

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services  
600 East Boulevard Avenue – Department 325, Bismarck ND 58505-0250**

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## **Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota to offer domestic violence treatment in the Minot region**

BISMARCK, N.D. – Beginning July 7, 2015, Lutheran Social Services will begin providing domestic violence treatment services to individuals previously served by the North Dakota Department of Human Services' North Central Human Service Center (NCHSC) in Minot.

The change in providers affects about 25 men. Many were referred to the men's nonviolence program by the courts.

The center and nonprofit agency held informational meetings for affected individuals in late May.

"Lutheran Social Services has expertise in this area, and we are pleased that the community will continue to have access to an important service," said North Central's Regional Director Laurie Gotvaslee.

She said the regional human service center will refocus its clinical resources on core services, while continuing to provide treatment services to victims of domestic violence and continuing to offer a small treatment group for female batterers.

According to Gotvaslee, demand for services has grown along with the population, while the number of staff trained and available to provide the specialized evidence-based treatment program for male perpetrators has remained at two.

Dennis Larkin, program director for Lutheran Social Services Violence Free, said they use the same evidence-based treatment program.

"At Lutheran Social Services Violence Free, we hold batterers accountable by providing an opportunity, through group treatment, to change their belief systems for safety and respect in their significant partner relationships," he said.

Lutheran Social Services is hiring two treatment group facilitators to serve the Minot region. The private, non-profit social service agency has provided similar domestic violence treatment services in Bismarck for 15 years and in Williston for 3 years.

For information about Lutheran Social Services Violence Free treatment program, contact Larkin at 701-223-1510.

Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota provides affordable housing, food, disaster response, care for seniors, support for child care workers, and counseling and therapy. The nonprofit serves people without regard to race, religion, gender or economic status. Information is online at [www.lssnd.org/](http://www.lssnd.org/).

NCHSC provides counseling and other mental health services, substance abuse treatment and related services, developmental disabilities program management, and other human services directly or through partnerships with county social services and other providers. Information about core services and the center is online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/regionalhsc/](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/regionalhsc/).

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