

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

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Human service center is opening satellite office in Valley City to meet area behavioral health needs

BISMARCK, N.D. – Valley City-area residents will have greater access to behavioral health services beginning June 4 when the North Dakota Department of Human Services' South Central Human Service Center (SCHSC) opens a new satellite office in the City-County Public Health District building at 415 Second Ave. N.E.

The center provided behavioral health services to almost 2,000 residents of the state's south central region during the past 12 months. SCHSC had historically served area individuals through scheduled outreach visits to Valley City. However, there were still unmet needs, said SCHSC Director Dan Cramer who is also a clinical psychologist.

He said the community approached the human service center and is collaborating with the department to make the satellite office feasible.

"Transportation to Jamestown is an obstacle for many people. We will be able to provide a wider array of services locally and improve access to services because the office will be open weekdays and offer more hours of service," Cramer said.

He said a team of professionals will be assigned to serve the satellite office. A couple of them live locally. Once fully staffed, area residents will have access to initial intake assessments, psychiatric evaluations and medication management, mental health and substance use disorder counseling services, skills training and case management to connect people to recovery supports.

"People have better outcomes when we can connect them to individualized behavioral health services when they first contact us about needs. This will allow us to be more responsive, efficient and effective at serving local residents," said Cramer.

By late June, he said the satellite office will also offer Open Access Integrated Behavioral Health Assessments on Fridays between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. During that time period, individuals can walk-in without an appointment and receive a behavioral health assessment. Individuals determined to be in crisis or who have urgent needs will be connected to services quickly.

Individuals with questions can contact SCHSC at 701-253-6300, toll-free 800-260-1310 and TTY 701-253-6414. The client crisis line can be reached at 701-253-6304.

The human service center provides behavioral health services, disability services and other human services directly or in partnerships with county social services and other agencies to residents of Barnes, Dickey, Foster, Griggs, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Stutsman and Wells counties.

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