

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 26, 2016**

For information, contact: Heather Steffl at 701-328-4933 or LuWanna Lawrence at 701-328-1892.

N.D. Mental Health and Substance Abuse Planning Council will meet March 4 in Bismarck

BISMARCK, N.D. – The citizen advisory council that monitors, plans, and advises the North Dakota Department of Human Services (DHS) on behavioral health services will meet Friday, March 4, at 8 a.m. in Conference Room F at the Comfort Inn, 1030 E. Interstate Ave., in Bismarck. The public is welcome to attend.

The meeting agenda includes a public comment period after the introductions. Council members will hear a report on subcommittee work on mission, vision and membership, and council restructuring, and will hold an election of officers.

Members will also 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: H.R.2646, Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2015. The Consumer Family Network will also provide a brief report on activities.

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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