

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Heather Steffl at 701-328-4933

Agency invites clients and guardians to technical assistance meeting as state reviews its Medicaid waiver programs that support community living

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services is hosting a statewide video conference meeting for people with disabilities, their family members and guardians on June 13, from 2 to 4 p.m., CT, as part the state’s review of possible gaps in its Medicaid waivers that help participants live in the community and avoid institutional care.

“We want to hear from people who use waiver services or may need waiver services, but don’t currently qualify,” said Developmental Disabilities Director Tina Bay.

Meeting participants will learn about Medicaid waivers and the technical assistance the state is receiving, as well as the results of the recent stakeholder survey about waiver services. They will also be able to comment on waiver eligibility criteria and services, and related issues.

The technical assistance meeting will originate from the Prairie and Rose Rooms in the department’s Prairie Hills Plaza location at 1237 W. Divide Ave., Ste. 1A, in **Bismarck**. Participants should enter through door 2 that faces West Divide Avenue.

People can also participate at these video conference sites:

- **Devils Lake:** Lake Region Human Service Center, 200 Hwy 2 W., Conference Room East;
- **Dickinson:** Badlands Human Service Center, 300 13th Ave. W., Ste. 1, Basement Conference Room;
- **Fargo:** Fargo-Cass Public Health, 1240 25th St. S., Linden Room;
- **Grand Forks:** Northeast Human Service Center, 151 S. Fourth St., Ste. 401, Conference Room 5E;
- **Jamestown:** South Central Human Service Center, 520 Third St. N.W., Room 124;
- **Minot:** North Central Human Service Center, 1015 S. Broadway, Room 411; and
- **Williston:** Northwest Human Service Center, 316 Second Ave. W., Room A200.

The department will hold a similar meeting for professionals on June 29 with the same agenda. Some locations are different. For details about both meetings, see the public notices posted online at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html.

Waivers are agreements between the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and a state's Medicaid Agency and serve specific groups of people. Waivers specify the number of participants to be served, eligibility criteria, available services, including any limits on services; and procedures for the evaluation and reevaluation of level of care.

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They give eligible people options if their needs can be met in their homes, and if providing services in a home and community setting is cost neutral compared to institutional services.

The department requested technical assistance reviewing its waiver criteria and services to determine if certain individuals are failing waiver criteria or to determine if certain waiver participants need additional services. The review may lead to changes to existing waivers or a new waiver.

The department's aging services, developmental disabilities, medical services and behavioral health divisions are involved in the review. Once it is completed, the department will consider its next steps to strengthen waiver services.

North Dakota currently has an autism waiver, technology dependent waiver, aged and disabled home and community-based services waiver, developmental disabilities waiver, children's medically fragile waiver, and children's hospice waiver.

Individuals with questions or who need accommodations to participate can contact the Developmental Disabilities Division at 701-328-8930, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888 or 711, or tbay@nd.gov.

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