

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 6, 2014

Contacts: Jon Berg, Prevention Media Specialist, 701-328-8747, or Heather Steffl, Public Information Officer, 701-328-4933

## **N.D. Department of Human Services employee receives Patriot Award for support of the National Guard and Reserve**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The Substance Abuse Lead for the N.D. Department of Human Services' Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Pamela Sagness has been awarded the Patriot Award for her support of the National Guard and Reserve.

According to the Department of Defense Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Office (ESGR), the award "reflects the efforts made to support citizen warriors through a wide-range of measures including flexible schedules, time off prior to and after deployment, caring for families, and granting leaves of absence if needed."

"I feel honored to be recognized," Pamela Sagness said. "Supporting our military service members, veterans, families, and survivors is important. It is great to work for an agency that supports its employees."

Sagness was nominated by a colleague, Captain Patrick Joyce. Joyce is the Commander of the 132<sup>nd</sup> Quartermaster Company and also works full-time as a substance abuse prevention specialist for the department.

"Without hesitation, Pam is supportive of my role as a commanding officer and makes sure I am able to attend training and events to advance my Guard career," Joyce said. "Additionally in our department, Pam supports our involvement with ND Cares, a coalition dedicated to creating an accessible, seamless system of support for veterans, service members, families, and survivors in North Dakota."

The N.D. Department of Human Services signed a Department of Defense Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve pledging to support employees who also serve their country in the National Guard and Reserve, and promoting personnel practices, which make that possible.

ESGR is supported by a network of more than 4,900 volunteers in 54 committees located across all 50 states. Their mission is to "gain and maintain employer support for members of the National Guard and Reserve by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law, and resolving conflict through mediation."

For information about supporting the Guard and Reserve go to [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil).

###