

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 325, Bismarck, N.D. 59505-0250**

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Developmental disabilities council to meet Dec. 21 to discuss progress toward goals

BISMARCK, N.D. – The State Council on Developmental Disabilities, which works to create positive change so people with developmental disabilities can live, work and actively participate in their communities, is meeting Thursday, Dec. 21, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. via the state polycom videoconferencing system.

The agenda includes discussion on consumer leadership and self-advocacy development efforts, the council's budget and operations, contracts, the budget and work plan for the supported decision-making project, and other business. Standing committees will also provide reports.

The agenda includes time for public comment at about 1:30 p.m. Meeting details are available online at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html.

This meeting is open to the public and will originate from the Department of Human Services' offices at 1237 W. Divide Ave., Suite 1A, in the Prairie and Rose Rooms. People can also attend at these polycom site locations at the regional human service centers in Dickinson, Fargo, Grand Forks, Jamestown, Minot, and Willison, in Grafton at the Life Skills and Transition Center, and in Harvey at the Lonetree Special Education Unit.

Individuals who need auxiliary aids to participate in the meeting can contact the council at 701-328-4605, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888 or jhorntvedt@nd.gov.

An estimated 77,700 North Dakotans had a disability in 2015, and about 45 percent were working age. According to disabilitycompendium.org, 48.8 percent of working-age North Dakotans with disabilities are employed, which is the third best employment rate in the country.

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities promotes choice, independence, productivity, inclusion, and opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. For more information about the council, visit www.nd.gov/scdd/.

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