

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services  
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Bismarck ND 58505**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Autism services to be discussed at Oct. 29 state task force meeting**

BISMARCK, N.D. – North Dakota’s Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force will meet Monday, Oct. 29, from 1 to 4:45 p.m. Central Time to discuss services and supports for people with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and their families.

The task force meeting is open to the public and will be held via conference call and video conference originating from the North Dakota Department of Human Services’ Prairie Hills Plaza site at 1237 W. Divide Ave. in Bismarck. Attendees should enter through door No. 2.

Department representatives will brief members on current participation rates in its autism spectrum disorder services and programs, related expenditures and the approval of the state’s Medicaid autism waiver renewal application. Task force work group representatives will provide updates on their efforts, including work on the state plan report to the governor and Legislative Council. Members may also discuss recommendations for legislation for the 2019 North Dakota legislative session.

The task force invited two guest presenters to share information about developments supporting programs and services for people with ASD. Cristine Deaver, an instructor at the University of North Dakota, will give a presentation on UND’s Applied Behavior Analysis/Board Certified Behavior Analyst program. Department of Human Services’ Vocational Rehabilitation Division representative Cheryl Hess will provide information about supporting employment of people with ASD.

The complete meeting agenda and video conference site details are available online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html). Individuals unable to attend at a video conference site can join by conference call at 701-328-0950, passcode #47092492.

People who need accommodations to participate should contact Krista Fremming before the meeting at 701-328-2342, toll-free 800-755-2719, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888 or [krfremming@nd.gov](mailto:krfremming@nd.gov).

The legislature created the task force in 2009, and members are appointed by the governor. The task force is responsible for reviewing early intervention and family support services that enable individuals with ASD to live at home or in community settings, along with programs helping individuals with ASD to transition from a school-based setting to adult services and workforce development programs. The task force also monitors the provision of services and federal resources that can be directed toward services and reviews, amends and updates the state plan to better meet needs.

Information about the department’s autism spectrum disorder services is online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/autism/index.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/autism/index.html). Task force information is available at [www.nd.gov/dhs/autism/taskforce.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/autism/taskforce.html).

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