

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 E. Boulevard Ave. - Dept. 325, Bismarck N.D. 58505**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Money Follows the Person grant stakeholder meeting to be held May 16 in Bismarck

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Money Follows the Person grant stakeholders will meet May 16, from 1 to 4 p.m. Central Time to discuss various topics relating to transitioning older North Dakotans and people with disabilities from institutional settings back into the community. The meeting will be held in the Brynhild Haugland Room in the state Capitol. The public is welcome to attend.

Stakeholders act in an advisory capacity to the department and receive quarterly updates on grant activities, which focus on promoting community-based services for older adults and individuals with disabilities. Grant funds pay for supportive services that help eligible individuals move from a nursing home or other facility to a community setting like an apartment, a family member's home, or other types of living arrangements.

The agenda includes updates on the supported housing initiatives for older adults and people with disabilities and the Money Follows the Person tribal initiative, an effort to assist the state and tribal nations in developing infrastructure to enable tribal entities to provide more home and community-based services.

Meeting participant will also hear updates on program transition data, the publicly-funded behavioral health system assessment and workforce development efforts. A representative from the Life Skills and Transition Center in Grafton will also provide an organizational update. Other business may also be discussed.

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

The public should enter the Capitol through the south (tunnel) public entrance. Individuals who need accommodations to participate in the meeting can contact Jake Reuter at 701-328-2321, toll-free 800-755-2604, Relay ND TTY 800-366-6888 or jwreuter@nd.gov.

The federal government awarded the North Dakota Department of Human Services an \$8.9 million Money Follows the Person grant in 2007. Medicaid clients who are elderly or have physical or other disabilities and who live in nursing homes, the Life Skills and Transition Center or other institutions may qualify for transition services funded through this effort. Participation is voluntary. Since transitions began in 2008, 412 individuals have transitioned to community settings.

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