

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 East Boulevard Avenue – Department 325, Bismarck ND 58505-0250**

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Coalition working to prevent abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults in West Central N.D. to meet Sept. 5 in Bismarck

BISMARCK, N.D. – The West Central Vulnerable Adult Coalition, which is co-chaired by representatives from the N.D. Department of Human Services and the N.D. Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division, will meet Friday, Sept. 5, 2014, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at West Central Human Service Center, 1237 W. Divide Ave., in Bismarck. Participants should enter through Door 4 that faces Schafer Street. The meeting is open to the public.

“Our goal is to collaborate and to educate people in our region so that we can prevent and effectively address abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of vulnerable adults,” said coalition co-chair Katie Schafer of the N.D. Department of Human Services' West Central Human Service Center.

Coalition members will discuss committee assignments and membership, will review planned programming and speakers, and will receive a report on the coalition's Elder Abuse Awareness Day activities held in June. Tiffany Krinke will give a presentation on the Northland Care Coordination for Seniors program. The agenda also includes updates from member agencies and committees. An agenda is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html.

Schafer said coalition partners include representatives from state agencies, financial institutions, social service providers, legal services, law enforcement, medical and public health providers, veteran's organizations, and direct service providers.

The West Central Vulnerable Adult Coalition was created in 2009 under the leadership of West Central Human Service Center with grant funding from the National Center on Elder Abuse. The coalition works closely with law enforcement and other agencies to address challenging issues facing many vulnerable adults, has established a speakers bureau, and continues to identify ways to prevent and address abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of vulnerable adults.

To report suspected abuse or neglect of vulnerable adults, go online to <https://fw2.harmonyis.net/NDLiveIntake/>. People who prefer to make a report by phone can find contact information and more details on the Department of Human Services' website at www.nd.gov/dhs/services/adultsaging/reporting.html.

For more information about the coalition, contact Schafer at 701-328-8787, toll free 888-328-2112, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888, or khschafer@nd.gov.

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