

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 24, 2016**

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Wheelchair Seating Program at Life Skills and Transition Center in Grafton Earns Accreditation

BISMARCK, N.D. - The North Dakota Department of Human Services Life Skills and Transition Center's (LSTC) Adaptive Equipment Services was awarded a three-year accreditation for its custom-molded wheelchair seating program by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) International.

This is the third consecutive, three-year CARF accreditation awarded to the LSTC Adaptive Equipment Services wheelchair seating program.

"This is a major accomplishment and honor for our program," said Karey Holm, director of Adaptive Equipment Services. "Our custom-molded wheelchair seating benefits people with complex medical conditions and physical disabilities who are unable to find appropriate seating solutions through commercial suppliers. Proper seating allows a person to sit safely and comfortably for longer periods of time, reducing sitting risks and resulting in greater participation in community activities and an enhanced quality of life."

CARF International is a nonprofit accreditor of health and human services organizations and programs. CARF accreditation is an official recognition that the custom-molded seating program is guided by internationally recognized service standards and best practices.

Holm said Adaptive Equipment Services supports people with disabilities and severe orthopedic impairments by providing assessment, custom fitting, and fabrication of molded seating devices that attach to wheelchair frames. They also offer an equipment loan program, modify and make customized devices, and provide consultation and outreach services statewide.

During the last state fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2016, the program provided services to about 200 people statewide.

For information about LSTC adaptive equipment services, contact Holm at 701-352-4552, toll free 1-800-252-4911, ND Relay TTY 1-800-366-6888, or klholm@nd.gov.

The LSTC is a state-operated comprehensive support agency for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The center provides residential services and supports to 56 adults and 18 youth on the campus and 12 people residing in off-campus apartments. It also provides vocational services and specialized outreach services, including behavioral and crisis evaluation and consultation to meet the unique needs and personal goals of individuals.

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