

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 13, 2015**

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

## **Council on Developmental Disabilities hosts community self-advocacy meetings in April and May**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota State Council on Developmental Disabilities, which promotes independence, inclusion, and opportunities for people with developmental disabilities, is hosting community conversation meetings about self-advocacy in nine North Dakota cities between April 15 and May 21, 2015.

Council executive director Cheryl Hess said people with developmental disabilities, their family members, and advocacy organizations are encouraged to attend to learn how they can have a voice in shaping the service delivery system and in assuring that people have choices and access to employment and other opportunities to live and actively participate in their communities.

“We want to engage people in conversations about issues that concern them, to collect information from participants about any unmet needs or gaps in services, and to encourage people to become part of the new North Dakota Self-advocacy Network,” Hess said.

Community meetings will be held at these locations on these dates:

- **Bismarck – April 15**, 3-5 p.m., Bismarck Public Library, 515 N. Fifth St.
- **Dickinson – April 21**, 2-4 p.m., Dickinson Public Library, 139 Third St. W.
- **Fargo – May 5**, 3-5 p.m., Fargo Public Library, 102 N. Third St.
- **Jamestown – May 5**, 10 a.m.-noon, Alfred Dickey Public Library, 105 Third St. S.E.
- **Grand Forks – May 12**, 4-6 p.m., Northeast Human Service Center, Room 5A and 5B, 151 S. Fourth St.
- **Devils Lake – May 13**, 2-4 p.m., Lake Region Human Service Center’s Vocational Rehabilitation Office, 200 Highway 2 W.
- **Grafton – May 13**, 10 a.m.-noon, Carnegie Regional Library, 630 Griggs Ave.
- **Williston – May 20**, 1-3 p.m., Williston Community Library, 302 Davidson Dr., and
- **Minot – May 21**, 1-3 p.m., Minot Public Library, 516 Second Ave. S.W.

Meeting details are online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html).

Individuals with disabilities who need accommodations to participate fully in a meeting or who would like more information can contact Cheryl Hess at 701-328-4847, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888, or [chess@nd.gov](mailto:chess@nd.gov). Council information is online at [www.ndcpd.org/SCDD/](http://www.ndcpd.org/SCDD/).

###