

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Autism services to be discussed at Aug. 20 task force meeting

BISMARCK, N.D. – North Dakota’s Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force will meet Monday, Aug. 20, from 1 to 4:45 p.m. Central Time to discuss services and supports for people with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and their families, including access and usage.

The task force meeting is open to the public and will be held via video conference originating from the department’s Prairie Hills Plaza – Prairie Room, 1237 W. Divide Ave., Bismarck. Attendees should enter through Door 2 facing Divide Avenue.

Department representatives will brief members on the current participation in autism spectrum disorder services and related expenditures, the status of the state’s Medicaid Autism Waiver renewal, and Autism Voucher Program survey results. Work groups will provide updates and discuss the state plan, and members will discuss services to children and families in rural areas and the state’s Medicaid Telemedicine Policy.

Members will discuss ways to improve access to services, including ideas for enhancing program eligibility determination training and the application form. They will also review and discuss the service capacity of autism service providers and funding for the annual autism spectrum disorder training conference for professionals and parents. In addition, North Dakota State University Doctor of Nurse Practice Student Trevor Stavig will share his clinical dissertation regarding autism spectrum disorders.

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

Interested individuals can participate in the meeting at these video conference sites:

- **Devils Lake:** Lake Region Human Service Center, 200 Hwy. 2 W., East Meeting Room;
- **Dickinson:** Badlands Human Service Center, 300 13th Ave. W., Suite 1, Basement Conference Room;
- **Fargo:** Southeast Human Service Center, 2624 Ninth Ave. S., Prairie Rose Room;
- **Grafton:** Life Skills and Transition Center, 701 W. Sixth St., West Conference Center;
- **Grand Forks:** Northeast Human Service Center, 151 S. Fourth St., Suite 401, Room 5E;
- **Jamestown:** State Hospital, LRC/Administration Building, 2605 Circle Dr., Room 320;
- **Minot:** Job Service North Dakota office, 3416 N. Broadway, Conference Room; and
- **Williston:** Northwest Human Service Center, 316 Second Ave. W., Room A200.

Individuals unable to attend at a video conference site can join by conference call at 701-328-7950, passcode #203162.

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People who need accommodations to participate should contact Krista Fremming prior to the meeting at 701-328-2342, toll-free 800-755-2719, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888 or kfremming@nd.gov.

The legislature created the task force in 2009, and members are appointed by the governor.

The task force is responsible for reviewing early intervention and family support services that enable individuals with autism spectrum disorder to live in home-based or community settings, and programs helping individuals with autism spectrum disorder to transition from a school-based setting to adult services and workforce development programs. In addition, the task force monitors the provision of services and federal resources that can be directed toward services, and also reviews, amends and updates the state plan to better meet the needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorder.

The department provides information about its autism spectrum disorder services online at www.nd.gov/dhs/autism/index.html. The public can find task force details online at www.nd.gov/dhs/autism/taskforce.html.

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