

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services

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Substance Addiction Treatment Certification Awarded to Human Service Centers in North Dakota

BISMARCK, N.D. – The N.D. Department of Human Services announced today that seven regional human service centers applied for and received national certification from the Matrix Institute on Addictions for its intensive outpatient alcohol and drug treatment program. The certification recognizes organizations for meeting and exceeding an established set of standards relating to the delivery of substance addiction treatment for adults and adolescents.

Human service centers receiving first-time certification include Lake Region Human Service Center in Devils Lake, Northeast Human Service Center in Grand Forks, South Central Human Service Center in Jamestown, and Northwest Human Service Center in Williston. West Central Human Service Center in Bismarck, Southeast Human Service Center in Fargo, and North Central Human Service Center in Minot received their second consecutive certification. The Bismarck, Fargo, and Minot centers were the first treatment programs in the U.S. to receive Matrix certification in 2008.

“We are pleased with this recent national certification,” said JoAnne Hoesel, director of the department’s Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division. “It’s an indicator that the human service centers are providing high quality drug and alcohol treatment that is improving the lives of individuals and families affected by substance abuse addiction.”

Department clinicians lead individuals through a 16-week outpatient treatment program using evidence-based therapeutic interventions that include lifestyle changes, training in relapse prevention, education about dependencies, 12-step facilitation, and family involvement.

The certification process included an on-site visit by officials from the Matrix Institute on Addictions, an evaluation of a group session to verify it conforms to performance standards, review of clinical charts, and one-on-one interviews with clients participating in the treatment program.

The Matrix Institute on Addictions was established in 1984 to promote a greater understanding of addiction disorders and to improve the quality and availability of addiction treatment services. The program is listed in the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Individuals interested in learning more about substance addiction treatment options should contact a regional human service center. Contact information is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/regionalhsc/.

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