

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 14, 2014**

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

N.D. Mental Health and Substance Abuse Planning Council holds meeting July 23-24 in Bismarck

BISMARCK, N.D. – The N.D. Mental Health and Substance Abuse Planning Council responsible for planning and monitoring mental health and substance abuse treatment services and supports in the state will meet July 23-24, 2014, at the Comfort Inn of Bismarck.

Planning council members will discuss behavioral health needs in the state, as well as strategies to enhance tobacco dependence treatment for people diagnosed with a serious mental illness or substance use disorder. The N.D. Department of Human Services' Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services will give a division report and a presentation on the state's substance abuse prevention system.

The meeting agenda also includes a report from the Consumer and Family Network, updates on the Medicaid Expansion, recovery centers, and the council's website and strategic plan, and the development of a letter to the department about the budget. The agenda includes time for public comment, and council leadership and membership matters, too. The complete agenda is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html.

The council meets quarterly and consists of about 30 people appointed by the governor. Members include representatives from state agencies, county social services, public and private service providers, advocates, and consumers of mental health and substance abuse treatment services, and their families.

For information about the council, contact Lauren Sauer, Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, N.D. Department of Human Services, at 701-328-8920, Toll-free 800-755-2719, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888, or lsauer@nd.gov.

###