FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**North Dakota Behavioral Health Planning Council to meet March 14**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Behavioral Health Planning Council, a citizen advisory group that includes people with lived experience and other stakeholders, will meet March 14 to hear updates on the North Dakota Behavioral Health Vision 20/20 strategic plan implementation and legislative action on behavioral health initiatives.

The council will also conduct other business when it meets beginning at 1 p.m. at the Job Service North Dakota regional office, 1601 E. Century Ave., in Bismarck. At 1:30 p.m., HSRI consultant Bevin Croft will report on strategic planning efforts, including priority goals identified by stakeholders who participated in the December 2018 survey and next steps.

Afterwards, agency officials from North Dakota Protection and Advocacy, the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission and the North Dakota Department of Human Services’ Behavioral Health Division are scheduled to brief council members on behavioral health initiatives and bills and legislative action.

The council has reserved time for public comment on behavioral health services and issues from 4:15 to 4:30 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

The complete agenda is online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html).

Individuals with disabilities who need accommodations to participate in the meeting or who would like more information about the Behavioral Health Planning Council can contact council facilitator Greg Gallagher at 701-224-0588 ext. 102, 711 (TTY) or ggallagher@agree.org.

The governor appoints planning council members who represent people with first-hand knowledge of behavioral health services, their family members, other advocates, agencies, county social services, and public and private behavioral health service providers. Council information is available at [www.nd.gov/dhs/services/mentalhealth/ndmhpcc/](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/mentalhealth/ndmhpcc/).

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