

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 E. Boulevard Ave. - Dept. 325, Bismarck N.D. 58505**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Stakeholder group that provides guidance on helping people transition from institutional care to community living to meet March 7 in Bismarck

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Medical Services Division is holding a Money Follows the Person grant stakeholder meeting on Tuesday, March 7, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the North Dakota Heritage Center in Lecture Rooms A and B. The public is welcome to attend.

Stakeholders act in an advisory capacity to the department and receive quarterly updates on grant activities, which focus on community-based services for individuals. Grant funds help eligible older adults and people with disabilities who want to move from a nursing home or other facility to a community setting like an apartment, a family member's home, or other types of living arrangements with supportive services.

Agenda items include updates on current transition benchmark data, and supported housing efforts for older adults and people with disabilities. The agenda also includes an update on the Money Follows the Person Tribal Initiative, an effort to assist the state and tribal nations by helping tribal elders and tribal members with disabilities transition from institutions to community living.

Stakeholders will also discuss various Money Follows the Person community-based projects currently underway, and a new centralized referral process for nursing home residents wishing to learn about community-based service options. There will also be an update from the Life Skills and Transition Center.

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

Individuals who need accommodations to participate in the meeting can contact Jacob Reuter at 701-328-2321, toll free 800-755-2604, Relay ND TTY 800-366-6888, or jwreuter@nd.gov.

The federal government awarded the North Dakota Department of Human Services an \$8.9 million Money Follows the Person grant in 2007. Medicaid clients who are elderly or have physical or other disabilities and who live in nursing homes, the Life Skills and Transition Center or other institutions may qualify for transition services. Participation is voluntary.

Since transitions began in 2008, 366 individuals have transitioned to community settings.

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