

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

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Fair booth offers information on behavioral health professionals trained to meet the needs of service members, veterans and their families
ND Cares and agency promote new online locator

BISMARCK, N.D. - There are 52,035 veterans in North Dakota. That's about 9.6 percent of the state's adult population.

Service members, veterans and their families have unique behavioral health needs due to combat experiences, injuries, deployments and separation, and frequent relocation. ND Cares, a statewide coalition, is joining the North Dakota Department of Human Services at the State Fair in Minot to raise awareness of the behavioral health needs of our heroes and their families and to help connect people to services.

On Tuesday, July 25, from 10 a.m. to noon (CT), Executive Director of the ND Cares Coalition Darcie Handt will be available at the Department of Human Services' Behavioral Health Division booth in Commercial Building II to announce a new online resource to help people locate services: <https://behavioralhealth.dhs.nd.gov/ndcaresprovider>. The new webpage connects people to a select group of behavioral health professionals with specialized training on the needs of service members, veterans and their families.

"The North Dakota Department of Human Services has partnered with ND Cares to fund training for behavioral health professionals to ensure they understand military culture and the unique needs of service members and their families. We encourage people to use the new locator to find specially-trained professionals in North Dakota," said Behavioral Health Division Director and coalition member Pamela Sagness.

ND Cares was formally recognized by a Governor's Executive Order in 2015, and the coalition's mission is strengthening an accessible, seamless network of support for service members, veterans, families and survivors.

The coalition's priority is behavioral health. ND Cares members focus on promotion of emotional health, prevention of behavioral health disorders, including mental health and substance use disorders, as well as behavioral health treatment and recovery support.

Information about ND Cares is available online at <https://ndcares.org/>.

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