

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 East Boulevard Avenue – Department 325, Bismarck ND 58505-0250**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**N.D. Human Services Department reschedules Jamestown
public meeting for Nov. 9**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services has rescheduled its Jamestown region stakeholder meeting for Nov. 9, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. at its South Central Human Service Center, 520 Third St. N.W., in Jamestown. The department invites consumers of its services, health and human service providers, advocates, and other interested individuals to attend and help identify human service needs and priorities.

The meeting will be the last of eight community conversations hosted by the department this biennium in the state's eight largest communities. The Jamestown meeting was originally scheduled for October 15, but was canceled due to poor weather and road conditions.

Other remaining meetings are scheduled for Nov. 2, in Dickinson; Nov. 3 in Williston; and Nov. 4 in Minot and Bismarck.

"We encourage people who are impacted by human services as well as human service providers to attend to share concerns and suggestions," said Department Executive Director Carol K. Olson. "This helps us identify priorities for planning and budgeting."

People who are unable to attend the community meeting can submit ideas, concerns, or recommendations about services to the department at 600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 325, Bismarck, N.D. 58505-0250 or dhseo@nd.gov.

Individuals with disabilities who need special accommodations to participate should call Lori Vesel at South Central Human Service Center at 701-253-6329 or TTY 701-253-6414 in advance of the meeting.

The N.D. Department of Human Services operates on a two-year \$2.3 billion budget. It is a significant employer in the Jamestown region, employing 452 people at the State Hospital, and 85 people at the regional human service center, which provides community-based mental health and substance abuse treatment and other human services. Another nine people are employed at its regional child support enforcement office in Jamestown.

The department's Medicaid program is a significant funding source for health care providers and other service providers across the state.

For information about the department's programs and services, visit www.nd.gov/dhs.

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