

**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: Heather Steffl at 701-328-4933 or LuWanna Lawrence at 701-328-1892

**N.D. Aging Services Division to hold public hearing in Belcourt**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The N.D. Department of Human Services' Aging Services Division is holding a public hearing on Tuesday, May 13, in Belcourt, N.D., to gather comments about programs and services that help elders and adults with physical disabilities remain living in their homes and communities. The public is invited to participate in the hearing at 12:30 p.m. at the Turtle Mountain Retirement Home, Highway 5 and St. Ann's Road in Belcourt.

Comments will help the agency identify the priorities and services the state supports with federal Older Americans Act (OAA) funds. In federal fiscal year 2013, programs funded by the OAA served about 23,300 North Dakotans age 60 and older including 108 elders from the Turtle Mountain reservation. Turtle Mountain elders mainly benefitted from senior meals and tribal home visits that help connect elders to needed available services. The Aging Services Division has a contract with the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa to provide these services.

The Aging Services Division also funds these statewide services that are available to elders: the toll-free information phone line 855-GO2-LINK (855-462-5465) and website, senior legal assistance, assistive safety devices like grab bars and seat lifts, senior employment and training, and dementia care services. The department has a memorandum of understanding about protective services for vulnerable adults. Older Americans Act Title VI funds are received directly by the tribe and used to provide home-delivered meals and family caregiver support services.

Public hearing sites are accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who need auxiliary aids to participate or who have questions should call the department's Aging and Disability Resource LINK toll free at 855-GO2-LINK (855-462-5465) or ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888.

Individuals unable to attend the public hearing can submit written comments by May 15, 2014, to the N.D. Department of Human Services' Aging Services Division at 1237 W. Divide Ave., Suite 6, Bismarck, ND 58501.

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