

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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Department names Sagness director of newly named Behavioral Health Division

BISMARCK, N.D. – N.D. Department of Human Services Executive Director Maggie Anderson today announced that Pamela Sagness has been named the department's Behavioral Health Division Director.

The Behavioral Health Division, previously known as the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, is developing an integrated, comprehensive division that includes substance abuse prevention, substance abuse treatment, and mental health administration.

“Pam’s experience collaborating with stakeholders and developing comprehensive plans will ensure the Department is responsive to the behavioral health needs of North Dakotans,” Anderson said.

Sagness has more than 15 years of experience in the behavioral health field in both the private and public sectors. She worked for the department for 13 years serving as a behavioral health clinician, prevention administrator, and most recently as the division’s substance abuse lead. She is a native of Bowbells, N.D.

The Behavioral Health Division provides leadership for the planning, development, and oversight of the state’s behavioral health system. The division has 19 staff members who work with partners within the department and the state behavioral health community to improve access to services, address behavioral health workforce needs, develop policy, and ensure quality services are available for those with behavioral health needs.

Division information is available online at www.nd.gov/dhs/services/mentalhealth or by contacting the division at 701-328-8920, in-state toll-free 800-755-2719, or dhsmhsas@nd.gov.

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