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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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Contact: Pamela Sagness, Prevention Administrator, N.D. Department of Human Services, 701-328-8824, or Heather Steffl, Public Information Officer, 701-328-4933.

**Five North Dakota Communities Will Benefit from Substance Abuse Prevention**

BISMARCK, N.D. – This fall, the communities of **Bottineau, Carrington, Minot, Watford City** and the **Mohall-Lansford-Sherwood** school district applied for assistance developing effective local substance abuse prevention efforts in their communities. They were notified this week that the North Dakota Department of Human Services’ Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division will be providing expert assistance.

Community members will work with the State Prevention Team specialists to develop unique plans to address and prevent alcohol and other substance abuse. Communities will receive guidance identifying goals, implementing effective strategies and evaluating community progress. Areas of focus will include education, workplace wellness, treatment, law enforcement, and public awareness.

“We know North Dakotans believe it is possible to reduce alcohol and drug problems through prevention.\* These communities are eager to move forward to create local-level change,” said Pamela Sagness, prevention administrator for the division. “We are pleased to be able to support them.”

Work in Mohall-Lansford-Sherwood and Watford City will begin in December, followed by the other three communities early next year.

The communities applied for assistance. In their applications, each identified community needs, resources, funding, readiness, past and present prevention efforts, partnerships, and a vision.

Other communities are invited to apply. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis. The targeted community application for substance abuse assistance can be found online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/services/mentalhealth/prevention/pdf/targeted-community-app.pdf](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/mentalhealth/prevention/pdf/targeted-community-app.pdf).

For more information, contact the Prevention Resource and Media Center at 701-328-8918, TTY: 701-857-8666, Toll-Free 800-642-6744 or visit our Web site [www.nd.gov/dhs/prevention](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/prevention).

\* Of those surveyed, 92 percent of N.D. community members believe it is possible to reduce alcohol and drug problems through prevention (CRS, 2008).

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