

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Bismarck ND 58505**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 15, 2015**

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N.D. Mental Health and Substance Abuse Planning Council will meet Dec. 17 in Bismarck

BISMARCK, N.D. – A citizen advisory council that monitors, plans, and advises the North Dakota Department of Human Services (DHS) on behavioral health services will meet Dec. 17, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Comfort Inn, 1030 E. Interstate Ave., in Bismarck. The public is welcome to attend the meeting.

The meeting agenda includes a public comment period, subcommittee report on mission, vision and membership, council restructuring, and election of officers. Harley Engelman will give a presentation on the North Dakota State Provisional Hiring Program at 10:30 a.m.

Members will hear updates on the behavioral health needs assessment, the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's site visit to North Dakota, and the Murphy Bill, as well as a report from the Consumer Family Network.

The council may discuss other business. The complete agenda is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html.

Individuals with disabilities who need accommodations, including auxiliary aids to participate in the meeting, can contact Julie Huwe at 701-328-8920, toll-free 800-755-2719, Relay ND TTY 800-366-6888, or jhuwe@nd.gov.

The governor appoints council members. They include people who have first-hand knowledge of behavioral health services, their family members, other advocates, and representatives from state agencies, county social services, and public and private behavioral health service providers.

Council information can be found at www.nd.gov/dhs/services/mentalhealth/ndmhpc/index.html, or is available by contacting Lauren Sauer in the DHS Behavioral Health Division at 701-328-8920, toll-free 800-755-2719, Relay ND TTY 800-366-6888, or lsauer@nd.gov.

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