

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505**

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Agency launches new behavioral health Web portal and Facebook page to help professionals

BISMARCK, N.D. – In an effort to increase awareness of behavioral health initiatives, utilization of best practices, and access to training and technical assistance, the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Behavioral Health Division has launched a new Web portal: <https://behavioralhealth.dhs.nd.gov> and Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ndbhd.

Behavioral health conditions can have a powerful effect on the health and well-being of individuals, their families and communities. These conditions are among the leading causes of disability in the United States and result in significant costs to families, employers and publicly-funded health systems. By 2020, mental health and substance use disorders are projected to surpass all physical diseases as a major cause of disability worldwide.

“In addition to providing information and resources on behavioral health, the new portal and Facebook page will streamline access to state and national webinars and trainings,” said Pamela Sagness, director of the Behavioral Health Division. “Behavioral health is an essential part of overall health. By increasing access to quality behavioral health services, North Dakota citizens, businesses and communities will benefit.”

The new portal provides a platform for sharing professional development opportunities for behavioral health professionals in North Dakota at <https://behavioralhealth.dhs.nd.gov/training>.

The department will continue to host an annual Behavioral Health Conference each fall and has scheduled the next conference in September 2017 in Bismarck, N.D.

For more information, contact the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Behavioral Health Division at 1237 W. Divide Ave., Suite 1D, Bismarck, N.D. 58501, 701-328-8919, or ndbhd@nd.gov, or visit <https://behavioralhealth.dhs.nd.gov> or find them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ndbhd.

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