

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505**

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Agency helps train behavioral health providers to meet the needs of service members, veterans, and their families

BISMARCK, N.D. – North Dakota First Lady Kathryn Helgaas Burgum is joining the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Behavioral Health Division, and other partners in the ND Cares Coalition, as they welcome a select group of behavioral health professionals to Bismarck this week to participate in specialized training on the needs of service members, veterans and their families.

“Veteran’s represent about 10 percent of North Dakota’s adult population,” said Behavioral Health Division Director Pamela Sagness. “This training provides behavioral health providers from across the state an opportunity to learn about and provide high quality, evidence-based services to military members in their local communities.”

Sagness said the goal is to increase access to quality behavioral health treatment options, especially in rural areas, where service members may have fewer choices. The training is being offered to select, approved behavioral health providers, and includes two sessions taking place April 11-13 and May 9-10, at the Radisson Hotel, 605 E. Broadway Ave. in Bismarck.

On April 11, training focuses on military culture and deployments, and is also open to the general public. Space is available.

On April 12-13, participating providers will learn about challenges and difficulties often associated with military service that can affect service members and their families.

Providers attending the May 9-10 training will learn clinical skills that focus on specific evidence-based treatments to address some deployment-related behavioral health issues. These include post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries and suicide.

Sagness said the participating providers were selected based on their location, with priority given to providers serving rural areas, along with their credentials and ability to ensure access by being able to accept new clients.

Participating behavioral health professionals have committed to providing the specialized evidence-based services for three years.

The Behavioral Health Division will maintain a registry of *ND Cares Behavioral Health Providers* listing those providers who complete the training. This will make it easier to find quality programs, Sagness said.

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ND Cares Behavioral Health Training for providers begins this week – page 2

The ND Cares Coalition includes more than 45 military and civilian professionals dedicated to the support of North Dakota service members, veterans, families, and survivors. ND Cares is not a provider of services; it is dedicated to improving understanding of the needs and services required by service members, veterans, families and survivors. The purpose of ND Cares is to resolve barriers or gaps in services to ensure those serving and those who have served, their families, and survivors receive the care and assistance they need.

Individuals with disabilities who need accommodations to participate in the training can contact Julie Huwe at 701-328-8920, toll-free 800-755-2719, Relay ND TTY 800-366-6888, or jhuwe@nd.gov.

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