

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | Aug. 27, 2020

Human Services implements statewide person-centered practices initiative, offers informational webinar on Sept. 9 for North Dakotans to learn more

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services has launched a Person-Centered Practices (PCP) initiative to transform how it plans, provides and organizes services by focusing on what service options people want and supporting their choices while helping them live successfully in their communities.

Person-centered practices consider the person’s whole life plan, advocate that a person and their loved ones are experts in their own lives, and place equal emphasis on quality of life, well-being and informed choice.

The agency’s goal is to support the development and implementation of a strong and consistent statewide vision and universal understanding of person-centered practices across the department and the service delivery system.

Pamela Sagness, executive sponsor of the initiative and the Behavioral Health Division director said, “By coming together to implement a consistent vision for person-centered practices, we can identify ways to best support North Dakotans in having control over the life they desire and the ability to fully engage in their communities.”

In response to this need, the department developed a cross-division work group and received technical assistance from the National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices (NCAPPS) for up to 100 hours of subject matter expertise for up to three years, to advance person-centered thinking, planning and practice.

To implement the statewide PCP initiative, the department is committed to bringing diverse voices to the table and supporting individuals participating in services and statewide system change efforts. In addition, the department plans to transform policies to reflect statewide person-centered values and culture and to ensure communication is accessible and relatable.

According to Sagness, as part of the initiative, each department area will participate in an ongoing person-centered self-assessment process to measure progress towards building a more person-centered system.

With the launch of a public and fully-accessible website at www.hsri.org/nd-pcp, comes a technical assistance plan summary, an opportunity to download and provide feedback on North Dakota’s asset map, which is a working tool documenting engagement opportunities, a guide to reference when engaging individuals who receive services, updates on each division’s progress with the self-assessment process and an invitation to take action.

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The public is invited to attend a three-part virtual Person-Centered Practices Summit starting on Sept. 9 from 10:30 a.m. to Noon CT. During the first webinar, participants will learn about North Dakota's Person-Centered Practices initiative, build a foundational understanding about it and gain insight into why it is important. The webinar is open to everyone, including individuals receiving services, their families, stakeholders and providers. Closed captioning will be available. [Register here](#). The webinar will be recorded and made available at www.hsri.org/nd-pcp. The two additional webinars will be held on Oct. 14 from 10:30 to Noon CT and Nov. 18 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. CT.

NCAPPS is an initiative from the federal Administration for Community Living and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that helps states, tribes and territories implement person-centered thinking, planning, and practice in line with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services policy. Learn more by visiting <https://ncapps.acl.gov/>.

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CONTACT:

LuWanna Lawrence | 701-328-1892
lklawrence@nd.gov