

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Events Engage Communities and Build Awareness about Child Abuse Prevention

Bismarck, N.D. – April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division and Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota are partnering to award grant funding to 19 coalitions representing 43 counties for projects that strengthen communities and build awareness about child abuse prevention.

Coalitions receiving grant funding include Billings County Social Services, **Medora**; Bowman and Slope County Social Services, **Bowman**; Cass County Social Services - Red River Children's Advocacy Center, **Fargo**; Central Valley Health District, **Jamestown**; Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota, **Bismarck**; Divide County Social Services, **Crosby**; Eddy, Foster, and Wells County Social Services, **Carrington, New Rockford, and Fessenden**; Golden Valley Social Services, **Beach**; Kidder County Social Services, **Steele**; LaMoure County Social Services, **LaMoure**; Mountrail County Social Services, **Stanley**; NDSU Extension Service - Morton County, **Mandan**; Region 2 Parent Resource Center - NDSU Extension Service, **Minot**; Region 3 Parent Resource Center - NDSU Extension Service, **Langdon**; Region 4 Parent Resource Center - NDSU Extension Service, **Grand Forks**; Region 6 Parent Resource Center - NDSU Extension Service, **Valley City**; Steele County Social Services, **Finley**; West Dakota Parent and Family Resource Center, **Dickinson**; and Williams County Social Services, **Williston**.

During April, each participating community coalition will use the grant funding to coordinate educational events and projects including parenting classes and hands-on learning fairs, conferences, walks, blue ribbon displays, mandated reporter trainings, in-school activities, and other family-oriented activities.

"April is a time to recognize the important role that North Dakota communities play in protecting children and strengthening families," said Shari Doe, director of the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division. "When communities both big and small come together to show support for families, it can have a powerful impact on preventing child abuse and neglect."

Some community activities include:

Bismarck

- Parenting Fair, Saturday, April 23, 9 a.m. to noon, Kirkwood Mall (north entrance by children's play area).

Crosby

- Community movie night featuring *Paper Tigers*, a documentary on adverse childhood experiences and its impact on learning, Thursday, April 28, 6:30 p.m., Dakota Theatre, 219 Main St. N.

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Fessenden

- Fifth Annual Pinwheels for Prevention 5K Run/Walk, Saturday, April 23, 8:30 a.m., Wells County Fairgrounds.

Grand Forks

- Hands-on Learning Fair with fun educational activities for children ages birth to seven and their families, Saturday, April 16, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Purpur Arena, 1122 Seventh Ave. S.

Minot

- Presentation for parents “Grit: What It Is, Why Kids Need It and How to Get It,” featuring Dr. David Walsh, award-winning psychologist, author, and speaker, Thursday, April 28, 2016, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Grand Hotel, 1505 N. Broadway.

Valley City

- 5K Super Hero Fun Walk, Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m., Pioneer Park, 800 Fourth St. N.W.
- Children’s concert featuring Valley City resident Joe DeMasi, Tuesday, April 26, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., The Vault, 233 Central Ave. N.

Devils Lake

- Children’s Safety and Learning Fair, Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m. to Noon, Burdick Arena, 501 16th St. N.W.

Williston

- Kids Day Out Fair, Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m. to noon, Raymond Family Community Center, 1002 11th St. W.

A full calendar of events is online at www.pcand.org.

“Children need safety, comfort, and opportunities to learn, grown, and thrive,” said Sandy Tibke, executive director of Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota. “Events like these focus on building healthy communities, healthy families, and healthy kids, which are key in preventing child abuse and neglect.”

The Department of Human Services’ Children and Family Services Division supports and funds numerous statewide child abuse and neglect prevention programs and activities in collaboration with Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota, NDSU Extension Service’s - Parent Resource Centers, and other public and private partners.

If individuals suspect a child is being abused or neglected, they should call their county social services office. County information is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/countysocialserv/. County social service offices serve as the department’s authorized agents for child protection services. If a child is in immediate danger, individuals should contact law enforcement.

The Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childfamily.