

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services

600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 29, 2013

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Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force to Meet Dec. 16

BISMARCK, N.D. – The Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force will meet Mon., Dec. 16, 2013, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Central Time) using 10 video conference sites located in North Dakota.

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

- **Bismarck** - N.D. Department of Human Services' Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division, Prairie Hills Plaza, 1237 W. Divide Ave., Ste. 1C, Prairie Rose 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., Ste. 1, Basement General Staff Conference Room
- **Fargo** - Southeast Human Service Center, 2624 Ninth Ave. S., Red River Room
- **Grafton** - Life Skills and Transition Center (formerly Developmental Center), 701 W. Sixth St., Conference Center West
- **Grand Forks** - Northeast Human Service Center, 151 S. Fourth St., Ste. 401, Meeting Room 5E
- **Jamestown** (two locations) - South Central Human Service Center, 520 Third St. N.W., Conference Room 124 and N.D. State Hospital, 2605 Circle Dr., Conference Room 320
- **Minot** - Minot State University, 500 University Ave. W., Memorial Hall, Room 207
- **Williston** - Northwest Human Service Center, 316 Second Ave. W., Conference Room A200

Agenda items include updates on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) changes related to Autism and the Support Autism in North Dakota grant from the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities at Minot State University. There will also be Autism-related updates from the N.D. Department of Public Instruction, N.D. Department of Health, and N.D. Department of Human Services, and discussion on public comment procedures. An agenda is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html.

Individuals with disabilities who need accommodations can contact Julie Huwe at 701-328-8920, toll free 800-755-2719, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888, or jhuwe@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 members are 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.

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