

**NEWS** from the North Dakota Department of Human Services  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Nelson to retire from South Central and Lake Region Human Service Centers**

*BISMARCK, N.D.* – Lynn Nelson, director of South Central Human Service Center in Jamestown and Lake Region Human Service Center in Devils Lake, has announced that he will retire July 31, 2007, after devoting almost 33 years to the human services field. The public is invited to an open house honoring Nelson on Thurs., July 26, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Jamestown human service center on Third St. N.W. where he served most of his professional career. Devils Lake staff members are hosting a small informal reception in his honor.

"Lynn has been a wonderful asset to the Department of Human Services," said Executive Director Carol K. Olson. "We will certainly miss his dedication to clients and client services, his leadership, and his strong working relationships with other service providers in the two regions."

Olson appointed Nelson, a licensed social worker, director of both regional human service centers in 2002. Nelson previously served the department as the Jamestown center's assistant director and director of its extended care unit serving people with chronic mental illness. He was instrumental in developing and strengthening community-based services for people with mental illness and substance addictions as the state's delivery system shifted from institutional to community-based alternatives.

Nelson represented community programs on the State Hospital Governing Body for years. He also provided important leadership as staff at the two centers helped the department refine and implement a new electronic patient information and billing system called the Regional Office Automation Project (ROAP) that is now used statewide.

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In the Devils Lake region, Nelson supported extending services to underserved areas by expanding a Rolla outreach office and using telemedicine to provide more services to rural residents.

Nelson was one of the first managers to assume leadership responsibilities over two regional human service centers. That management model will continue. Candace Fuglesten, the director of Southeast Human Service Center in Fargo, will assume leadership duties at South Central Human Service Center in Jamestown. Kate Kenna, the director of Northeast Human Service Center in Grand Forks, has been named director of Lake Region Human Service Center.

The state human services department combined management at its eight regional centers in 2002 in order to reduce administrative costs and ensure more uniform services. The regional human service centers are safety nets for people coping with emotional issues, mental illnesses, chemical dependencies, disabilities, or other challenges. Many center clients cannot afford private services.

South Central Human Service Center employs 87 individuals, and Lake Region employs 62. Together the two centers served about 6,200 people during the 2006 State Fiscal Year.

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