

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 325, Bismarck, ND 58505**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 13, 2016**

For more information, contact Heather Steffl at 701-328-4933 or LuWanna Lawrence at 701-328-1892.

Independent Living Centers host meeting on new plan for providing services

BISMARCK, N.D. – The Statewide Independent Living Council and the North Dakota Department of Human Services Division of Vocational Rehabilitation are holding a community meeting Tuesday, May 17, from 2 to 3 p.m., CT, to review a new plan for providing independent living services.

The public meeting will be held at the four independent living centers that serve North Dakota.

Meeting locations include:

- Independence, Inc., at 2000 E. Burdick Expressway, Suite C, in Minot;
- Options Resource Center for Independent Living at 318 Third St. N.W., in East Grand Forks, Minn.;
- Freedom Resource Center for Independent Living at 2701 Ninth Ave. S., Suite H, in Fargo; and
- Dakota Center for Independent Living at 3111 E. Broadway Ave., in Bismarck.

At the meeting, center and department staffs will review the draft 2017-2019 State Plan that will guide the provision of services, promote statewide collaboration, and outline how federal and state funding will support services.

The draft plan is available to review at www.nd.gov/dhs/dvr/docs/2017-2019-draft-state-plan-for-indep-living-revised-4-29-2016.pdf or by contacting Rebecca Haas at 701-328-8954, toll-free 800-755-2745, or ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888.

Individuals who need accommodations to participate in any of the meetings or who would like more information can contact Vicki Magill at the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation at 701-328-8953, toll-free 800-755-2745, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888, or vmagill@nd.gov.

Individuals can send written comments on the plan to Haas at the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation - North Dakota Department of Human Services, at 1237 W. Divide Ave., Suite 1B, Bismarck, ND 58501, or rlhaas@nd.gov.

Centers for independent living help train people in the skills they need to live independently such as cooking, using public transportation, and accessing services. They also offer peer support, advocate on behalf of individuals with disabilities, and provide information and referrals, as well as other services that meet local needs.

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