

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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North Dakota State Hospital Receives Performance Award

One of the first healthcare facilities to gain this recognition

BISMARCK, N.D. - The North Dakota State Hospital, which is part of the N.D. Department of Human Services, received an award of excellence for its Post Discharge Continuing Care Plan rate. This award, presented by the Joint Commission, the accrediting agency for hospitals, recognizes hospital-based psychiatric facilities who exceed core measure performance outcomes for assisting patients with planning and accessing their next level of care upon discharge.

“Staff members have been proactive in creating a data collection system that includes a seamless transition to other care options that will help patients once they are ready to leave our facility,” said State Hospital Superintendant Alex Schweitzer.

The North Dakota State Hospital is one of only a few inpatient psychiatric facilities to achieve this honor in the western region of the United States. As part of the award, officials from the State Hospital have been invited to participate in a new online forum called Core Measure Solution Exchange. The forum will allow the State Hospital to share its success story with other accredited hospitals interested in attaining and maintaining high rating levels on core measures.

Every three years, the North Dakota State Hospital goes through an accreditation process which includes an in-depth on-site visit by the Joint Commission to ensure the hospital and its behavioral health care program meet the required standards of quality and patient safety. The North Dakota State Hospital received another three-year accreditation in 2010.

The Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. They evaluate and accredit more than 19,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States.

Schweitzer said the State Hospital is the primary provider of inpatient mental health and addiction treatment services for the Devils Lake, Dickinson, Jamestown, and Williston regions of the state. Those regions do not have community hospitals that provide these important inpatient services, he said.

For information about the North Dakota State Hospital call 701-253-3964, ND Relay TTY 1-800-366-6888, or visit www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/statehospital/index.html.

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