

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Public invited to review and comment on plan aligning Medicaid waiver services with the federal home and community-based services rules**

BISMARCK, N.D. - The North Dakota Department of Human Services has scheduled a public information and comment meeting on Friday, Sept. 28, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Central Time, to review the state's transition plan ensuring that home and community-based services provided in settings funded through Medicaid waiver programs conform with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) Home Care final rules.

The federal regulations are intended to ensure that people receiving long-term services and supports through Medicaid waiver programs have full access to the benefits of community living and receive services in the most integrated and appropriate setting.

"The focus is on quality of life and assuring people receiving Medicaid waiver services can live, work and participate in their communities alongside other community members. The plan aligns Medicaid waiver services with federal requirements," explained Developmental Disabilities Division Director Tina Bay who worked with other agency divisions on the state's plan.

The department worked with consultants to review its waivers and federal rule requirements and drafted and sought comment on an initial transition plan in 2016. It has since surveyed providers and worked with federal partners to update the plan and is now seeking final public comment from families, individuals receiving waiver services, providers and others, Bay said.

The **public comment meeting** will be held by statewide video conference system hosted at department offices in these communities: **Bismarck, Devils Lake, Dickinson, Fargo, Grafton, Grand Forks, Jamestown, Minot and Williston**. Meeting location and other public comment details are available online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html) or by calling the department's Aging and Disability Resource Link toll-free at 855-462-5465, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888, weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Central Time, or emailing [carechoice@nd.gov](mailto:carechoice@nd.gov).

The transition plan applies to North Dakota's autism waiver, technology dependent waiver, aged and disabled home and community-based services waiver, developmental disabilities waiver, children's medically fragile waiver and children's hospice waiver. Medicaid waivers provide eligible people options to meet their needs at home and in community settings instead of in institutions.

Waiver agreements between CMS and a state's Medicaid agency allow states to develop Medicaid-funded programs that differ from the standard Medicaid program. They serve specific groups of people and specify eligibility criteria, available services, including any limits on services, and procedures to evaluate and re-evaluate the level of care.

Individuals with disabilities who need accommodations to participate in the meeting can contact Colette Perkins at 701-328-8935, toll free 800-755-8529, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888 or [cperkins@nd.gov](mailto:cperkins@nd.gov).

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