

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Upcoming Trainings Focus on Sex Trafficked Children

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division in partnership with the University of North Dakota Children and Family Services Training Center are hosting four training sessions on human trafficking with emphasis on recognizing commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Social workers, counselors, law enforcement and juvenile court officials, foster parents, and other child welfare professionals who work with children are encouraged to participate in one of these trainings sessions:

- **Grand Forks:** Dec. 14, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (CT), Alerus Center, 1200 S. 42<sup>nd</sup> St.
- **Minot:** Dec. 15, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (CT), Holiday Inn, 2200 Burdick Expressway E.
- **Jamestown:** Dec. 16, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (CT), Quality Inn, 507, 25<sup>th</sup> St. S.W.
- **Dickinson:** Dec. 17, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (MT), Ramada Grand Dakota Lodge, 532 15<sup>th</sup> St. W.

Human trafficking expert Erin Wirsing will share information on understanding the myths, definitions, and facts about sex trafficked children, identifying survivors and their needs, and integrating effective services for children affected by sex trafficking. Other topics include a review of the new Public Law 113-183, Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Family Act, motivational interviewing techniques, incorporating trauma informed care and other strategies when interacting with survivors, trauma triggers, safety planning, and more.

“Among the diverse population of people affected by human trafficking, children are at particular risk. Traffickers target vulnerable children such as children in the child welfare system,” said Shari Doe, director of the department’s Children and Family Services Division. “This training will help everyone who works with children understand the complex nature of trafficking and build community partnerships to develop child-centered services and protections for victimized youth.”

There is no cost to attend the training, but pre-registration is required. Individuals can register online and obtain a brochure at <http://und.edu/centers/children-and-family-services-training-center/ht-index.cfm>.

The training is approved for social work continuing education credits and Peace Officer Standards and Training credits for all ND law enforcement professionals.

For more information on the training, contact the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division at 701-328-2316, toll free 800-245-3736, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888 or [dhscfs@nd.gov](mailto:dhscfs@nd.gov).

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