

**NEWS RELEASE** | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | Nov. 15, 2019

## **Regional human service centers host regional advisory group meetings in November**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' regional human service centers in Bismarck, Devils Lake, Fargo, Grand Forks, Jamestown and Minot are holding their regularly scheduled advisory group meetings next week at their respective locations. Advisory groups for the Dickinson and Williston centers already met.

The centers, as public behavioral health providers of clinic, community and residential care, serve the needs of individuals with chronic and severe behavioral health disorders and individuals with limited resources. The advisory group meetings will all follow the same agenda.

Center leadership team members will review the agency's mission, values, mandates and strategic direction, including an update on the provision of emergency services and the demographic profiles for the populations the centers serve. Advisory group members will also be briefed on an assessment of the previous long-term planning cycle, including strengths and areas of opportunity. Members will discuss measurable goals and objectives, and strategies to meet identified goals.

The meetings are open to the public, and are scheduled at these locations on these dates and times:

- North Central Human Service Center – Monday, Nov. 18 at 10 a.m. CT in **Minot**,
- Northeast Human Service Center – Monday, Nov. 18 at 10 a.m. CT in **Grand Forks**,
- Lake Region Human Service Center – Tuesday, Nov. 19, at 10 a.m. CT in **Devils Lake**,
- West Central Human Service Center – Tuesday, Nov. 19 at 1 p.m. CT in **Bismarck**,
- South Central Human Service Center – Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 10 a.m. CT in **Jamestown**, and
- Southeast Human Service Center – Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 1 p.m. CT in **Fargo**.

Individuals with disabilities who need accommodations to participate can contact Heather Steffl at 701-328-4933, 711 (TTY) or [hsteffl@nd.gov](mailto:hsteffl@nd.gov).

During the 2018 state fiscal year that ended June 30, 2019, human service center staffs provided community-based behavioral health services to 18,146 registered clients on-site and at outreach offices and satellite locations. Of those individuals, 16 percent were youth. In addition, pregnant women and people who use intravenous drugs, two groups that receive priority for substance use disorder services, comprised almost 6 percent of the clients served. Over 2,000 additional individuals received emergency/crisis behavioral health services or were assessed and referred elsewhere for care and did not become clients.

Together the regional centers employ about 850 individuals and provide community-based behavioral health services focusing on chronic disease management and behavioral health crisis services. Behavioral health staff also provide walk-in services, community outreach, short-term crisis residential services, substance use disorder residential services and transitional living services for individuals with severe mental illness.

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Other agency team members who are based at the centers provide case management services for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, vocational rehabilitation services to help people with disabilities achieve their employment goals, and other human services.

Information about regional human service center locations and other meeting details can be found online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html).

Services may be provided directly by staff or through partnerships with county social services and contracts with other providers based on regional needs and available community resources. Details about centers and services are listed online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/regionalhsc/](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/regionalhsc/).

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