

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 13, 2016**

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

Stakeholder group that provides guidance on helping people transition from institutional care to community living to meet May 18 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 Wednesday, May 18, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Roughrider 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 types of living arrangements with supportive services.

Agenda items include updates on the Money Follows the Person grant 2016-2020 budget, workforce development efforts, and transition data. Discussion is also planned on supported housing, and a recap of the recent United States Department of Housing and Urban Development training session in Jamestown on regulations for public housing authorities.

There will be an update from Life Skills and Transition Center staff and a review of priorities and long-term goals for system change and new guidelines from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on the Money Follows the Person Quality of Life survey.

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, 316 individuals have transitioned to community settings.

###