

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

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Media contacts: Heather Steffl at 701-328-4933 or LuWanna Lawrence at 701-328-1892

Department hosts training on new payment system this month *Organizations serving people with developmental disabilities invited to attend*

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services is hosting training over the next two weeks at four locations so organizations that serve people with intellectual or developmental disabilities will understand the state's new payment system.

The Developmental Disabilities Services Division is conducting the training from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sept. 12 at the Heritage Center in **Bismarck**, Sept. 13 at the Grand Hotel in **Minot**, Sept. 19 at the Baymont Inn and Suites in **Fargo**, and on Sept. 20 at the Ramada in **Grand Forks**. Program coordinators who work for service providers and developmental disability program managers are encouraged to attend.

The department has been working with consultants, service providers, and the North Dakota Association of Community Providers to convert the state's retrospective, cost-based payment system to a prospective fee-for-service system. The new system featuring standardized rates by service type and staffing levels based on each client's unique needs is expected to be implemented next spring. The start date is contingent upon approval by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Trainers will review the history of the payment system project, service definitions, policies and processes to address outlier situations, other policies, overall service plan processes, implementation team meetings and timelines. The agenda includes time for questions.

During the 2016 state fiscal year, the state's developmental disabilities system served 7,168 adults with developmental disabilities and 2,842 children younger than age three who had or were at risk of developmental delays and disabilities.

Services are based on individual needs and include day supports, congregate care, transitional community living facility services, minimally supervised and individualized supported living arrangements, specialized placement, family care option services, intermediate care facility for the intellectually disabled services, and extended services.

In 2011, state lawmakers enacted Senate Bill 2043 directing the department to work with providers to develop a new payment system to replace the state's labor-intensive retrospective payment system. The current system pays after services are provided based in each provider's costs. It does not connect consumers' needs to funding and requires ongoing audits of providers in order to issue a final rate and collect cost settlements.

For more details about the training and Developmental Disabilities Division services, contact the division at 1-800-755-8529, TTY 800-366-6888, or cperkings@nd.gov.

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