

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 30, 2015**

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

State Mental Health and Substance Abuse Planning Council will meet April 16-17 in Bismarck

BISMARCK, N.D. – the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Planning Council will meet April 16-17 at the Comfort Inn, 1030 E. Interstate Ave., in Bismarck. The council monitors, plans, and advises the state on behavioral health services.

The meeting is scheduled from 1 to 5 p.m. on April 16, and from 8 a.m. to noon, Central Time, on April 17. The public is welcome to attend.

The council's agenda includes updates on legislative developments and recovery center activities, and an overview of the public substance abuse treatment system. The Department of Human Services' (DHS) Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services will give a report, and other staff members will provide information about the state's Medicaid Expansion and Autism Voucher Program. Other business will be conducted. The complete agenda is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html.

Individuals with disabilities who need accommodations to participate in the meeting can contact Julie Huwe at 701-328-8920, toll-free 800-755-2719, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888, or jhuwe@nd.gov.

About 30 people who are appointed by the governor serve on the council. They include people who have first-hand knowledge of mental health and substance abuse treatment services, their family members, other advocates, and representatives from state agencies, county social services, and public and private service providers.

For council information, go to www.nd.gov/dhs/services/mentalhealth/ndmhpc/index.html, or contact Lauren Sauer, DHS - Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, at 701-328-8920, toll-free 800-755-2719, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888, or lsauer@nd.gov.

###