

**NEWS RELEASE** | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | Aug. 17, 2021

## **ND Brain Injury Advisory Council to meet Aug. 20 to discuss membership changes to include more consumers and their family members**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Brain Injury Advisory Council will meet on Friday, Aug. 20, 1-4 p.m. CT, to discuss recent legislation that changes the council’s membership to include more brain injury survivors and family members of brain injury survivors. The meeting will be held at HIT Inc., 2640 Sunset Dr., in Mandan and by video conference.

The agenda also includes updates on the state’s request to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to lower the World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule (WHODAS) eligibility score for the Medicaid 1915(i) state plan amendment and the North Dakota Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program.

Other topics that will be discussed include the Traumatic Brain Injury State Partnership Grant, the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 1996 and an interim legislative strategy relating to brain injuries. Representatives from North Dakota’s Department of Human Services, Department of Health and Department of Public Instruction will report on related agency activities.

The council has reserved time for public comment at 3:45 p.m. A complete agenda is online at <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html>.

Interested individuals can attend the meeting online through Zoom or by conference call at 1-346-248-7799. Details are in the [public meeting notice](#). In-person attendees are required to wear face masks and social distance.

Individuals with disabilities who need accommodations to participate in the meeting or who would like more information about the Brain Injury Advisory Council can contact council facilitator Greg Gallagher at 701-224-0588 ext.102, 711 (TTY) or [ggallagher@agree.org](mailto:ggallagher@agree.org).

The Department of Human Services, through its Behavioral Health Division, is the designated lead agency for coordinating services to individuals with brain injury. The governor appoints advisory council members who represent people with first-hand knowledge of brain injury services, service providers, agencies and legislators. Council information is available on the Governor’s Office website at [www.governor.nd.gov/boards/](http://www.governor.nd.gov/boards/).

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