

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services

600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force to Meet Jan. 3

BISMARCK, N.D. – The Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force will meet Thursday, Jan. 3, 2013, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Central Standard Time) by the use of various video conference sites located in North Dakota.

The public is invited to participate in the meeting from any of these locations:

- **Bismarck** - N.D. Department of Human Services' Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division, Prairie Hills Plaza, 1237 W. Divide Ave., Suite 1C, Prairie Room
- **Devils Lake** - Lake Region Human Service Center, 200 Highway 2 S.W., East Conference Room
- **Dickinson** - Badlands Human Service Center, 300 13th Ave. W., Suite 1, Basement General Staff Conference Room
- **Fargo** - Southeast Human Service Center, 2624 Ninth Ave. S., Red River Room
- **Grand Forks** - Northeast Human Service Center, 151 S. Fourth St., Suite 401, Meeting Room 5E
- **Jamestown** - South Central Human Service Center, 520 Third St. N.W., Conference Room 124-126
- **Minot** - North Central Human Service Center, 1015 S. Broadway, Suite 18, Conference Room 411
- **Williston** – Northwest Human Service Center, 316 Second Ave. W., Conference Room B200

Agenda items include discussion on the N.D. Department of Public Instruction's survey to special education units, Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) changes as it relates to autism, and the upcoming legislative session. There will also be a presentation from the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities at Minot State University on the Support Autism in North Dakota grant. Other business may also be discussed.

Individuals with disabilities who need accommodations can contact Gail Allensworth at 701-328-8920, toll free 800-755-2719, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888 or gallensworth@nd.gov.

The task force was created by the legislature in 2009 to examine early intervention and family support services for individuals with autism spectrum disorders to help them remain in their homes and communities.

The task force consists of 16 members appointed by the governor and includes representatives from the mental health profession, developmental disabilities system, and state agencies; legislators, educators, and family members of persons with autism spectrum disorders. JoAnne Hoesel, director of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division of the N.D. Department of Human Services, chairs the task force.

More information on the task force is online at www.governor.nd.gov/boards/boards-query.asp?Board_ID=159, or call 701-328-8920, toll-free 800-755-2719 or ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888.

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