

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services  
600 East Boulevard Avenue – Department 325, Bismarck ND 58505-0250**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Aug. 7, 2013**

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**Agency Seeking Input on Combined Behavioral Health Assessment and Plan**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The N.D. Department of Human Services' Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division is seeking public comment on its draft 2013 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grants Combined Assessment and Plan. This plan guides the delivery of public mental health and substance abuse services for adults and children, as well as prevention strategies and other related services in North Dakota for the next two years.

“Individuals, advocates, stakeholders, and especially consumers of mental health and substance abuse services are encouraged to contribute their ideas, thoughts, and suggestions on the current service delivery system and how the system could better serve those people with mental health and addiction issues,” said JoAnne Hoesel the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division director.

The draft plan is online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/docs/mhsa/draft-block-grant.pdf](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/docs/mhsa/draft-block-grant.pdf).

A web-based survey has been created to gather public comments at

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/TS86287](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TS86287). Copies of the draft plan can also be obtained by contacting the division at 701-328-8920, toll-free 800-755-2719 or ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888.

Written comments will be accepted until Aug. 18, 2013. They can be sent to Lauren Sauer, Mental Health Substance Abuse Program Administrator, Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, 1237 W. Divide Avenue, Suite 1C, Bismarck, ND 58501-1208 or [lsauer@nd.gov](mailto:lsauer@nd.gov).

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