

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 15, 2012**

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Child and Family Services Review Stakeholder Meetings to be held in Bismarck May 22-24

BISMARCK, N.D. – The N.D. Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division is conducting Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) and holding stakeholder meetings May 22-24, 2012, at the Burleigh County Social Service Office, 415 East Rosser Ave., Suite 113, in Bismarck. The department invites constituents, child welfare service providers, educators, foster parents, advocates, administrators, and other interested persons from the ten-county region to discuss safety, permanency, and the well-being of children in the child welfare system.

"The stakeholder meetings focus on child protection services, foster care, adoption, family preservation, family connections and supports," said Tara Muhlhauser, director of the Children and Family Services Division. "The information we gather will be used to evaluate how child welfare practice is carried out in this region, focusing on available services, reducing barriers, and strengthening the service delivery system."

Individuals attending one of the following scheduled stakeholder meetings should check-in at the front desk of the Burleigh County Social Service Office prior to the meeting.

Tuesday, May 22, 2012

- Case managers meeting - 9:30 a.m.
- Legal and court officials meeting - 12 p.m.
- Education professionals meeting - 3:30 p.m.
- Foster parents meeting - 6:30 p.m. (county foster care and therapeutic foster care)

Wednesday, May 23, 2012

- Community members meeting - 10 a.m. (for lay guardians ad litem, public health staff, law enforcement officials, religious leaders, human service center staff, service providers, non-profit organizations, medical/emergency room staff, and other interested persons)
- Constituents meeting - 11:45 a.m.
- Administrators meeting - 2 p.m. (for county directors/supervisors, human service center directors, and Division of Juvenile Services)

Thursday, May 24, 2012

- Exit interview - 1 to 2 p.m.

Stakeholders from Burleigh, Emmons, Grant, Kidder, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sheridan, and Sioux counties unable to attend the meetings can send written comments to Rita Weisz at West Central Human Service Center, 1237 W. Divide Ave., Suite 5, Bismarck, ND, 58501, fax 1-701-328-8900, or rxweisz@nd.gov.

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