

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Northern Plains Conference on Aging and Disability is Sept. 14 -15
in Fargo**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The Northern Plains Conference on Aging and Disability set for September 14-15, 2005, at the Holiday Inn of Fargo will feature experts on aging, health and well being, disability issues, and public policy areas including Social Security reform, the new Medicare prescription drug benefit, and consumer directed services for people who are elderly and/or disabled. Conference programming also includes inspirational speakers, musical entertainment, some meals and refreshments, door prizes, and exhibit booths, and is intended to appeal to the public, advocates, service providers, government representatives, and health and human service professionals. Organizers hope attendees will learn how they can help shape the future together.

Dr. Susan C. Reinhard, PhD, MSN, a nationally recognized consultant, will give the opening keynote address on September 14 at 9:30 a.m. Sponsored by AARP North Dakota, Reinhard will share ideas about how states are transforming their long term care and senior services by adjusting state policies and government structures to support consumer choice.

Bobby Silverstein, Director of the Center for the Study and Advancement of Disability Policy, will share his expertise by leading concurrent sessions about Social Security reform from a disability perspective; developing community-based person-centered service delivery systems; and workplace personal assistance services and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Silverstein is a former Senate committee staff member who was a behind-the-scenes architect on a number of significant laws including the ADA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and the Rehabilitation Act. His appearance is sponsored by the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities at Minot State University.

Other concurrent sessions that day will include: living a brain healthy lifestyle, life choices, nutrition needs and aging, support for individuals with early stage Alzheimer's Disease, cooking for one or two, and causes and treatment of chronic pain.

From 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on September 14, conference attendees have the option of touring the 4 Seasons, Eventide, Riverview, or the Waterford at Harwood Grove. Each facility will provide participants with a complimentary dinner and transportation to and from the conference site. Dinner tour participation is limited, and individuals must register in advance by calling 701-237-4700.

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On Thursday, September 15, 2005, the conference resumes at 8 a.m. with a breakfast buffet followed by concurrent sessions on understanding and effectively addressing agitation in people with dementia; the new Medicare prescription drug benefit; intelligent assistive technology that enhances quality of life, and back pain. Psychologist Dr. Bob Edwards will give the closing keynote “Living Up In A Down Word” at 11 a.m.

Individuals who need auxiliary aids or other accommodations or special dietary arrangements in order to attend and participate fully in the conference should contact Chuck Stebbins at Freedom Resource Center for Independent Living Inc., 701-478-0459.

Continuing education credit hours are available for some professionals.

For information about the Northern Plains Conference on Aging and Disability, visit <http://www.state.nd.us/humanservices/calendar/2005/docs/npcad.pdf>, or contact Sandy Arends at the North Dakota Department of Human Services, Southeast Human Service Center, 701-298-4420 or 1-888-342-4900, e-mail: 85ares@state.nd.us.

Conference sponsors include: AARP North Dakota, the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities, the Alzheimer’s Association, Bethany Homes, the Dakota Medical Foundation, Lilly, Lutheran Social Services, Medica, Medtronic, MeritCare, Minnesota University Moorhead, the North Dakota Long Term Care Association, North Dakota State University, 4 Seasons of Moorhead, Coalition of Service Providers to the Elderly, Eventide in Moorhead, Heartland Care Center in Devils Lake, Metro Area Mayors Committee on People With Disabilities, North Star Regional Geriatric Education Center, Riverview Place in Fargo, The Evergreens in Fargo/Moorhead, and the Waterford at Harwood Groves in Fargo.

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