

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Northwest Human Service Center regional advisory group will meet Aug. 5 in Williston

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Northwest Human Service Center regional advisory group is meeting Aug. 5, 2015, from 12 to 1 p.m., at the center at 316 Second Ave. W. in Williston. The meeting is open to the public.

Regional center director Laurie Gotvaslee will report on operations, the budget, and staffing. Clinical director Tammy Ness will give a presentation on Open Access – a new initiative to reduce client wait times and missed appointments and to improve access to behavioral health services at regional human service centers in Williston and Minot.

Advisory group members will have an opportunity to share information about local needs and to make recommendations for planning, funding, and the provision of human services in the three-county region. The full agenda is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html.

Individuals who need accommodations to participate in the meeting can contact Kristy Green at 701-774-4600, toll-free 800-231-7724, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888, or kgreen@nd.gov.

The center's regional advisory group includes representatives from Divide, McKenzie, and Williams counties.

Northwest Human Service Center employs about 40 individuals. More information about the center is on the Web at www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/regionalhsc/northwest/index.html.

North Dakota's eight regional human service centers provide behavioral health services and other human services directly or through partnerships with county social services and other providers. While services may vary based on unique regional needs and available community resources, core services provided are described online at www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/regionalhsc/docs/hsc-core-services.pdf.

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