

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Behavioral Health Planning Council to meet Dec. 19 in Bismarck to prioritize systemic goals**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The Behavioral Health Planning Council will meet Wednesday, Dec. 19, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. CT, to continue discussion on prioritizing the goals outlined in the 2018 North Dakota Behavioral Health System Study and to conduct other business. The council, which advises the North Dakota Department of Human Services on behavioral health services and issues, is meeting at the Job Service North Dakota building, 1601 E. Century Ave., in Bismarck.

The agenda includes a presentation by the North Dakota Department of Health on the advisory role for that agency's federal five-year Health Resources and Services Administration grant. Afterwards, a representative from Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) will lead the strategic planning and goal setting discussion.

Members will also hear presentations by advocates and an agency representative on the Medicaid Expansion reauthorization, the Mental Health Block Grant, and a First Episode Psychosis Program. Council members will also discuss Gov. Doug Burgum's budget for behavioral health services.

The council has reserved time for public comment on behavioral health services and issues from 3:45 to 4 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

The complete agenda is online at <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/2018.html>.

Individuals with disabilities who need accommodations to participate in the meeting or who would like more information about the Behavioral Health Planning Council can contact council facilitator Rose Stoller at the Consensus Council at 701-224-0588 ext. 101 or [rstoller@agree.org](mailto:rstoller@agree.org).

The governor appoints planning council members who represent people with first-hand knowledge of behavioral health services, their family members, other advocates, agencies, county social services, and public and private behavioral health service providers. Council information is available at [www.nd.gov/dhs/services/mentalhealth/ndmhpc/](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/mentalhealth/ndmhpc/).

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