

**NEWS RELEASE** | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | October 16, 2019

**Agency seeks comments on new federally-required system verifying home health and personal care visits; public meetings set in Bismarck and Fargo next week**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services will host community meetings in Bismarck and Fargo next week to provide a project update and gather public input on the implementation of an electronic visit verification (EVV) system that complies with the federal 21st Century Cures Act (Cures Act).

Signed into law in late 2016, the law impacts Medicaid and long-term services and supports. EVV systems electronically verify by a phone or computer-based system that personal care, home health, and other home and community-based services are being provided. The system also documents the actual time the provision of the service begins and ends.

The **Bismarck** public comment meeting is **Oct. 22**, 2019, 10-11:30 a.m., Central Time, at the state Capitol in the Brynhild Haugland Room, 600 E. Boulevard Ave. The **Fargo** meeting is **Oct. 24**, 10-11:30 a.m. CT, in the Bison Room at Cass County Social Services, 1010 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S., #2.

The department is seeking input from people who receive in-home care and support services, family caregivers, and individuals and agencies that provide personal care services, home health services or both, which are funded under the Medicaid State Plan or a waiver of that plan such as the Autism Spectrum Disorder waiver, Children's Medically Fragile waiver, Medicaid waiver for Home and Community-Based Services, Technology Dependent Medicaid waiver and Traditional Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities Home and Community-Based Services waiver.

During the meetings, department staff will provide a brief introduction and an update on the process and timeline for implementing the new federally-required electronic visit verification system and will accept public comments. Each meeting will follow the same agenda.

Individuals unable to attend one of the meetings can also provide comment on the EVV system by mail, email, phone or fax from Oct. 22, 2019, until 5 p.m. CT on Nov. 21, 2019. Comments can be sent to the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Aging Services Division, Attn: HCBS, at 1237 W. Divide Ave., Suite 6, Bismarck, N.D. 58501, email [dhshcbs@nd.gov](mailto:dhshcbs@nd.gov), toll-free 855-462-5465, 711 (TTY) or fax 701-328-8744.

Additional information about the federal law is available online at [www.congress.gov/114/bills/hr34/BILLS-114hr34enr.pdf](http://www.congress.gov/114/bills/hr34/BILLS-114hr34enr.pdf).

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