

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 3, 2016**

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

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Planning Council will meet May 12 in Bismarck

BISMARCK, N.D. – The citizen council that monitors, plans, and advises the North Dakota Department of Human Services (DHS) on behavioral health services will meet May 12, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Central Time, in the Brynhild Haugland Room at the Capitol on 600 E. Boulevard Ave., in Bismarck. The public is welcome to attend.

The meeting agenda includes a public comment period after introductions. Council members will hear an update on ND Cares, a coalition effort led by North Dakota First Lady Betsy Dalrymple to provide support to current and former military personnel and their families.

The department will provide information about the upcoming North Dakota Behavioral Health Conference in Minot, May 17-19. The Consumer and Family Network will report on the network's conference and activities. Council subcommittees will give reports.

Members will continue discussion of older business including 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 council may discuss other business. The complete agenda is available online at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/2016/5-12-nd-mental-health-and-substance-abuse-planning-council-meeting-notice.pdf.

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 with first-hand knowledge of behavioral health services, their family members, other advocates, and representatives from agencies, county social services, and public and private behavioral health service providers.

Council information is online 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.

###