

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Autism Task Force Meets to Finalize Recommendations

BISMARCK, N.D. – The Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force will meet via telephone conference on Wednesday, May 23, 2012, at 4 p.m. to finalize the task force's recommendations on early intervention and family support services for individuals with autism spectrum disorder. Recommendations will be presented on May 30 to state lawmakers at the Interim Human Services Committee.

The public can attend the Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force meeting by going to the N.D. Department of Human Services' Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division office at Prairie Hills Plaza, 1237 W. Divide Ave., Suite 1C in Bismarck.

Individuals with disabilities who need accommodations can contact Gail Allensworth at 701-328-8920, gallensworth@nd.gov or through Relay ND TTY at 800-366-6888.

The North Dakota Legislature created the task force in 2009 to examine current services and support for individuals with autism spectrum disorder and suggest possible ways to improve the system of care.

For more information, contact the task force's Chairperson JoAnne Hoesel at 701-328-8920, toll-free 1-800-755-2719, or ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888.

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