

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Human Services to Hold
Meetings to Provide Information on Changes to the Autism
Spectrum Disorder Waiver

BISMARCK, N.D. - The N.D. Department of Human Services will hold two public information meetings on Tues., Dec. 17, 2013, and Thurs., Dec. 19, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. (Central Time) to share information about changes in the department's provision of Autism Spectrum Disorder Waiver services authorized by the 2013 Legislative session.

The public is invited to attend the meetings at these locations:

- **Bismarck** - N.D. Department of Human Services' Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division, Prairie Hills Plaza, 1237 W. Divide Ave., Ste. 1C, Prairie Rose Room
- **Devils Lake** - Lake Region Human Service Center, 200 Highway 2 S.W., East Conference Room
- **Dickinson** - Badlands Human Service Center, 300 13th Ave. W., Ste. 1, Basement General Staff Conference Room
- **Fargo** - Southeast Human Service Center, 2624 Ninth Ave. S., Red River Room
- **Grand Forks** - Northeast Human Service Center, 151 S. Fourth St., Ste. 401, Meeting Room 5E
- **Jamestown** - South Central Human Service Center, 520 Third St. N.W., Conference Room 124
- **Minot** - North Central Human Service Center, 1015 S. Broadway, Ste. 18, Conference Room 411
- **Williston** - Northwest Human Service Center, 316 Second Ave. W., Conference Room A200

"These meetings are intended to introduce families to the upcoming changes to the Autism Spectrum Disorder Waiver and to explain how families can participate in the process," said JoAnne Hoesel, director of the department's Mental Health and

Substance Abuse Services Division. “Collaboration is important, and we want parents to be informed.”

Hoesel said these meetings will be followed by the formal public comment period on the waiver amendment and a tribal notification process in early 2014 followed by a federal review and approval process by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The amended waiver is expected to be implemented in June 2014.

Waivers allow states to develop Medicaid-funded programs that differ from the standard Medicaid program.

Individuals with disabilities who need accommodations to attend the meeting can contact Julie Huwe at 701-328-8920, toll free 800-755-2719, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888, or jhuwe@nd.gov.

For more information on the Autism Spectrum Disorder Waiver or other Autism-related news, visit www.nd.gov/dhs/autismnd/index.html.