

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

DHS Developmental Disabilities Division hosts meetings on new federal rule affecting some community-based services

BISMARCK, N.D. – N.D. Department of Human Services' Developmental Disabilities Division is hosting informational meetings across the state via video conference on Sept. 9 and 11, to discuss with stakeholders a federal rule about Medicaid-funded home and community-based services issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

“The federal rule, which has the force of law, is intended to ensure that people with disabilities have choices and can enjoy the benefits of living, working, and participating in their communities alongside all other residents,” said Developmental Disabilities Division Director Tina Bay.

The new rule may affect some services currently provided to people enrolled in North Dakota's Medicaid waiver for individuals with intellectual and or developmental disabilities, Bay said.

Stakeholders can choose which meeting is most convenient. The agenda and information will be the same for each meeting. Division representatives will provide an overview of the new federal rule, a summary of the results of Developmental Disability Services consumer and provider surveys, and will explain the state's next steps in transition planning. The division is seeking stakeholder feedback and comments on areas of focus.

Bay encouraged people receiving services, parents and guardians, service providers, and other interested individuals to attend one of the upcoming meetings to learn more.

The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2014, from 1 to 3 p.m. Central Time, at these sites:

- **Bismarck:** West Central Human Service Center (HSC), 1237 W. Divide Ave., Room 1 & 2 (enter from Door 4 off Schafer St.)
- **Devils Lake:** Lake Region HSC, 200 Hwy 2 S.W., East Conference Room
- **Dickinson:** Badlands HSC, 300 13th Ave. W., Basement Staff Conference Room (12-2 p.m. Mountain Time)
- **Fargo:** Southeast HSC, 2624 Ninth Ave. S., Cass East Room

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Meetings scheduled on new federal CMS rule that may affect services – page 2

- **Grafton:** Life Skills Transition Center, 701 W. 6th St., Conference Center West
- **Grand Forks:** Northeast HSC, 151 S. Fourth St., Room 5E
- **Jamestown:** South Central HSC, 520 Third St. N.W., Room 124
- **Minot:** North Central HSC, 1015 S. Broadway, Room 411
- **Williston:** Northwest HSC, 316 2nd Ave. W., Room A 200

The Thursday, Sept. 11, 2014, meeting will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Central Time at these sites:

- **Bismarck:** Prairie Hills Plaza location, 1237 W. Divide Ave., Prairie Rose Room (enter from Door 2)
- **Devils Lake:** Lake Region HSC, 200 Hwy 2 S.W., East Conference Room
- **Dickinson:** Badlands HSC, 300 13th Ave. W., Basement Staff Conference Room (5-7 p.m. Mountain Time)
- **Fargo:** Southeast HSC, 2624 Ninth Ave. S., Cass East Room
- **Grafton:** Life Skills Transition Center, 701 W. 6th St., Conference Center West
- **Grand Forks:** Northeast HSC, 151 S. Fourth St., Room 5E
- **Jamestown:** South Central HSC, 520 Third St. N.W., Room 124
- **Minot:** North Central HSC, 1015 S. Broadway, Room 411
- **Williston:** Northwest HSC, 316 2nd Ave. W., Room A 200

Individuals who need special accommodations to participate should contact Colette Perkins at 1-800-755-8529 or ND Relay TTY 711, or cperkins@nd.gov.

Bay said there will be additional opportunities to provide public comment as the division continues to develop a transition plan to submit to CMS. All states with Medicaid waivers for home and community-based services are required to submit transition plans and will have a period of time to implement any needed changes.

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