

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb. 16, 2018**

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Behavioral Health Planning Council to meet Feb. 20

BISMARCK, N.D. – The council that advises the North Dakota Department of Human Services on behavioral health issues and services will meet Tuesday, Feb. 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST, in the Pioneer Room of the state Capitol in Bismarck.

In the morning, the department’s Executive Director Chris Jones will give a presentation about the department’s vision and transformation efforts. Afterwards, council co-chair Lorraine Davis and guests from North Dakota Tribal Nations will share information about cultural competencies and best practices in behavioral health services for the Great Plains Indians.

In the afternoon, representatives from the department will provide updates on the website, workgroups, the governor’s appointments and process for filling council vacancies, the timeline for the completion of the final report on behavioral health services in North Dakota by the consultant Human Services Research Institute, and the federal Mental Health Block Grant budget.

Council members will discuss membership, orientation, policies and procedures, technical assistance offerings, ideas for future presentations, the 2018 meeting schedule and logistics, and new and innovative programs. Other business may be discussed.

The public is welcome to attend, and the agenda includes time for public comment at 3:45 p.m. The public should enter the Capitol through the south (tunnel) public entrance. The Pioneer Room is located in the Judicial Wing on the east side of the building.

The complete agenda is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html.

Individuals with disabilities who need accommodations in order 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, Relay ND TTY 800-366-6888 or 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.

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