

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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N.D. Developmental Center in Grafton Earns National Accreditation for Wheelchair Seating Program

BISMARCK, N.D. – The N.D. Developmental Center’s Adaptive Equipment Services program received a three-year accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) International for its Wheelchair Seating Program. The program serves people with disabilities or people with severe orthopedic impairments by providing assessment, custom fitting, and complete fabrication of molded seating devices that attach to an existing wheelchair or to a wheelchair purchased from a supplier.

The accreditation process involved staff completing an internal review of its program and business practices. After the peer review, an on-site visit was completed to evaluate the program and verify it conformed to the CARF performance standards. This is the second consecutive three-year accreditation awarded to the Wheelchair Seating Program.

“This is a tremendous honor for our program,” said Don Olson, director of the Adaptive Equipment Services Program. “Our customized wheelchair seats allow people with complex medical conditions and physical disabilities to sit safely and comfortably for a longer period of time, reducing sitting risks, and resulting in greater participation in community activities and an enhanced quality of life.”

The Adaptive Equipment Services Program began 30 years ago and offers a wide array of other adaptive equipment services including an equipment loan program and a mobile outreach program that serves people statewide.

CARF is an independent, non-profit accrediting organization that assists health and human services providers in measuring and enhancing the quality of programs and services that improves the quality of life for the people served.

The N.D. Developmental Center, which is part of the N.D. Department of Human Services, is a state-operated, comprehensive support agency for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The center currently serves 92 individuals by providing specialized services and acting as a safety net for people whose needs exceed community resources.

For information about the Adaptive Equipment Services program, contact Don Olson at the N.D. Developmental Center at 701-352-4583, toll free 1-800-252-4911, ND Relay TTY 1-800-366-6888, or dolson@nd.gov.

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