

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

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Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force to Meet Sept. 11 in Bismarck

BISMARCK, N.D. – The Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force will meet Wed., Sept. 11, 2013, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Prairie Rose Room at Prairie Hills Plaza, 1237 W. Divide Ave., in Bismarck.

Meeting attendees will review updates to the autism spectrum disorder plan as well as updates from agencies who received funding for autism spectrum disorder efforts. The North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities at Minot State University will give a presentation on the Support Autism in North Dakota grant. Other agenda items include updates on the autism spectrum disorder waiver and Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) changes related to autism. The newly hired state autism coordinator will be introduced. An agenda is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html.

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.

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