

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | Nov. 4, 2020

Human Service Centers host regional advisory group meetings in November

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' eight regional human service centers are holding their regularly scheduled advisory group meetings virtually this month due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Center directors will share updates on the department's expansion of behavioral health crisis services and the redesign of intensive services for youths and families. They will also provide updates on operations and the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual strategic plan and the accreditation project. Other business may be discussed.

The meetings are open to the public, and are scheduled on these dates and times:

- Northwest Human Service Center – Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 10 a.m. CT in **Williston**,
- Badlands Human Service Center – Thursday, Nov. 5 at 1 p.m., MT in **Dickinson**,
- Northeast Human Service Center – Monday, Nov. 9 at 10 a.m. CT in **Grand Forks**,
- West Central Human Service Center – Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 1 p.m. CT in **Bismarck**,
- North Central Human Service Center – Monday, Nov. 16 at 10 a.m. CT in **Minot**,
- Lake Region Human Service Center – Tuesday, Nov. 17, at 10 a.m. CT in **Devils Lake**,
- South Central Human Service Center – Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 10 a.m. CT in **Jamestown**,
- and Southeast Human Service Center – Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 1 p.m. CT in **Fargo**.

Individuals interested in attending one of the meetings can find the Microsoft Team link, call-in number and other meeting details at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html. The centers primarily serve individuals who have limited financial resources and severe and chronic behavioral health needs.

The human services centers and satellite locations continue to deliver behavioral health services in a safe manner to vulnerable North Dakotans during the pandemic. During the 2020 state fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, the regional centers and their satellite locations provided behavioral health services to about 13,793 individuals across the state, including almost 7,000 crisis interventions to over 2,100 individuals with significant behavioral health needs. This data reflects a decrease in the number of individuals seeking services and served during the initial months of the pandemic.

Staff members provide community-based behavioral health services focusing on chronic disease management and emergency services and provide walk-in behavioral health assessments on designated dates and times, which vary by region. Behavioral health staff also provide community outreach and short-term crisis residential services.

Other department team members provide case management services for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, vulnerable adult protective services and other services for older adults, vocational rehabilitation services to help people with disabilities achieve their employment goals, and oversight of children and family services provided by human service zones (formerly known as county social services). The department employs about 870 people at its regional human service center locations.

Services may be provided directly by staff or through partnerships with human service zones and contracts with other providers based on regional needs and available community resources. Details about centers and services are listed online at www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/regionalhsc/.

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