

**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 May 23 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, May 23, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Pioneer Room located in the Judicial Wing of the State Capitol. 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 with disabilities. Grant funds help eligible individuals 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.

Program Administrator Jake Reuter will report on transition to community benchmark data, program staffing and sustainability. Additional agenda items include updates on the Money Follows the Person Tribal Initiative, an effort to help tribal elders and tribal members with disabilities transition from institutions to community living and supported housing efforts for older adults and people with disabilities.

Members will also receive an update on the behavioral health assessment being conducted by the department in conjunction with the Money Follows the Person program. A representative from the Life Skills and Transition Center will also provide an update to the group.

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 Jake Reuter at 701-328-2321, toll-free 800-755-2604, Relay ND TTY 800-366-6888 or jwreuter@nd.gov.

Community members attending the meeting will need to use the public entrance located on the south side of the State Capitol building (tunnel under the stairway).

The federal government awarded the 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, 374 individuals have transitioned to community settings.

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