

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Behavioral Health Planning Council to meet Dec. 20

BISMARCK, N.D. – The group that advises the North Dakota Department of Human Services on behavioral health issues and services will meet Wednesday, Dec. 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Pioneer Room of the state Capitol in Bismarck.

Topics to be discussed include the legislature's interim human services, health, and justice reinvestment committees and the mental health block grant application, which provides federal funding for services benefiting individuals with serious mental illness.

Members will also discuss the council website, a facilitator contract and proposed membership policies and procedures, and will review appointments to the council and technical assistance available to support the council's work. Members will have an opportunity to provide updates. Other business may be discussed.

The public is welcome to attend, and the agenda includes time for public comment. The public should enter the Capitol through the south (tunnel) public entrance. The Pioneer Room is located in the Judicial Wing on the east side of the building.

The complete agenda is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html.

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.

The governor appoints council members who 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 available by contacting the department's Behavioral Health Division at 701-328-8920, toll-free 800-755-2719, Relay ND TTY 800-366-6888 or dhsbhd@nd.gov.

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