

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

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Human Services holds public comment meeting on recommendations in report on Medicaid waiver services

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services (DHS) is inviting people who received services through one of the department’s Medicaid waivers, their family members, professionals who work with them and others to a public meeting on Feb. 7 in Bismarck to comment on recommendations contained in a new report on Medicaid waiver services. The meeting will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Central Time, in the Brynhild Haugland Room of the state Capitol at 600 E. Boulevard Ave.

North Dakota sought technical assistance to identify opportunities to further strengthen waiver services. The National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) developed the report from comments provided at earlier stakeholder meetings, survey results and a review of waiver eligibility, services and person-centered practices. It summarizes NASDDDS’ observations and recommendations and is available online at www.nd.gov/dhs/services/disabilities/docs/2017-final-report-for-nd-dd-eligibility-service-array-practices.pdf.

“We encourage people to review the report and to come and comment on the recommendations,” said DHS Developmental Disabilities Division Director Tina Bay. “We are seeking stakeholders’ input to help us identify possible priorities and timelines.”

Meeting participants will learn about the technical assistance and NASDDDS’ recommendations, and will be able to comment on them. Details about the meeting are available online at <https://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html>.

Waivers are agreements between the federal Centers 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. 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.

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

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

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