

# **NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services**

## **600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 24, 2014**

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### **Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force to Meet June 30**

BISMARCK, N.D. – North Dakota's Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force will meet Monday, June 30, 2014, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Central Time) using eight video conference-equipped meeting sites across the state.

Advocates, parents, the public, and other interested individuals are invited to participate in the meeting from these locations:

- **Bismarck** – N.D. Department of Human Services - Prairie Hills Plaza office, 1237 W. Divide Ave., Door 2, Ste 1, Prairie and Rose Rooms
- **Devils Lake** – Lake Region Human Service Center, 200 Hwy 2 S.W., East Conference Room
- **Dickinson** – Badlands Human Service Center, 300 13th Ave. W., Ste 1, Basement General Staff Conference Room
- **Fargo** – Southeast Human Service Center, 2624 9th Ave. S., Red River Room
- **Grand Forks** – Northeast Human Service Center, 151 S. Fourth St., Ste 401, Meeting Room 5E
- **Jamestown** – South Central Human Service Center, 520 Third St. N.W., Meeting Rooms 124-126
- **Minot** – North Central Human Service Center, 1015 S. Broadway, Ste 18, Conference Room 411
- **Williston** – Northwest Human Service Center, 316 Second Ave. W., Conference Room B200

Agenda items include updates on the Consensus Council's Autism Group, and the Support Autism in North Dakota grant administered by the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities at Minot State University. The N.D. Department of Health will provide an update on the Autism registry, and the N.D. Department of Human Services will give an update on the Autism waiver, voucher program, and upcoming fall N.D. Autism Spectrum Disorders Conference. The N.D. Department of Public Instruction will give a State Education Autism Guidelines update. Task force members will review the 2010 N.D. Autism Survey, and will discuss parent training, and the task force's ongoing Autism Plan development efforts. An agenda is online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html). More information on autism-related activities is on the Web at [www.nd.gov/dhs/autism](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/autism).

Individuals with disabilities who need accommodations can contact Julie Huwe at 701-328-8920, toll free 800-755-2719, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888, or [jhuwe@nd.gov](mailto:jhuwe@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. Task force members are appointed by the governor and include 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 N.D. Department of Human Services' Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division, chairs the task force. Task Force information is online at [www.governor.nd.gov/boards/boards-query.asp?Board\\_ID=159](http://www.governor.nd.gov/boards/boards-query.asp?Board_ID=159).

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