

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | April 12, 2021

Off Main behavioral health services in Fargo are moving to Southeast Human Service Center on April 15

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services announced today that it will move its community-based behavioral health services provided by the Off Main clinic in Fargo to the department's Southeast Human Service Center main location at 2624 Ninth Ave. S. in Fargo. The change is effective April 15.

Jeff Stenseth, Southeast Human Service Center director, said Off Main clients will continue to receive their individualized treatment, services and support without disruptions during the transition.

"It is important for people to understand the Off Main behavioral health services are not going away. The services are just moving to our main location," he said. "The majority of our Off Main clients receive services and treatment from our behavioral health team in their homes and other community settings, so this change will have no effect on them."

Stenseth said the changing workplace brought on by the pandemic created additional space at the human service center main location for the Off Main behavioral health services team members.

Off Main opened in the early 1990s as an eight-bed residential program to serve individuals with both mental illnesses and substance use issues in downtown Fargo. At that time, the care model was considered unconventional because the focus was on treating people with dual diagnoses at the same time instead of treating each disorder separately.

In January 2007, the Off Main clinic elevated its services to an evidence-based integrated dual disorder treatment model to improve the quality of life for individuals recovering from both chronic substance use issues and severe mental illnesses. A specialized team provides individualized support and intensive community-based treatment that includes stage-based interventions, outreach, motivational counseling and other support.

In 2011, the Center for Evidence-Based Practices at Case Western Reserve University presented Southeast Human Service Center and the Off Main clinic with the *IDDT Champion Award* for its improved client outcomes.

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