

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | May 14, 2019

Stakeholder group that provides guidance on helping people transition from institutional care to community living to meet May 15 in Bismarck

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Money Follows the Person grant stakeholders will meet on Wednesday, May 15, from 1 to 4 p.m. CT to hear about recent federal legislation that allows states to continue transitioning older adults and people with disabilities from institutional care to community living through 2021. The meeting will be held at the North Dakota Heritage Center, Lecture Rooms A and B in Bismarck. The public is welcome to attend.

Stakeholders act in an advisory capacity to the department and receive quarterly updates on activities, which focus on community-based services for individuals. Project funds help eligible older adults and people with disabilities who want to move from a nursing home or other facility to a community setting like an apartment, a family member's home, or other types of living arrangements with supportive services.

Other agenda items include updates on current transition benchmark data, and supported housing efforts for older adults and people with disabilities. The agenda also includes an update on the Money Follows the Person Tribal Initiative, an effort to assist the state and tribal nations by helping tribal elders and tribal members with disabilities transition from institutions to community living.

Stakeholders will also hear about two technical assistance opportunities the department was awarded on implementing person-centered practices in its service delivery systems, and developing strategies to support people with disabilities through the Innovation Accelerator program. There will also be an update from the Life Skills and Transition Center.

A complete agenda is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html.

Individuals who need accommodations to participate in the meeting can contact Jacob Reuter at 701-680-9638, toll free 800-755-2604, 711 (TTY) or jwreuter@nd.gov.

The federal government awarded the North Dakota Department of Human Services an \$8.9 million Money Follows the Person grant in 2007. Medicaid clients who are elderly or have physical or other disabilities and who live in nursing homes, the Life Skills and Transition Center or other institutions may qualify for transition services. Participation is voluntary.

Since transitions began in 2008, 455 individuals have transitioned to community settings.

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