

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 5, 2018**

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Human Services hosts substance abuse prevention training

BISMARCK, N.D. - The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Behavioral Health Division is hosting training Jan. 10-11 at the Quality Inn in Bismarck for over 20 community grantees who are implementing substance abuse prevention efforts to address local priorities including underage drinking, adult binge drinking and prescription drug abuse.

The Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America will train the participating local public health units and tribes on engaging coalition and community members, analyzing and interpreting data and implementing best practice strategies. The training also enables community representatives from across the state to come together and share their successes and discuss opportunities for collaboration.

"Effective prevention relies on the active involvement of multiple community partners working together to address complex problems," said department Prevention Administrator Laura Anderson.

Anderson said that over the past six years the agency has received and awarded federal discretionary funds to communities to help them develop local prevention infrastructure, and prevention efforts are producing results.

The percentage of North Dakota high school students who report having their first drink before age 13 has decreased from 32.3 percent in 1995 to 14.5 percent in 2017, she said. Current alcohol use among this age group has also fallen from 60.7 percent to 29.1 percent from 1995 to 2017.

For free resources and information about substance abuse prevention, visit the department's North Dakota Prevention Resource and Media Center at www.prevention.nd.gov.

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