

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 325, Bismarck, N.D. 58505-0250**

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Agency considers new system verifying in-home caregiver visits; seeks client and caregiver input on system

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services wants to discuss a new federally-required electronic visit verification (EVV) system with those who will be most affected by it. The agency is seeking public comment from clients who receive Medicaid-funded home health and personal care services, their family members, and individuals and agencies that provide these Medicaid-funded services.

Congress approved the new requirement when it passed the 21st Century Cures Act in December 2016. The intent is to enhance monitoring of in-home care services and prevent improper payments for services.

Department officials are seeking input to determine what type of system the state should implement and are hosting public meetings from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in Fargo on June 22 and in Bismarck on June 27.

The Fargo meeting will be held in the Bison Room at Cass County Social Services at 1010 Second Ave. S. In Bismarck, stakeholders are invited to meet June 27, in the Brynhild Haugland Room of the State Capitol at 600 E. Boulevard Ave.

The department's Aging Services Division Director Nancy Nikolas Maier said, "The department will provide an overview of the Cures Act and electronic visit verification system requirements, and wants to hear comments from clients, their family members, home health agencies and individual qualified service providers about how we can implement an effective and easy-to-use monitoring system."

She said individuals can also provide input by mail, email, phone or fax. The department will accept comments and public input from June 22 through July 24, 2017, at 5 p.m., Central Time, and will consider them as it develops the request for proposals and determines the best approach to implementing a system.

Send comments to the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Aging Services Division, Attn: HCBS, at 1237 W. Divide Ave., Suite 6, Bismarck, N.D. 58501, toll-free 800-755-2604, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888, email dhshcbs@nd.gov, or fax 701-328-8744.

States must comply with federal law and start using an electronic visit verification system by Jan. 1, 2019, or they risk reductions in their federal Medicaid matching funds. In North Dakota, the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage is currently 50 percent, meaning the federal government pays for half of every dollar spent on traditional Medicaid services.

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