

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Independent Living Council to meet May 3-4 in Bismarck**

BISMARCK, N.D. – North Dakota’s Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) that promotes the full community participation of people with disabilities and advocates for resources supporting independent living is meeting Wednesday and Thursday at the Radisson Hotel, 605 E. Broadway Ave., in Bismarck.

The public is welcome to attend. Council members will meet May 3, from 1 to 5 p.m., and May 4, from 9 a.m. to noon.

On Wednesday, council members will approve meeting minutes and review correspondence and the treasurer’s report. Russ Cusack, director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and assistant director Robyn Throlson will give an overview of federal program reporting data requirements and the importance of goals and objectives for the federal fiscal year. The Governance Committee will review the operations guidelines.

On Thursday morning, Cusack will review membership guidelines, and members will elect a vice chairperson and select a member to serve on the State Rehabilitation Council. The directors of the centers for independent living in North Dakota and the council’s standing committees will also provide reports. The complete meeting agenda is online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html).

Annually about 20,000 North Dakotans receive independent living services so they can live and work more independently in their homes and communities. Core services include information and referral, independent living skills training, peer mentoring, advocacy and transition services to assist people with disabilities to move from nursing homes or other institutions into the community and to assist youth with disabilities as they transition from school life to adulthood.

Individuals who need auxiliary aids or services to participate in the meeting or who would like more information can contact the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, North Dakota Department of Human Services, at 1237 W. Divide Ave., Suite 1B, Bismarck, N.D., 58501, 701-328-8950, toll-free 800-755-2745, or ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888.

The governor appoints council members. Membership information is available online at <http://governor.nd.gov/boards/BoardDetails.aspx?boardid=48>.

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