

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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N.D. Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force to meet May 4

BISMARCK, N.D. - North Dakota's Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force will meet Monday, May 4, 2015, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Central Time, to discuss developments in the provision of services for people with autism spectrum disorders and their families. The meeting will originate from the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Prairie Hills Plaza location at 1237 W. Divide Ave., Suite 1B, in Bismarck, and will connect with attendees at nine video conference sites across the state. Bismarck attendees should enter through Door #2.

Advocates, parents, the public, and other interested individuals are invited to participate at these additional sites:

- **Devils Lake:** Lake Region Human Service Center, 200 Hwy 2 W., North Meeting Room;
- **Dickinson:** Badlands Human Service Center, 300 13th Ave. W, basement meeting room;
- **Fargo:** Southeast Human Service Center, 2624 Ninth Ave. S., Red River Room;
- **Grafton:** Life Skills and Transition Center, 701 W. Sixth St., West Conference Center;
- **Grand Forks:** Northeast Human Service Center, 151 S. Fourth St., Suite 401, Room 5E;
- **Jamestown:** South Central Human Service Center, 520 Third St. N.W., Room 317;
- **Minot:** North Central Human Service Center, 1015 S. Broadway, Suite 18, Room 411, and Minot State University - North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities, Memorial Hall, Room 207; and
- **Williston:** Northwest Human Service Center, 316 Second Ave. W., Room B200.

At the meeting, new task force members will introduce themselves, and members will discuss legislative action and the National Autism Leadership Collaborative's collective impact quality indicators. Representatives from the Department of Health and the Department of Public Instruction will provide updates. Representatives from the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Developmental Disabilities Division and Autism Services Division will report on activities and new developments.

Individual task force members will have an opportunity to provide updates, and members of the public may comment on autism-related issues. Other business may be discussed. A 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 Paula Hinton at 701-328-8912, toll-free 800-755-2719, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888, or phinton@nd.gov.

The legislature created the task force 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 more information is online at <http://governor.nd.gov/boards/BoardDetails.aspx?boardid=131>.

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