

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services

600 East Boulevard Avenue – Department 325, Bismarck ND 58505-0250

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dept. of Human Services to Host Community Meetings Across the State

Agency seeks input from stakeholders for program planning and budgeting

BISMARCK, N.D. – The N.D. Department of Human Services is hosting meetings in the state's eight largest communities in September to gather information about local and regional human service needs and priorities. The department invites consumers of its services, health and human service providers, advocates, and other interested individuals to participate.

"We hold these community conversations every two years to engage stakeholders about community needs and concerns as well as successes that are making a difference in the lives of North Dakotans," said Department Executive Director Maggie Anderson. "The feedback is used to help shape how services are provided and for planning the department's future budget proposals."

The meetings are scheduled for these dates, times, and locations.

Sept. 24, 2013

- **Bismarck** - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., West Central Human Service Center, 1237 W. Divide Ave., Suite 5, Conference Rooms 1 and 3
- **Jamestown** - 1 to 3 p.m., South Central Human Service Center, 520 Third St. N.W., Conference Rooms 124 and 126

Sept. 25, 2013

- **Minot** - 2 to 4 p.m., North Central Human Service Center, 1015 S. Broadway, Suite 18, Conference Rooms 311 and 411
- **Fargo** - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Doublewood Inn, 3333 13th Ave. S., Woodland South Room

Sept. 26, 2013

- **Williston** - Noon to 2 p.m. (Central Time), Northwest Human Service Center, 316 Second Ave. W., Fourth Floor, Conference Room 406
- **Grand Forks** - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Northeast Human Service Center, 151 S. Fourth St., Sixth Floor Conference Room

Sept. 27, 2013

- **Dickinson** - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Mountain Time), Badlands Human Service Center, 300 13th Ave. W., Basement General Staff Conference Room
- **Devils Lake** - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Ramsey County Courthouse, 524 Fourth Ave. N.E., Basement Conference Room

In addition to the community meetings, members of the department's senior management team will hold employee meetings to hear suggestions on how the department can serve clients and other stakeholders more effectively.

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Individuals with disabilities who need special accommodations to participate should contact their regional human service center or the department at 701-328-2538 or ND Relay TTY at 800-366-6888 in advance of the meeting they plan to attend.

People who are unable to attend a community meeting can submit ideas, concerns, or recommendations about agency services to the department at 600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 325, Bismarck, N.D. 58505-0250 or dhseo@nd.gov.

Anderson said department services and programs affect thousands of state residents. The N.D. Department of Human Services operates on a two-year \$2.9 billion budget and employs about 2,200 North Dakotans. Over 75 percent of the department's workforce provides direct services to state residents through the Life Skills and Transition Center (formerly the N.D. Developmental Center), the N.D. State Hospital, eight regional child support offices, and the eight regional human service centers, which provide community-based mental health and substance abuse treatment and other human services.

The department administers child protection services, child support, disability services, foster care, economic assistance programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Medicaid, the children's health insurance program, home and community-based long term care services, mental health and substance abuse treatment services, vocational rehabilitation, and aging services including senior meals and related services.

Together, the department, counties, Tribes, and other public and private organizations deliver human services throughout North Dakota.

For information about the programs and services provide by the N.D. Department of Human Services, visit www.nd.gov/dhs.

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