

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Events Seek to Raise Awareness About Child Abuse Prevention

Record number of North Dakota communities hosting child abuse prevention activities

Bismarck, N.D. – Gov. Dalrymple proclaims April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division and Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota have awarded grant funding to 27 coalitions representing 40 North Dakota counties for community projects that aim to educate and raise awareness about child abuse prevention efforts.

Coalitions receiving funding include Children's Advocacy Center of North Dakota, **Bismarck**; Golden Valley and Billings County Social Services, **Beach**; Turtle Mountain Home Visiting Program, **Belcourt**; Bowman and Slope County Social Services, **Bowman**; Burke and Renville County Social Services, **Bowbells** and **Mohall**; Foster, Eddy, and Wells County Social Services, **Carrington**, **New Rockford**, and **Fessenden**; Grant County Social Services, **Carson**; Divide County Social Services, **Crosby**; West Dakota Parent and Family Resource Center, **Dickinson**; Red River Children's Advocacy Center, **Fargo**; Steele County Social Services, **Finley**; Sioux County Social Services, **Fort Yates**; North Dakota State University Extension Service, **Grand Forks**; Adams County Social Services, **Hettinger**; Traill County Social Services, **Hillsboro**; Dunn County Social Services, **Killdeer**; LaMoure County Social Services, **LaMoure**; Region 3 Parent Resource Center, **Langdon**; Ransom and Sargent County Social Services, **Lisbon** and **Forman**; North Dakota State University Extension Service and Morton County, **Mandan**; Mayville State University Child Development Program, **Mayville**; Region 2 Parent Resource Center, **Minot**; Boys and Girls Club of Three Affiliated Tribes, **New Town**; Kidder County Social Services, **Steele**; Region 6 Parent Resource Center, **Valley City**; Richland County Social Services, **Wahpeton**; and Williams County Social Services, **Williston**.

During April, each participating community coalition uses the funding to coordinate special educational events and projects, including parenting classes and fairs, conferences, walks, in-school activities, and other family-oriented activities.

"This year, a record number of communities are organizing prevention-related activities geared towards strengthening families," said Shari Doe, director of the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division. "People in communities, both big and small, understand the important role they have in helping create a healthy, safe, and nurturing environment that can prevent child abuse and neglect."

Some community activities include:

Devils Lake

- 1, 2, 3, 4 Parents! parenting class, April 8 and April 15, 6 to 8 p.m., Blooming Prairie Center, 211 Fourth St. N.E.

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- Crossroads of Parenting and Divorce parenting class, April 13 and April 20, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Village Family Service Center, 224 Fourth St. N.W.
- Children's Safety and Learning Fair, Sat., April 18, 10 a.m. to Noon, Burdick Arena, 501 16th St. N.W.

Fargo

- Crossroads of Parenting and Divorce parenting class, April 7, 14, 21, and 28, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Kennedy Elementary School, 4401 42nd St. S.
- Infant massage class, April 16 and April 23, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Carlson Library, 2801 32nd Ave. S.

Fort Totten

- Parent and Community Fair, Fri., April 17, 9 a.m. to Noon, Four Winds School, 7268 ND Highway 57

Grand Forks

- Hands-On Learning Fair, Sat., April 18, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Purpur Arena, 1122 Seventh Ave. S.

Killdeer

- Parenting classes, April 9 and April 30, 6 to 7:30 p.m. (MT), St. John's Lutheran Church, 550 Central Ave. N.
- Childcare provider training on conscious discipline and managing behaviors in group care, Sat., April 11, 8:30 a.m. to Noon (MT), Dunn County Social Service Office, 125 Central Ave. N.

A full calendar of events is online at www.pcand.org.

"Community support for families is crucial to the prevention of child abuse and neglect," said Sandy Tibke, executive director of Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota. "With the record number of communities involved this year, North Dakotans are making a real difference for children and those who care for them."

The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division supports and funds numerous statewide child abuse and neglect prevention programs and activities in collaboration with Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota, North Dakota State University Extension Service - Parent Resource Centers, and other public and private partners.

If individuals suspect a child is being abused or neglected, they should call their county social services office. County information is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/countysocialserv/. The 53 county social services offices serve as the department's authorized agents for child protection services. If a child is in immediate danger, individuals should contact law enforcement.

The Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childfamily.