

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services  
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Bismarck ND 58505**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force to meet March 21**

BISMARCK, N.D. – North Dakota’s Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force will meet Monday, March 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. CDT, in Bismarck and via video conference sites across the state to discuss developments in services for children with autism spectrum disorders and their families.

The meeting is open to the public and will originate from the North Dakota Department of Human Services’ Prairie Hills Plaza location at 1237 W. Divide Ave., Suite 1B, in Bismarck. Bismarck participants should enter the building through Door #2.

Advocates, parents, and other interested individuals can also participate at these remote sites:

- **Devils Lake:** Lake Region Human Service Center, 200 Hwy 2 W., North Meeting Room;
- **Dickinson:** Regional Vocational Rehabilitation Office 1674 15th St. W., Unit E;
- **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, Memorial Hall, 500 University Ave. W., Room 207; and
- **Williston:** Northwest Human Service Center, 316 Second Ave. W., Room B200.

At the meeting, members will review progress toward goals outlined on the National Autism Leadership Collaborative’s collective impact quality indicators. Department of Health representatives will provide updates on the database and diagnostic clinics.

A representative from the North Dakota Insurance Department will share information about insurance mandates. The North Dakota Protection and Advocacy Project will share information about seclusion and restraint in schools.

Representatives from multiple Department of Human Services divisions will provide updates. The Autism Services Unit of the department’s Medical Services Division will report on the Medicaid waiver, Medicaid State Plan amendment, voucher program, training, and fall conference.

Task force members will also have an opportunity to provide updates. Members of the public can comment on autism-related issues during a designated public comment period from 12 to 12:30 p.m. A complete agenda is online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html).

People with disabilities who need accommodations, including auxiliary aids, 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 [dhsautism@nd.gov](mailto:dhsautism@nd.gov).

The legislature created the task force in 2009, and members are appointed by the governor. Task force information is online at <http://governor.nd.gov/boards/BoardDetails.aspx?boardid=131>.

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