

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb. 8, 2018**

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Agency holding statewide public hearings to update plan for providing services to older adults and people with physical disabilities

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Aging Services Division is hosting statewide public listening and comment meetings in February and March about services for older adults and adults with physical disabilities that help them remain living independently in their homes and communities.

"We have several generations of people who may qualify for Older Americans Act-funded services and other supportive in-home services, and they may have different ideas about what services they want and need, and how those services are provided," said Aging Services Division Director Nancy Nikolas Maier who encouraged people age 60 and older, family caregivers, advocates, service providers and other interested individuals to attend.

Public meetings are scheduled on these dates and times at these locations:

Monday, Feb. 12, 2018

Dickinson: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. MT, Southwestern District Health Unit, 227 16th St. W.;
St. Michael: 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., Spirit Lake Casino and Resort, 7889 Hwy. 57;

Monday, Feb. 19, 2018

Valley City: 12 to 1 p.m., Valley City Senior Center, 139 Second Ave. S.E.;

Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2018

Tioga: 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., Tioga Senior Center, 17 N. Benson St.;

Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018

Fort Yates: 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., Prairie Knights Casino and Resort, 7932 ND Hwy. 24;

Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018

New Town: 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Northern Lights Building, 710 Ninth Ave. N.;

Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2018

Wahpeton: 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Wahpeton Senior Center, 520 Third Ave. S.;

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2018

Fargo: 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Ed Clapp Senior Center, 2801 32nd Ave. S., Carlson Library Community Room;

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Langdon: 1 to 2 p.m., Langdon Senior Center, 211 Eighth Ave.;

Friday, March 2, 2018

Belcourt: 1 to 2 p.m., Turtle Mountain Retirement Home, Hwy. 5 and St. Anne's Road;

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Monday, March 5, 2018

Grand Forks: 1 to 2 p.m., Grand Forks Senior Center, 620 Fourth Ave. S.; and

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

Bismarck: 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Burleigh County Senior Center, 315 N. 20th St.

Public comments will be used to update North Dakota's State Plan on Aging, which the state submits to the federal government to outline priorities and services the state will support with its federal Older Americans Act dollars.

The division uses federal Older Americans Act funds to help pay for a toll-free information and assistance phone line and website, so that people can find needed services, home-delivered meals and meals at senior meal sites, senior legal assistance, assistive safety devices like grab bars and seat lifts; health maintenance services such as blood pressure screenings, foot care, and medication set-up; fall prevention education; and the senior companion program.

Other division programs and services include the Family Caregiver Support Program, senior employment and training, the Dementia Care Services Program, Long-Term Care Ombudsman services promoting the rights and well-being of people living in long-term care facilities, and protective services for vulnerable adults at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation.

The division also administers home and community-based services that enable qualifying individuals with functional limitations to live in their homes and communities. These programs include Medicaid State Plan personal care services, Home and Community-Based Services Medicaid Waiver, Technology Dependent Medicaid Waiver, and the state-funded Services Payments for the Elderly and Disabled Program and Expanded Service Payments for the Elderly and Disabled Program.

Individuals who need accommodations to participate in the meetings or who have questions should contact Sheryl Pfliger through the division's Aging and Disability Resource LINK line toll-free at 855-GO2-LINK (855-462-5465), ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888 or by emailing her at spfliger@nd.gov prior to the meeting.

Individuals unable to attend one of the public meetings **can submit written comments by March 15, 2018**, to the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Aging Services Division, 1237 W. Divide Ave., Suite 6, Bismarck, N.D. 58501, or dhsaging@nd.gov.

During the 2016 federal fiscal year, Older Americans Act funding enabled contracted providers to serve 1.1 million meals at senior meal sites and through home-delivered meal programs to qualifying North Dakotans.

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