

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Organizations Co-Sponsor Prescription Drug Abuse Summit Nov. 6 in Bismarck**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services, Sanford Health, and Heartview Foundation are co-sponsoring a summit on Thursday, Nov. 6, 2014, in Bismarck to address the non-medical use of prescription medications. The summit is being held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in meeting rooms 3 and 4 on the third floor of the new UND building on 701 E. Rosser Ave., Bismarck, N.D.

Attendance is limited due to space constraints. Summit invitees include members of the Non-Medical Use of Pharmaceuticals Task Force and other invited guests including legislators, representatives from associations such as medical-related associations, medical licensing boards, physicians, substance abuse treatment providers, other service providers, state agencies involved in addressing substance abuse, law enforcement officials, the U.S. Attorney, and others. Attendees are encouraged to park in nearby public parking ramps.

The summit will include guided discussions on overdose prevention legislation referred to as the good Samaritan law, data, strategies for decreasing non-medical use of prescription drugs including prescribing practices, the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, and reducing access through prescription drug Take Back and Take Away programs. Participants will also discuss prescription drug abuse on American Indian reservations, treatment options including medication-assisted treatment and opioid treatment programs, and next steps.

Consultant Erin Winstanley, Ph.D., of the University of Cincinnati's James L. Winkle College of Pharmacy, will provide information about public policy in states and draw from her own research on prevention of drug overdoses and behavioral health treatment and recovery.

Individuals who need accommodations to participate in the meeting can contact Pam Sagness in the Department of Human Services' Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services at 701-328-8824, toll-free 800-755-2719, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888 or [psagness@nd.gov](mailto:psagness@nd.gov).

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