

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | June 24, 2020

ND Behavioral Health Planning Council to meet July 1 by video conference

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Behavioral Health Planning Council, a citizen advisory group that includes people with lived experience and other stakeholders, will meet July 1, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. CT by video conference. The public is welcome to attend.

Representatives from the North Dakota Department of Human Services will report on various behavioral health initiatives in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the state's behavioral health strategic planning implementation efforts and the expansion of home and community-based behavioral health services through a Medicaid 1915(i) State Plan amendment.

Council members will also hear about tribal behavioral health initiatives and the state's mental health block grant. The North Dakota Department of Health will share information about its Pediatric Mental Health Care Access program, and North Dakota Protection and Advocacy Project will report on the behavioral health needs for people with disabilities.

Members will also discuss a proposed vision statement for the state's behavioral health plan and legislative proposals and will conduct election of officers. Other topics may be discussed.

The council has reserved time for public comment on behavioral health services and issues from 2:45 to 3 p.m. The complete agenda is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html.

Interested individuals can join by video at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87942778575>, meeting ID: 879 4277 8575 or by phone at 1-346-248-7799, meeting ID: 879 4277 8575#.

Individuals with disabilities who need accommodations to participate in the meeting or who would like more information about the Behavioral Health Planning Council can contact council facilitator Greg Gallagher at 701-224-0588 ext. 102, 711 (TTY) or ggallagher@agree.org.

The governor appoints planning council members who represent people with first-hand knowledge of behavioral health services, their family members, other advocates, agencies, human service zone offices, formerly called county social service offices, and public and private behavioral health service providers. Council information is available at www.nd.gov/dhs/services/mentalhealth/ndmhpc/.

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