94 individuals by providing specialized services and acting as a safety net for people whose needs exceed community resources.

For information about the North Dakota Developmental Center, call 701-352-4200, toll free 1-800-252-4911, ND Relay TTY 1-800-366-6888, or visit www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/developmental/.

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