

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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State Hospital and Developmental Center shelter evacuees from Prairie St. John's and Friendship Inc.; other staff assisting vulnerable clients

BISMARCK, ND – North Dakota Department of Human Services has made its two institutions and regional human service center staffs available to serve the needs of vulnerable individuals impacted by flooding in Fargo.

Department Executive Director Carol K. Olson said, "The Governor has directed agencies to commit any needed resources to assist Fargo residents, and we have many dedicated staff caring for evacuated vulnerable persons and assisting in shelters and communities to ensure vulnerable clients and others are safe and receive needed support at shelters."

On Friday night, the department's State Hospital staff triaged and admitted 21 adults evacuated from Prairie St. John's, a private mental health and substance abuse treatment provider in Fargo. Individuals are being housed in a 25-bed unit. The hospital also admitted three Manor Care nursing facility residents from Fargo to its geropsychiatric unit. Families and guardians can call 701-253-3650 for information.

The Developmental Center in Grafton is currently sheltering 55 Friendship Inc. clients and their caregivers who evacuated from Fargo. Families and guardians of Friendship Inc. clients relocated to Grafton can call 701-360-0574 for information about relatives or wards.

Mental health, nursing, social work and direct care staff from several of the Department's regional human service centers are assisting with evacuation at the Fargo Reception Center at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds in Fargo and are assisting on-site at designated shelters. Southeast Human Service Center's treatment professionals are currently going to the homes of clients who live independently in the Fargo community and assisting them to relocate to safer areas.

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