

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services**  
**600 East Boulevard Avenue – Department 325, Bismarck ND 58505-0250**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 13, 2012**

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*June 15 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day*

**Preventing Scams, Fraud and Vulnerability: A Seminar for Older Adults to be Held in Jamestown**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The N.D. Department of Human Services' South Central Human Service Center and the Jamestown Police Department will hold a two-hour community prevention seminar on scams, fraud, and vulnerability for seniors on Friday, June 15, 2012, from 10 a.m. to noon in recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The event will be held at the James River Senior Center, 502 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE in Jamestown and is free and open to the public.

The event begins with a presentation by Carrie Thompson-Widmer, Regional Aging Services Program Administrator from South Central Human Service Center on the Vulnerable Adult Protection Services program and how to prevent elder abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation.

Lt. LeRoy Gross from the Jamestown Police Department will educate participants about scams and fraudulent business practices taking place in the state, as well as prevention strategies from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

“Elder abuse can happen to anybody and sometimes cases go unreported because people don’t know where to turn,” said Thompson-Widmer. “Individuals, families, community organizations, and other partners need to take a stand in the fight against elder abuse and engage in conversation about effective prevention techniques so older adults know that help is available.”

Anyone can report an incidence of elder abuse or neglect by calling the Aging and Disability Resource LINK toll-free at 1-855-GO2-LINK (1-855-462-5465) or ND Relay TTY 1-800-366-6888. Individuals living in the Jamestown region can also contact South Central Human Service Center at 701-253-6300, toll-free 1-800-260-1310 or TTY 701-253-6414.

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