

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **State Behavioral Health Planning Council will meet Aug. 24 in Bismarck**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Behavioral Health Planning Council, which advises the North Dakota Department of Human Services (DHS) on behavioral health needs and services, is meeting Aug. 24, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., in Bismarck.

The meeting will be held in the Brynhild Haugland Room of the Capitol. The public is welcome to attend, and the agenda includes a public comment period at the beginning of the meeting.

The department's Behavioral Health Division will update members on the federal block grant, the upcoming fall behavioral health conference, and recent opioid symposiums. Rosalie Etherington, Ph.D., chief clinics officer of the department's regional human service center system, will review the centers' contracts, eligibility requirements for individuals to receive services, the current grievance and appeals process for human service center clients, and how the centers monitor high fidelity and quality assurance.

The Key Points Recommendations Subcommittee and Consumer and Family Network will report on their respective activities. Members will be briefed on 1915i Medicaid waiver examples from other states, critical access hospitals and ePsychiatry, Mental Health Definition Workgroup efforts, and the Behavioral Health Stakeholders Report.

The council may discuss other business. The agenda is available online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/2016/8-24-behavioral-health-planning-council-meeting-notice.pdf](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/2016/8-24-behavioral-health-planning-council-meeting-notice.pdf).

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. They 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 online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/services/mentalhealth/ndmhpc/index.html](http://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](mailto:lsauer@nd.gov).

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