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Behavioral Health Division hosts instructor training for minor in possession provider certification

New legislation creates a need for instructors to teach early drug and alcohol abuse early intervention course

BISMARCK, N.D. – On Aug. 1, a new North Dakota law goes into effect that requires all youth under age 21 who receive a minor in possession of alcohol to attend an evidence-based early intervention program. Research shows that investing in early intervention services can contribute to a reduction in health care costs and ensure the improved health and well-being of individuals.

“The use of substances before the brain has fully developed increases the risk for future addiction,” said Pamela Sagness, director of the North Dakota Department of Human Services’ Behavioral Health Division. “By providing early intervention services, we are investing in youth and decreasing the likelihood they will experience a future addiction.”

The division is certifying providers to ensure services are available in all regions of the state by offering training at no cost to individuals interested in becoming a certified provider of this early intervention service. The two-day Prime for Life® training will be held Aug. 15-16 at the Courtyard by Marriott, 3319 N. 14th St. in Bismarck. Interested individuals can learn more and register at <https://www.primeforlife.org/Event>.

To become a certified provider, individuals are required to complete the training and successfully pass a background check. A \$100 stipend is available to individuals who complete the training and submit a Prime for Life® certificate and ND Minor in Possession Provider Application to the Behavioral Health Division. Travel costs can be reimbursed per diem. Once certified, providers can charge a reasonable fee for offering classes in North Dakota.

More information about the requirements to become a certified provider is available at www.behavioralhealth.nd.gov/prevention/MIP.

The Department of Human Services’ Behavioral Health Division is responsible for reviewing and identifying service needs and activities in the state's behavioral health system to ensure health and safety, access to services and quality services. It also establishes quality assurance standards for the licensure of substance use disorder program services and facilities and provides policy leadership in partnership with public and private entities. For more information, visit www.behavioralhealth.nd.gov.

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