

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Bismarck ND 58505-02501**

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Transitional living facility serving Lake Region residents hosts open house

BISMARCK, N.D. – It's not the old movie gallery any longer. Progress Enterprises Inc. and Lake Region Human Service Center (LRHSC) invite the public to stop at 124 Sixth Ave. N.E., in Devils Lake, on Wednesday, Feb. 10, to tour the new "Lake Cottage" transitional living facility that will serve area residents with serious mental illness. The open house is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Staffed around the clock, the Progress Enterprises Inc. program will serve up to eight adults at a time. Clients will include men and women who receive services from the human service center's extended care unit who need support and an opportunity to learn skills to live independently in the community.

"This program fills a gap in the area's behavioral health services," said Lake Region Human Service Center Director Kate Kenna. "In the past, some area residents had to leave their families and move to other parts of the state for this level of care. Now they can be served in Devils Lake near their loved ones and natural support systems."

Program staff will begin screening clients on Feb. 8, and the first residents could move in as early as Friday, Feb. 12.

Residents will be supported as they learn skills such as how to manage their medication, cook, clean, manage money, find transportation, find paid or volunteer work, maintain employment, and stay safe. The goal, Kenna said, is for each individual to transition from the program to their own apartment or a supported apartment in the community after a nine to 18 month stay.

Based in Jamestown, N.D., Progress Enterprises, Inc., has been a long-time partner of LRHSC and manages the center's crisis residential units in Rolla and Devils Lake. The agency has managed a similar transitional living facility in Jamestown and also operates the Freedom Center in Devils Lake, which provides social activities and peer support for adults with mental illness.

LRHSC serves about 2,400 people per year in the six-county region. Staff members provide behavioral health services and other human services directly or in partnerships with county social services and other agencies.

Information about LRHSC and its programs and services is available online at www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/regionalhsc/lakeregion/index.html or by contacting the center at 701-665-2200, toll-free 888-607-8610, TTY 701-665-2211, or dhs@nd.gov.

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