

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public comment sought on draft plan on possible changes in community-based services for people who are elderly or disabled

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services is holding a public meeting at video conference sites across the state on Oct. 15, from 2 to 4 p.m. Central Time, to review the transition plan the state has drafted to comply with federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services requirements for home and community-based services for people who are elderly or disabled. The requirements are intended to provide people receiving Medicaid waiver services with choices about service settings so they can enjoy the benefits of living, working, and participating in their communities.

The federal rule applies to Medicaid-funded home and community-based services. It may affect some services currently provided to people enrolled in North Dakota Medicaid waiver programs. The department's Developmental Disabilities Division and Medical Services Division are leading the meeting, which is also the public's first opportunity to comment on the draft transition plan.

The meeting will be held Wednesday, Oct. 15 at these locations:

- **Bismarck:** Prairie Hills Plaza location, 1237 W. Divide Ave., Prairie Rose Room (enter from Door 2)
- **Devils Lake:** Job Service North Dakota, 301 College Dr. S., Room 2
- **Dickinson:** Badlands Human Service Center, 300 13th Ave. W., Basement Staff Conference Room (*1-3 p.m. Mountain Time*)
- **Fargo:** Southeast Human Service Center, 2624 Ninth Ave. S., Cass East Room
- **Grafton:** Life Skills Transition Center, 701 W. Sixth St., Conference Center West
- **Grand Forks:** Northeast Human Service Center, 151 S. Fourth St., Room 5E
- **Jamestown:** South Central Human Service Center, 520 Third St. N.W., Room 124
- **Minot:** North Central Human Service Center, 1015 S. Broadway, Room 411
- **Williston:** Northwest Human Service Center, 316 2nd Ave. W., Room A 200

Individuals unable to attend at a video conference site can participate by telephone and should call 701-328-7950 and provide this participant passcode: 728168.

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The agenda includes a brief overview of the federal rule, a review of North Dakota's Medicaid waivers, and a summary of the potential impact on existing services. Presenters will also review the draft statewide transition plan and describe the next steps in transition planning. The department will also accept public comments.

Individuals who need special accommodations to participate should contact Colette Perkins at 1-800-755-8529 or ND Relay TTY 711, or cperkins@nd.gov.

Public Comments Sought

On Oct. 15, the department will post the draft statewide transition plan online at <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/medical.html> and will accept public comments through Nov. 14, 2014, at 5 p.m.

Please send comments to Karen Tescher, North Dakota Department of Human Services – Medical Services Division, 600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 325, Bismarck, N.D. 58505-0250, fax 701-328-1544, email dhshcbs@nd.gov.

The department encourages older adults and people with disabilities who are receiving services and other interested persons to comment on the draft plan. Staff review and consider all comments submitted. Comments may help shape the state's final transition plan.

The department must submit the final state transition plan to the federal government by Nov. 28. All states with Medicaid waivers for home and community-based services are required to submit transition plans and will have a period of time to implement any needed changes.

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