

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Stakeholder group that provides guidance on helping people transition from institutional care to community living to meet March 10 in Bismarck

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Medical Services Division is holding a Money Follows the Person grant stakeholder meeting on Thursday, March 10, 2016, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Brynhild Haugland Room at the State Capitol. The public is welcome to attend.

Stakeholders act in an advisory capacity to the department and receive quarterly updates on grant activities, which are focused on community-based services for individuals. Grant funds help eligible older adults and people with disabilities who want to move from a nursing home or other facility to a community setting like an apartment, a family member's home, or other type of living arrangement with supportive services.

Agenda items include a review of the Money Follows the Person Sustainability Plan for 2016-2020, housing incentive fund initiative, workforce development effort, and transition data. There will be an update from Life Skills and Transition Center staff and a review of priorities and long-term goals for system change. Discussion is also planned on the recent technical assistance visit by the Human Services Research Institute and the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services on behavioral health planning for children and adults. A complete agenda is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html.

Individuals who need accommodations to participate in the meeting can contact Jacob Reuter at 701-328-2321, toll free 800-755-2604, Relay ND TTY 800-366-6888, or jwreuter@nd.gov.

The federal government awarded the North Dakota Department of Human Services an \$8.9 million Money Follows the Person grant in 2007. Medicaid clients who are elderly or have physical or other disabilities and who live in nursing homes, the Life Skills and Transition Center or other institutions may qualify for transition services. Participation is voluntary.

Since transitions began in 2008, 300 individuals have transitioned to community settings.

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