

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 12, 2016**

Contacts: Heather Steffl at 701-328-4933 or LuWanna Lawrence at 701-328-1892.

**Agency hosts public comment meeting on revised statewide transition plan aligning Medicaid waiver home and community-based services**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services is hosting a meeting on Feb. 19, from 2 to 4 p.m., Central Time, to allow people to comment on the state's revised transition plan to align Medicaid waiver services with the Home and Community Based Services Rule issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). People can participate at state video conference sites in nine communities.

The federal rule dictates how states provide home and community-based services funded through Medicaid waivers. The requirements are intended to ensure that people with disabilities have choices and opportunities to live, work, and participate in their communities. Some service providers may need to modify how they provide services.

All states with Medicaid waivers for home and community-based services are required to submit transition plans to CMS and will have a period of time to implement any needed changes.

At the meeting, department staff will give an overview of the federal rule and will review the revised Statewide Transition Plan, and discuss the next steps in North Dakota's transition planning. Interested individuals can provide public comment on the revised transition plan.

The department encourages people receiving services, parents and guardians, service providers, and other interested individuals to attend.

Video conference meeting locations include:

- **Bismarck:** Prairie Hills Plaza location, 1237 W. Divide Ave., Prairie Rose Room (Enter from Door 2.)
- **Devils Lake:** Lake Region Human Service Center, 200 Hwy 2 W., East Conference Room
- **Dickinson:** Dickinson State University, 291 Campus Dr., Klinefelter Hall, Room 216 (Dickinson meeting is at 1-3 p.m. Mountain Time.)
- **Fargo:** Southeast Human Service Center, 2624 Ninth Ave. S., Cass East Room
- **Grafton:** Life Skills and Transition Center, 701 W. Sixth St., Conference Center West

**- MORE-**

- **Grand Forks:** Northeast Human Service Center, 151 S. Fourth St., Room 5E
- **Jamestown:** South Central Human Service Center, 520 Third St. N.W., Room 124
- **Minot:** North Central Human Service Center, 1015 S. Broadway, Room 411
- **Williston:** Northwest Human Service Center, 316 2nd Ave. W., Room A 200

**Individuals unable to attend at a video conference site can participate by telephone** and should call 701-328-7950 and provide this participant passcode: 728168.

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

Individuals unable to participate on the meeting can review the plan and comment. On February 19, the department will post the revised Statewide Transition Plan online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/medical.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/medical.html) and will accept public comments through 5 p.m., Central Time, on March 20, 2016.

Please send public comments on the revised Statewide Transition Plan to Karen Tescher, North Dakota Department of Human Services – Medical Services Division, 600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 325, Bismarck, N.D. 58505-0250, fax 701-328-1544, or email [dhshcbs@nd.gov](mailto:dhshcbs@nd.gov).

###