

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 13, 2014**

For more information, contact: Heather Steffl at 701-328-4933 or LuWanna Lawrence at 701-328-1892

Ruth Meiers Adolescent Treatment Center celebrates 25 years serving N.D. youth

BISMARCK, N.D. – Current and former staff, friends, and partners of the N.D. Department of Human Services' Ruth Meiers Adolescent Treatment Center in Grand Forks are celebrating 25 years of serving youth with serious mental illness and their families. They will mark the milestone with a gathering on Aug. 14, 2014, at the center, 770 S. 14th St., from 1 to 3 p.m. with a short program at 2:30 p.m.

“Ruth Meiers Adolescent Treatment Center opened its doors in 1989 because there was a need for in-state residential treatment options for North Dakota youth, and about 500 young people have received treatment services at the center during the past 25 years,” said the department’s Executive Director Maggie Anderson.

“The need to have an array of behavioral health services available in state and as close to home as possible for families remains, and I am pleased to express the department’s appreciation and to recognize the staff and community partners for their ongoing dedicated work,” Anderson said.

Retired Northeast Human Service Center (NEHSC) Director Robert Sanderson, now the chief executive officer of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota, who was instrumental in establishing the treatment facility in Grand Forks will attend, along with Alex Schweitzer, the department’s director of Field Services, and the current NEHSC director and long-time supporter Kate Kenna. Other community partners invited to join the celebration include University of North Dakota Social Work Department faculty members, Grand Forks Housing Authority representatives, former board members, representatives of county social services, the N.D. Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation’s Division of Juvenile Services, Grand Forks Public School District, and other partners, service providers, and supporters.

Ruth Meiers Adolescent Treatment Center is a program of NEHSC. It serves children ages 12-18, and is licensed as a 10-bed psychiatric residential treatment facility.

The center holds national accreditation by the Council on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. More information about Ruth Meiers Adolescent Treatment Center is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/regionalhsc/northeast/ruth-meiers.html#Admissions.

###