

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For more information, contact: LuWanna Lawrence at 701-328-1892 or Heather Steffl at 701-328-4933

Gov. Dalrymple Proclaims April as Child Abuse Prevention Month

Events Aim to Educate and Engage Communities About Child Abuse Prevention

Bismarck, N.D. – The N.D. Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division and Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota have awarded grant funding to 21 North Dakota coalitions for projects to help educate parents, grandparents, community members, teachers, and others about the importance of creating a healthy, safe, and nurturing environment that can prevent child abuse and neglect.

Coalitions receiving funding include Bismarck Prevention Task Force, **Bismarck**; Golden Valley and Billings County Social Services, **Beach**; Bowman and Slope County Social Services, **Bowman**; Burke and Renville County Social Services, **Bowbells** and **Mohall**; Foster, Eddy, and Wells County Social Services, **Carrington**, **New Rockford**, and **Fessenden**; Grant County Social Services, **Carson**; Divide County Social Services, **Crosby**; West Dakota Parent and Family Resource Center, **Dickinson**; Red River Children's Advocacy Center, **Fargo**; Steele County Social Services, **Finley**; Northeast Human Service Center, **Grand Forks**; Dunn County Social Services, **Killdeer**; Region 3 Parent Resource Center, **Langdon**; Ransom and Sargent County Social Services, **Lisbon** and **Forman**; North Dakota State University Extension Service and Morton County, **Mandan**; Mayville State University Child Development Program, **Mayville**; Boys and Girls Club of Three Affiliated Tribes, **New Town**; Kidder County Social Services, **Steele**; Region 6 Parent Resource Center, **Valley City**; McKenzie County Social Services, **Watford City**, and Northwest Human Service Center and Region 1 Parent Resource Center, **Williston**.

"April is the time to recognize the important role that communities, both large and small, play in protecting the health, safety, and well-being of children," said Shari Doe, director of the N.D. Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division.

Each participating community coalition uses the funding to coordinate special educational events and projects this month including parenting classes and fairs, conferences, walks, in-school activities, and other family-oriented activities.

Some community activities include:

Bismarck

- Race to Zero: 5K Run/Walk, Sat., April 12, 8 a.m. registration/9 a.m. race, Shiloh Christian School, 1915 Shiloh Dr.

Bowman

- Nurturing Heart Approach® Parenting Workshops, April 15, 29, May 6 and 13, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (Mountain Time), Tot Lot Childcare, 602 First St. SW.

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Crosby

- Community Walk, Fri., April 25, 2 p.m., North Main St.

Fargo

- 5K Walk with Courage, Wed., April 30, 5 to 6:30 p.m., Scheels Arena, 5225 31st Ave. S.

Grand Forks

- Hands-On Learning Fair, Sat., April 26, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Purpur Arena, 1122 Seventh Ave. S.

Harvey

- 5K and Fun Run, Sat., April 26, 10 a.m., Harvey High School, 200 N. St. E.

Williston

- Kids Day Out, Sat., April 12, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Williston's A.R.C. Building, 822 18th St. E.

A full calendar of events is online at www.pcand.org.

“Each year, it is exciting to see more and more local partners, organizations, and businesses come together to educate citizens about child abuse prevention, positive parenting practices, and to develop support systems within their communities,” said Tim Hathaway, executive director of Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota.

The N.D. Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division supports and funds numerous statewide child abuse and neglect prevention programs and activities in collaboration with Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota, North Dakota State University Extension Service, and other public and private partners.

If individuals suspect a child is being abused or neglected, they should call their county social services office. County information is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/countysocialserv/. The 53 county social services offices serve as the department's authorized agents for child protection services. If a child is in immediate danger, individuals should contact law enforcement.

The Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation is online at <http://governor.nd.gov/media-center/proclamation/child-abuse-prevention-month-1>.

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