

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Department 325, Bismarck, N.D., 58505-0250**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Human Service Center Advisory Group to meet April 12 in Bismarck

BISMARCK, N.D. – Community representatives from the 10 counties served by West Central Human Service Center will meet April 12, from 1 to 3 p.m., CT, at 1237 W. Divide Ave., in Bismarck. The public is welcome to attend the meeting in the Morton Room and should enter through Door 4 from Schafer Street.

Center Director Sandy Thompson will provide updates on the regional behavioral health center's operations and staffing. Tom Schiwal, director of the Bismarck regional vocational rehabilitation (VR) office, will share information about VR's rapid retention program, which can help businesses retain employees who experience a permanent disability. Assistance can range from work site assessments to affordable accommodation ideas and assistive technology suggestions.

Advisory group members will have an opportunity to provide regional updates. The meeting agenda is available on the Web at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html.

Individuals with disabilities who need accommodations to participate in the meeting can contact Peggy Krein at 701-328-8742, toll-free 888-328-2662, Relay ND TTY 800-366-6888, or pjkrein@nd.gov.

The regional human service center in Bismarck serves residents of Burleigh, Emmons, Grant, Kidder, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sheridan, and Sioux counties, the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, and part of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation.

North Dakota's eight regional human service centers provide behavioral health services for people with mental health or substance addiction needs, disability-related services, and other human services directly or through partnerships with county social services and other providers. While services provided by the regional centers vary based on local needs and available community resources, core services are listed online at www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/regionalhsc/docs/hsc-core-services.pdf.

For information about West Central Human Service Center, call 701-328-8888, toll-free 888-328-2662, or go online to www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/regionalhsc/westcentral/index.html.

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