

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Human Service Centers host regional advisory group meetings in November**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services will share plans for enhancing behavioral health crisis and emergency response services at its regional centers and will discuss other topics when center advisory groups meet for their regularly scheduled meetings next week in **Bismarck, Devils Lake, Grand Forks, Jamestown and Minot**, and on Nov. 29 in **Dickinson**.

The advisory groups for Northeast Human Service Center in **Grand Forks** and North Central Human Service Center in **Minot** will meet Monday, **Nov. 19** at 10 a.m. at the centers. On Tuesday, **Nov. 20**, Lake Region Human Service Center in **Devils Lake** will host its advisory group meeting at 10 a.m., and West Central Human Service Center's advisory group will meet at 1 p.m. in **Bismarck**.

The advisory group for South Central Human Service Center in **Jamestown** will meet Wednesday, **Nov. 21** at 10 a.m., and Badlands Human Service Center's advisory group will meet Thursday, **Nov. 29** at 1 p.m. Mountain Time in **Dickinson**. These meetings are open to the public.

Department Field Services leaders will update the advisory groups on their regional center's operations and Department of Human Services' goals, strategies and statewide initiatives that will benefit individuals served by the state's public behavioral health system: individuals who have limited resources and severe and chronic behavioral health needs.

Advisory groups will also hear an update on the electronic health record system implementation and efforts to obtain accreditation from an independent accrediting body, as part of each regional centers' licensing.

Center leaders will share 2017 statewide customer satisfaction survey results, including that nine out of 10 respondents would recommend their local regional human service center to a friend or family member, were satisfied with wait times for appointments, said service locations were convenient and that services were available at times that met their needs. Many also reported improvements in their housing situation and ability to deal with a crisis and take care of their own needs, which are important recovery goals.

Advisory group members will also receive information about staffing changes, the North Dakota Behavioral Health System Study Implementation Plan, and other initiatives underway to help assure people receive the right services at the right time to improve individual outcomes and support ongoing recovery.

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The complete agenda for each meeting, and the name and phone number of the person individuals with disabilities can contact if they need accommodations to participate in a meeting in their area are available online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html).

The department employs about 850 people at its regional human service center locations. During the 2017 State Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2018, the regional human service centers provided behavioral health services to an estimated 17,868 registered clients. The centers served additional individuals who did not become regular clients and did not receive ongoing services and support.

Staff members provide community-based behavioral health services focusing on chronic disease management and emergency services and provide walk-in behavioral health assessments on designated dates and times, which vary by region. Behavioral health staff also provide community outreach and short-term crisis residential services.

Other department employees at the regional human service centers provide case management services for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, vulnerable adult protective services and other services for older adults, vocational rehabilitation services to help people with disabilities achieve their employment goals, and oversight of the child welfare services provided by the counties.

Details about centers, the sliding fee schedule, and services are listed online at <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/regionalhsc/>. Services may be provided directly by staff or through partnerships with county social services and contracts with other providers based on regional needs and available community resources.

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