

# **NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services**

## **600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Five Video Conference Sites Added for Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force Meeting on Sept. 11**

BISMARCK, N.D. - Five video conference sites have been added for the Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force meeting on Wed., Sept. 11, 2013, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Individuals interested in participating in Dickinson, Grand Forks, Jamestown, and Minot can join the meeting at their local regional human service center, and individuals in Fargo can join the meeting from Job Service North Dakota.

The task force was created by the legislature in 2009 to examine early intervention and family support services for individuals with autism spectrum disorder to help them remain in their homes and communities.

The public is invited to participate in the meeting from any one of these six locations:

- **(New site) Dickinson** - Badlands Human Service Center, 300 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. W., Suite 1, Basement General Staff Conference Room
- **(New site) Fargo** - Job Service North Dakota, 1350 32<sup>nd</sup> St. S., Conference Rooms C and D
- **(New site) Grand Forks** - Northeast Human Service Center, 151 S. Fourth St., Suite 401, Room 5E
- **(New site) Jamestown** - South Central Human Service Center, 520 Third St. NW, Rooms 124-126
- **(New site) Minot** - North Central Human Service Center, 1015 S. Broadway, Suite 18, Room 411
- **(Meeting origination site) Bismarck** - N.D. Department of Human Services Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division, Prairie Hills Plaza, 1237 W. Divide Ave., Suite 1C, Prairie Room

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](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html).

The council consists of 16 members appointed by the governor and includes representatives from the mental health profession, developmental disabilities system, state agencies, legislators, educators, and family members. JoAnne Hoesel, director of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division with the N.D. Department of Human Services, chairs the task force.

For more information on the task force, go online to [www.governor.nd.gov/boards/boards-query.asp?Board\\_ID=159](http://www.governor.nd.gov/boards/boards-query.asp?Board_ID=159), or call 701-328-8920, toll-free 1-800-755-2719 or ND Relay TTY 1-800-366-6888.

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