

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Stakeholder group that provides guidance on helping people transition from institutional care to community living to meet Aug. 15 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 Tuesday, Aug. 15, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Pioneer Room, located in the Judicial Wing of 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 focus on promoting community-based services for individuals with disabilities. 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 program transition data, supported housing efforts for older adults and people with disabilities, and the assessment of the publicly-funded behavioral health system. Stakeholders will discuss a plan for transition coordination services under the department's Medicaid waiver for Home and Community-Based Services.

The agenda also includes an update on the Money Follows the Person Tribal Initiative, an effort to assist the state and tribal nations by helping tribal elders and tribal members with disabilities to transition from institutions to community living. A representative from the Life Skills and Transition Center in Grafton will also provide an organizational update.

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, 388 individuals have transitioned to community settings.

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