

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | May 22, 2020

Badlands Human Service Center is moving to a new location in Dickinson

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Badlands Human Service Center (BLHSC) is moving to a new location this summer at 1463 I-94 Business Loop E. in Dickinson. The center provides community-based behavioral health services, disability-related services, and other human services directly or through partnerships with human service zones, formerly called county social services and other providers.

Jessica Odermann, the center's director, said the new office location in the former KLJ building has a number of benefits.

"The new office space will allow us to expand our behavioral health services to better serve individuals and families in southwestern North Dakota," she said. "We will have more space for group therapy sessions, our expanded 24-hour emergency behavioral health team, and additional designated telehealth rooms."

The seven-year-old, 24,000 square foot building will be remodeled slightly by the building's owner to better serve the needs of the human service center's clients and staff. The building is accessible and has ample parking.

"I really would like to thank our partners at Dickinson State University for their continued collaboration and support during this transition period," said Jeff Stenseth, the department's field services operations officer. "University leaders have worked closely with our team throughout this process."

Badlands Human Service Center has remained open during the COVID-19 pandemic and continues to serve individuals in crisis and others who are experiencing serious behavioral health issues either at the center or through telehealth services. The center also has a confidential crisis phone line that is answered 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

Odermann said she can't speculate about the exact timing of the office move because remodeling must first be completed. Clients will be notified once a date is determined.

BLHSC has 79 staff members and over half of them provide behavioral health services. From March 2019 to March 2020, the center served about 1,400 clients in the eight-county region of Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Hettinger, Golden Valley, Slope, and Stark counties.

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