

**NEWS RELEASE** | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | August 28, 2019

## **Committee on Aging to discuss abuse later in life at Sept. 13 meeting**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The state Committee on Aging, which advises the North Dakota Department of Human Services on the needs of older adults will discuss abuse later in life and other topics when members meet Friday, Sept. 13 in Bismarck.

The public meeting will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. CT, at Edgewood Vista at Edgewood Village, 3124 Colorado Lane in Bismarck. Individuals unable to attend in person can also join by conference call in Bismarck at 701-328-7950, using collaboration code 973593#.

Vulnerable Adult Protective Services experts Michelle Gayette of the department's Aging Services Division and Nikki Wegner of the Alzheimer's Association will give a presentation at 10:30 a.m. about abuse in later life. Committee members will discuss ideas on how to increase awareness.

In 2018, the department received 2,285 reports of suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation of vulnerable adults – an 18 percent increase from 2017. In recent years, North Dakota implemented and then expanded the mandatory reporting law requiring certain types of professionals and individuals to report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation of vulnerable adults. Reporting information is online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/services/adultsaging/reporting.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/adultsaging/reporting.html).

The agenda also includes the nomination and election of a committee chair and vice chair and an update from Aging Services Division Director Nancy Nikolas-Maier on new developments in services. The agenda is available online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html) and also reserves time at the end of the meeting for other business and public comment on aging issues.

Individuals with disabilities who need accommodations to participate in the meeting should contact Amy Johnson in advance of the meeting at 701-328-4601, toll-free 855-462-5465 (the Aging and Disability Resource LINK line), 711 (TTY) or [amyjohnson@nd.gov](mailto:amyjohnson@nd.gov).

Committee on Aging information is available online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/services/adultsaging/gcoa.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/adultsaging/gcoa.html).

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