

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | June 3, 2019

Southeast Human Service Center in Fargo is expanding its walk-in hours for behavioral health assessments

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Southeast Human Service Center in Fargo is expanding its walk-in hours for behavioral health assessments. Beginning today, center behavioral health professionals will be available Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. to provide integrated assessments to individuals without appointments.

The extended hours are part of the North Dakota Department of Human Services' strategy of getting appropriate behavioral health services to people sooner, at a lower level of care in communities.

An assessment helps determine if an individual may benefit from substance use disorder treatment or case management, and if so, what level of care and support is needed. The assessment also identifies mental health concerns, and the severity of an individual's needs. Through this screening and triage process, center staff also help connect individuals to appropriate community support services and partner agencies.

"If an individual is in crisis or experiencing serious escalating symptoms, the integrated assessment team can connect the individual to services right away. For other, less urgent needs, results and follow-up care and service options are discussed with the individual. We may also refer people to other community partners," said Southeast's Team Lead for Central Assessment, Jennifer Schumacher.

Southeast Human Service Center, located at 2624 Ninth Ave. S. in Fargo, started offering walk-in behavioral health assessments on specific days during set times in October 2016. From July 1, 2017 through October 2018, Southeast's Central Assessment Team triaged 2,536 individuals, assessed 1,287 individuals and referred out 279 individuals for additional specialty services.

Schumacher said, "We will see anyone who has questions about our behavioral health services, and can provide behavioral health screening and triage and help connect individuals to services."

The department's regional human service centers focus on a core population that includes people with serious and chronic substance use disorder and/or mental health diagnoses, including intravenous drug use, and individuals who lack insurance coverage or who have not been successful with services offered through community partners.

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CONTACT:

Heather Steffl | 701-328-4933
hsteffl@nd.gov

LuWanna Lawrence | 701-328-1892
lklawrence@nd.gov