

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Marihart named Director of Aging Services Division

BISMARCK, N.D. – The N.D. Department of Human Services has hired Cindy Marihart as director of its Aging Services Division, which provides services and funds programs to improve quality of life and help older adults and adults with physical disabilities to live independently in their homes and communities. This includes providing respite and support to family caregivers, protecting vulnerable adults from exploitation, abuse, and neglect, advocating for residents of long-term care facilities to help them resolve concerns, and providing resources for the Senior Community Service Employment Program, senior meals, health screening services, guardianship services, telecommunications and other assistive equipment, dementia care, and other needs.

Marihart has worked in the social services field for over 25 years. Most recently she worked as the director of the Mahnomon County Human Services Department in Minnesota. That agency administers public assistance programs, child welfare, adult protective services, Medicaid waiver services, senior meals, transit, mental health services, substance abuse aftercare, and other services. Marihart also previously worked as a social worker, supervisor, administrator, and social service office manager in New Mexico.

“Cindy has extensive experience providing services at the local level and is interested in the changes people encounter as they age and their impact on individuals and society. We look forward to her applying that knowledge to Aging Services’ policies and programs,” said Department of Human Services Executive Director Maggie Anderson.

“I enjoy working with seniors and worked with meal program contracts serving a five-county area while in Minnesota,” Marihart said. “The older population is diverse. Baby boomers have different expectations, so this is a very exciting time for Aging Services.”

Marihart is completing a doctorate degree in human development with an emphasis in gerontology at North Dakota State University. She has a master’s degree in organizational and industrial psychology from the University of West Florida and a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

For information about aging services in North Dakota, contact the Aging and Disability Resource LINK toll-free at 855-462-5465 or 855-GO2LINK, email carechoice@nd.gov, or go online to search a database of services and programs at www.carechoice.nd.gov.

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