

NEWS from the N.D. Department of Human Services

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Aging Services Awards Contract to Connect Seniors to Services

Burleigh County Senior Adults Program will work with partners to serve nine-county area

BISMARCK, N.D. – As people age or experience a disabling injury or illness and their abilities change, they may need services and support to continue to live in their own homes and communities. To help people explore their options and find helpful services, the N.D. Department of Human Services has contracted with Burleigh County Senior Adults Program to provide options counseling services to residents of Burleigh, Emmons, Grant, Kidder, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, and Sioux counties.

“We have been providing this personal assistance to Burleigh County residents since June 2010, and are pleased to be able to work with partners to help more residents in our region locate resources and programs, and plan for their future care needs,” said Ellen Owen, director of Burleigh County Senior Adults Program.

Jan Engan, director of the department’s Aging Services Division, said Owen’s program will be responsible for providing one-on-one contacts and follow-up. Depending on an individual’s needs, options counselors will make referrals and connect people to available service providers and programs to help them remain living independently at home as long as possible.

“Our agencies have had a long-standing partnership serving older adults, and the department is excited about this expanded role Ellen and her staff are assuming,” said Engan.

According to Owen, Burleigh County Senior Adult Program is collaborating with Mandan Golden Age Services and Mercer-McLean Counties Commission on Aging who will also be providing staff as options counselors in the large multi-county area.

She said staff members will go out to communities to meet with people and will also be contacting organizations and businesses frequented by older adults and people with disabilities who live in the community to partner with them and assist in providing services to them.

To request options counseling services, people can call the **Aging and Disability Resource LINK** toll free at **1-855-GO2-LINK (1-855-462-5465)**, ND Relay TTY 1-800-366-6888 or any one of the participating partners. The Department of Human Services also operates an online database of services at www.carechoice.nd.gov.

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