

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services

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Coalition Hosts Events to Educate Seniors on Personal and Financial Safety *Governor Dalrymple Proclaims Saturday, June 15, as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day*

BISMARCK, N.D. – The West Central Vulnerable Adult Coalition is hosting four educational forums in Bismarck and Mandan on Friday, June 14, 2013, to promote personal safety and identity theft prevention in recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

“This day is about raising awareness of elder abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation,” said coalition co-chair Cherry Schmidt, the regional aging services program administrator at the N.D. Department of Human Services’ West Central Human Service Center. “It is important for people to understand the devastating consequences these issues can have on the lives of older adults in North Dakota.”

The morning presentations will be held at the Bismarck Senior Center, 315 N. 20th St., and Mandan Golden Age Services, 301 15th St. N.W., from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Law enforcement representatives will discuss personal safety issues, and staff from the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division and trained coalition partners will meet with seniors to discuss document retention and how to safely shred papers. Secure shredding bins will be available at both locations during the presentation.

The afternoon presentations will take place at Edgewood Vista at Edgewood Village, 3124 Colorado Lane, Bismarck, and Library Square Apartments, 100 First St. N.W., in Mandan from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Attendees will learn about consumer fraud issues, document shredding guidelines, power of attorney health care directives, and financial exploitation.

“Consumer education is the key to preventing fraud, and the Attorney General is pleased to be able to partner with the coalition on this important effort,” said coalition co-chair Parrell Grossman, director of the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division.

To view the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day proclamation, visit www.nd.gov/dhs/services/adultsaging/.

The West Central Vulnerable Adult Coalition was created in 2009 under the leadership of the N.D. Department of Human Services’ West Central Human Service Center with grant funding from the National Center on Elder Abuse. The coalition works closely with law enforcement and other agencies to address challenging issues facing many vulnerable individuals, has established a speakers bureau, and continues to identify options for vulnerable individuals who may be impacted by abuse or neglect.

Coalition partners include representatives from financial institutions, social service providers, legal services, law enforcement, medical and public health providers, veteran’s organizations, and direct service providers.

For more information about the coalition or to report an incidence of elder abuse or neglect, contact Vulnerable Adult Protective Services at 701-328-8868, toll free 888-328-2662 or ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888. For information about preventing identity theft, contact the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division at 701-328-3404 or toll free 1-800-472-2600.

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