

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

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State Council on Developmental Disabilities hosts training in Bismarck

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota State Council on Developmental Disabilities is hosting training on state government for people with disabilities and their families on Wednesday, Feb. 15 in Bismarck. The “Advocates Leading their Lives Training” will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Ramada Bismarck at 1400 E. Interchange Ave.

Participants will learn about North Dakota’s legislative process, civic engagement, and will discuss legislation related to people with disabilities. Attendees will also discuss bylaws, elect board members, and discuss board member training, 501(c)(3) status and funding.

Organizers invite community members to join training participants at a complimentary film screening and panel discussion of “Bottom Dollars,” from 7 to 8:45 p.m. at Bismarck State College’s National Energy Center of Excellence in the Basin Electric Auditorium.

The Protection and Advocacy Project is sponsoring the film screening event. Produced by Rooted in Rights, the film features individuals and experts who describe the impacts of sub-minimum wages and non-integrated work environments for people with disabilities, and the benefits of employment alternatives with competitive wages and community inclusion.

The training precedes the North Dakota Disabilities Advocacy Consortium’s *Disability Awareness Day*, which is will be held at the North Dakota Capitol on Feb. 16, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Individuals who need auxiliary aids to participate in the training 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; about 45 percent were working age. According to disabilitycompendium.org, 48.8 percent of working age North Dakotans with disabilities were 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.ndcpd.org/SCDD/.

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