

**NEWS RELEASE** | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | November 4, 2020

## **Agencies co-sponsor webinar on embracing diversity while providing person-centered services**

BISMARCK, N.D. – Culture impacts a person’s vision for his or her life.

The North Dakota Department of Human Services and local advocates are co-sponsoring a webinar on Wednesday, Nov. 18, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. CT on how to embrace diversity in person-centered practices. Department employees, individuals receiving services, their families, service providers, advocates and other interested individuals are invited to participate.

The webinar features Georgetown University faculty member Tawara Goode. Goode is director of the National Center for Cultural Competence and deputy director of the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at Georgetown’s Center for Child and Human Development.

Participants will gain practical tips on how to use cultural awareness, competency and equity to make an impact in person-centered thinking, planning and practice. Attendees will also learn how to increase accessibility related to communication and language barriers to ensure that plans and practices are personalized and reflect the desires of the person receiving services.

The webinar, which is co-sponsored by North Dakota Protection and Advocacy, AARP, Mental Health America, North Dakota Brain Injury Association and NATIVE Inc., will also include a panel of individuals who will share their personal experiences on how to ensure a person has a voice in his or her planning process and is supported to have choice and control.

Individuals must [register](#) in advance to participate at <https://bit.ly/3l1B89p>. Closed captioning will be available and 1.5 continuing education credits are available.

This final webinar in a three-part series is part of the department’s person-centered practices initiative launched statewide in August 2020. The intent is to bring diverse voices to the table to support individuals participating in services and statewide system change efforts, to transform policies to reflect statewide person-centered values and culture, and to ensure communication is accessible and relatable.

North Dakota is one of 15 states receiving technical assistance from the National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems (NCAPPS) to help advance person-centered thinking, planning and practice. Learn more about North Dakota’s efforts and how you can get involved at <https://www.hsri.org/nd-pcp>.

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