

**NEWS RELEASE** | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | June 23, 2020

## **North Dakota Respite Coalition that supports family caregivers is meeting June 25**

BISMARCK, N.D. – A coalition that supports respite care and related support services for unpaid family caregivers in North Dakota is meeting by video conference and teleconference on June 25, 9 – 10:30 a.m. Central Time, to discuss progress in connecting caregivers to resources and support and related efforts. The public is welcome to attend.

The agenda includes discussion on the impact COVID-19 has had on the ability of organizations represented in the coalition to serve clients. The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Aging Services Division will provide an update on remaining federal grant funds, and coalition members will also discuss respite care marketing plans and the coalition's future and next steps. The complete agenda is online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html).

Interested individuals can join the meeting by video conference or by phone at 1-701-328-0950, conference ID: 266 756 422#. Details are in the [public meeting notice](#).

The coalition's goal is to raise awareness about services available to provide short, needed breaks and other support for family members caring for loved ones of all ages with dementia, autism spectrum disorders, terminal illness, and other special needs.

North Dakotans can learn more about respite care options and other support services by calling toll-free 855-462-5465, emailing [carechoice@nd.gov](mailto:carechoice@nd.gov) or visiting <https://carechoice.nd.assistguide.net>.

Individuals who need accommodation to participate in the coalition meeting can contact Mary Wetz, North Dakota Department of Human Services' Aging Services Division, 1237 W. Divide Ave., Suite 6, Bismarck, N.D. 58501, in advance of the meeting at 701-328-4643, toll-free 855-462-5465, 711 (TTY).

According to coalition partner AARP of North Dakota, about 68,000 family caregivers in North Dakota provided an estimated 57 million hours of care in 2017. While that care has an estimated economic value of \$980 million, it is priceless to the individuals who were able to remain living in their homes and communities because of that care.

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