

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

Brain Injury Advisory Council to meet August 16 in Mandan

BISMARCK, N.D. – According to the North Dakota Brain Injury Network, an estimated 13,000 North Dakotans are currently living with a long-term disability from a traumatic brain injury.

The state's Brain Injury Advisory Council, which advises the North Dakota Department of Human Services on brain injury services and supports and works to improve the quality of life of individuals with brain injury and their families through public awareness, prevention, research, education, collaboration, support services and advocacy will meet Friday, Aug. 16, 1-4:30 p.m. at HIT Inc.'s office at 2640 Sunset Dr., in Mandan.

This is the council's first meeting since state lawmakers approved Senate Bill 2027 changing the definition of brain injury in North Dakota to include all types of brain injuries, except for those that are degenerative or present at birth (congenital). This is significant because services previously focused on individuals with traumatic brain injuries can now also benefit those affected by stroke or other types of brain injury.

Members will hear an update on recent state legislation relevant to brain injury. Subcommittees working on continuum of care and education and awareness efforts will provide updates. Representative from North Dakota's Department of Human Services and Department of Health will report on related agency activities. At the end of the meeting, council members will share updates, and members of the public will have the opportunity to comment.

The full agenda is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html. Information about the council is available in the boards section of the Governor's Office website at www.governor.nd.gov/boards/.

The Department of Human Services, through its Behavioral Health Division, is the designated lead agency for coordinating services to individuals with brain injury.

###

CONTACT:

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

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