

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | Sept. 18, 2019

State Council on Developmental Disabilities to discuss implementation of the new ND law on supported decision-making when it meets Sept. 19

BISMARCK, N.D. – Members of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities will discuss the implementation of North Dakota’s new supported decision-making law and other business when they meet Thursday, Sept. 19, from 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. CT, in the Pioneer Room located in the Judicial Wing of the Capitol in Bismarck.

Supported decision-making, which was authorized in 2019 House Bill 1378, is an alternative to guardianships and conservatorships for individuals with disabilities and older adults. It allows individuals to make their own decisions and stay in charge of their lives, while receiving help from a supporter of their choosing who can assist them in understanding options and potential consequences. Advocates and individuals who testified in support of the bill will attend the council meeting.

Council members will also discuss the council’s budget and National Core Indicators that measure the performance of intellectual and developmental disabilities services and supports in states. The council executive director will provide updates on the youth advocacy group, health conference planning, the Advocates Leading their Lives group, self-advocacy conference planning, and other topics. Council standing committees will provide updates on grant-funded projects, the transportation project and other business.

Agenda details are online at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html. This is a public meeting, and the agenda includes time at about 3:45 p.m. for public comment.

Due to security enhancements, the public must enter through the south entrance of the Capitol and pass through metal detectors. The Judicial Wing is located on the east side of the building. Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids to participate can contact Julianne Horntvedt at 701-328-4847, 711 (TTY) or jhorntvedt@nd.gov.

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities promotes choice, independence, productivity, inclusion, and opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. For more information about the council, visit www.nd.gov/scdd/.

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