

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**North Dakota State Mental Health and Substance Abuse Planning Council  
to meet Dec. 14 in Bismarck**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Mental Health and Substance Abuse Planning Council, which advises the Department of Human Services (DHS) on behavioral health needs and services, is meeting Dec. 14, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Bismarck.

The meeting will be held at the Comfort Inn at 1030 E. Interstate Ave. The public is welcome to attend, and the agenda includes a public comment period.

Subcommittees on Key Points Recommendations and the 1915(i) Medicaid Waiver, and the Consumer and Family Network will report on their respective activities. The department's Behavioral Health Division will update members on the federal block grant, the State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup and the Behavioral Health Assessment.

Planning council chair Siobhan Deppa will report on the behavioral health stakeholders meeting and the interim Human Services Committee's recommendations. Members will also discuss nominations and the development of a council brochure and communication plan.

Several agencies and organizations have also been invited to provide updates on Mental Health First Aid training, the Executive Budget for the North Dakota Department of Human Services, the state's new medical marijuana law, and a Grand Forks supported housing initiative. The agenda is available online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html).

Individuals with disabilities who need accommodations to participate can contact Julie Huwe at 701-328-8920, toll-free 800-755-2719, Relay ND TTY 800-366-6888, or [jhuwe@nd.gov](mailto:jhuwe@nd.gov).

Council members are appointed and represent people with first-hand knowledge of behavioral health services, their family members, other advocates, agencies, county social services, and public and private behavioral health service providers.

Council information 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](mailto:lsauer@nd.gov).

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