

# **NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services**

## **600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Sept. 10, 2014**

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

### **Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force to Meet September 22**

BISMARCK, N.D. - North Dakota's Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force will meet Monday, Sept. 22, 2014, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Central Time) using nine video conference-equipped meeting sites across the state.

Advocates, parents, the public, and other interested individuals are invited to participate in the meeting from these locations:

- **Bismarck** – West Central Human Service Center, 1237 W. Divide Ave., Door 4 (entrance off Schafer Street), Conference Room 1
- **Devils Lake** – Lake Region Human Service Center, 200 Hwy 2 S.W., East Conference Room
- **Dickinson** – Badlands Human Service Center, 300 13th Ave. W., Ste 1, Basement General Staff Conference Room
- **Fargo** – Southeast Human Service Center, 2624 9th Ave. S., Red River Room
- **Grand Forks** – Northeast Human Service Center, 151 S. Fourth St., Ste 401, Meeting Room 5E
- **Jamestown** – South Central Human Service Center, 520 Third St. N.W., Meeting Rooms 124-126
- **Minot (two meeting locations)** – North Central Human Service Center, 1015 S. Broadway, Ste 18, Conference Room 411 and Minot State University, 500 University Ave. W., Memorial Hall, Room 207
- **Williston** – Northwest Human Service Center, 316 Second Ave. W., Conference Room B200

Agenda items include updates on the Consensus Council's Autism Group and the autism survey status. The N.D. Department of Health will provide an update on the Autism registry, and the N.D. Department of Human Services will give an update on the Autism waiver, voucher program, autism training, and website. The N.D. Department of Public Instruction will provide an update on education related to children with autism and training for parents and educators. Task force members will review and continue to work on the Autism Plan development efforts. An agenda is online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html). More information on autism-related activities is on the Web at [www.nd.gov/dhs/autism](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/autism).

Individuals with disabilities who need accommodations can contact Julie Huwe at 701-328-8920, toll free 800-755-2719, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888, or [jhuwe@nd.gov](mailto:jhuwe@nd.gov).

The task force was created by the legislature in 2009 to examine early intervention and family support services for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders to help them remain in their homes and communities. Task force members are appointed by the governor and include representatives from the mental health profession, developmental disabilities system, and state agencies; legislators, educators, and family members of persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders. JoAnne Hoesel, director of the N.D. Department of Human Services' Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division, chairs the task force. Task Force information is online at [www.governor.nd.gov/boards/boards-query.asp?Board\\_ID=159](http://www.governor.nd.gov/boards/boards-query.asp?Board_ID=159).

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