

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services

600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 24, 2013

Contact: LuWanna Lawrence, Public Information Officer, 701-328-1892

Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force to Meet April 30

BISMARCK, N.D. – The Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force will meet Tuesday, April 30, 2013, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Central Daylight Time) by the use of various video conference sites located in North Dakota.

The public is invited to participate in the meeting from any of these locations:

- **Bismarck** - N.D. Department of Human Services' Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division, Prairie Hills Plaza, 1237 W. Divide Ave., Suite 1C, Prairie Room
- **Devils Lake** - Lake Region Human Service Center, 200 Highway 2 S.W., East Conference Room
- **Dickinson** - Badlands Human Service Center, 300 13th Ave. W., Suite 1, Basement General Staff Conference Room
- **Fargo** - Southeast Human Service Center, 2624 Ninth Ave. S., Red River Room
- **Grand Forks** - Northeast Human Service Center, 151 S. Fourth St., Suite 401, Meeting Room 5E
- **Jamestown** - South Central Human Service Center, 520 Third St. N.W., Conference Room 124-126
- **Minot** - North Central Human Service Center, 1015 S. Broadway, Suite 18, Conference Room 411 and Minot State University, 500 University Ave. W., Memorial Hall, Room 207
- **Williston** – Northwest Human Service Center, 316 Second Ave. W., Conference Room B200

Agenda items include updates on autism-related research and statistical information, autism spectrum disorder waiver, and Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) changes as it relates to autism. There will also be updates from the N.D. Department of Public Instruction, North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities at Minot State University on the Support Autism in North Dakota grant, and N.D. Department of Health's autism clinics. A complete agenda is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html.

Individuals with disabilities who need accommodations can contact Gail Allensworth at 701-328-8920, toll free 800-755-2719, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888 or gallensworth@nd.gov.

The task force was created by the legislature in 2009 to examine early intervention and family support services for individuals with autism spectrum disorders to help them remain in their homes and communities. The task force consists of 16 members appointed by the governor and includes representatives from the mental health profession, developmental disabilities system, and state agencies; legislators, educators, and family members of persons with autism spectrum disorders. JoAnne Hoesel, director of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division of the N.D. Department of Human Services, chairs the task force.

More information on the task force is online at www.governor.nd.gov/boards/boards-query.asp?Board_ID=159.

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