

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 3, 2016**

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

Elder Abuse Awareness Day event planned for Linton on June 16

BISMARCK, N.D. – Abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of older adults happens – even in North Dakota, where family bonds are strong and elders are respected. The West Central Vulnerable Adults Coalition is sponsoring an event in Linton, in conjunction with Elder Abuse Awareness Day to remind people that if you see something, report it.

On June 16, coalition members are sponsoring an event at 1 p.m. at the Linton Senior Center located at 203 S. Broadway. The event will include presentations from the North Dakota Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division, Vulnerable Adult Protective Services, and North Dakota Securities Department on how people can protect themselves from abuse, scams, and financial exploitation.

In addition to featured speakers, information will be available on resources for seniors such as in-home services, legal services, and assistive technology. Snacks and coffee will be served at the event, and participants will be able to register for door prizes.

The coalition created an informational pocket card with funding from AARP: “Abuse Hurts at Any Age... Recognize It, and Report It,” which is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/Info/pubs/docs/aging/elder-abuse-pocket-card.pdf.

The North Dakota Department of Human Services received about 1,700 calls on possible abuse, neglect, and exploitation last year according to Elder Rights Program Administrator Michelle Gayette.

“We know abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults is under-reported,” Gayette said. “That is why it is important that people know how to recognize it and how to report it.”

People who suspect an older adult is being abused or neglected can report it by calling toll-free 1-855-462-5465 (1-855-GO2-LINK) – select option 2. More information is available on the department’s website at www.nd.gov/dhs/services/adultsaging/reporting.html.

###