

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 27, 2016**

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE UPDATE: 12:56 p.m., Dec. 27

West Central Human Service Center and other adjacent Department of Human Services' offices temporarily close to clients due to ventilation issues

BISMARCK, ND – Shortly after noon today, the North Dakota Department of Human Services temporarily closed its West Central Human Service Center and division offices at 1237 W. Divide Ave., in Bismarck, to clients while a heating and ventilation issue is resolved. Evening group sessions are also canceled.

The center and offices had only been open for a couple of hours because state government offices in Bismarck delayed opening this morning until 10 a.m. following the Christmas storm and snow removal operations.

Department employees already at work at the office complex should report to work at the department's offices in the Capitol.

The center's 24-hour client crisis line remains available at 888-328-2112.

The department expects to be able to reopen West Central and its adjacent agency offices tomorrow during regular business hours.

Montana-Dakota Utilities and the landlord are on site assessing the situation and monitoring air quality. Repairs were completed on a faulty air-handling system on the east side of the building on Dec. 5.

WCHSC employs about 136 people and serves residents of Burleigh, Emmons, Grant, Kidder, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sheridan and Sioux counties. Services include community-based behavioral health services, program management for people with developmental disabilities, aging services, and other services.

Central office divisions affected by the temporary closure include Aging Services, Developmental Disability Services, Behavioral Health, the Prevention Resource Center and Vocational Rehabilitation.

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