

# **NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services**

**600 East Boulevard Avenue – Department 325, Bismarck ND 58505-0250**

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## **Department of Human Services to host public meetings this fall**

### **Agency seeks input from stakeholders for program planning and budgeting**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services is hosting public meetings across the state this fall and invites clients, service providers, advocates, county and Tribal officials, legislators, and other stakeholders to attend. Agency officials are seeking input on community needs and successes in serving vulnerable individuals. Meetings were held in Grand Forks and Devils Lake last week, and have been scheduled in Bismarck, Dickinson, Fargo, Jamestown, Minot, and Williston in October.

“We hope to identify broad areas of interest and to seek ideas and recommendations from our partners in North Dakota’s human services system,” said Department Executive Director Carol K. Olson. “These public meetings are a vital part of the planning that shapes how services are provided, and they also factor into preliminary work on the department’s 2009-2011 budget request.”

The department administers child protection services, child support enforcement, disability services, food stamps, foster care, economic assistance programs, Medicaid, the children’s health insurance program, home and community-based long term care services, mental health and substance abuse treatment services, and aging services including senior meals and related services. The department also includes the Developmental Center, the State Hospital, and the eight regional human service centers, which provide mental health and substance abuse treatment and other human services at the local level.

Together, the department, counties, Tribes, and other public and private organizations deliver human services in North Dakota.

#### **Remaining 2007 Stakeholder Meetings:**

- **Oct. 3**, 1:30 p.m., Psychosocial Club, 212 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. W., **Williston**, N.D.
- **Oct. 4**, 10 a.m. (MDT), Badlands Human Service Center, 200 Pulver Hall, **Dickinson**, N.D.
- **Oct. 17**, 1:30 p.m., North Central Human Service Center, Teddy Roosevelt Conference Room, 1015 S. Broadway, Suite 18, **Minot**, N.D.
- **Oct. 18**, 10 a.m., West Central Human Service Center, 1237 W. Divide Ave., Suite 5, **Bismarck**, N.D.
- **Oct. 23**, 1:30 p.m., Doublewood Inn, 3333 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. **Fargo**, N.D.
- **Oct. 24**, 10 a.m., South Central Human Service Center, Rooms 124-126, 520 3rd St. N.W., **Jamestown**, N.D.

Members of the department’s leadership cabinet, along with regional human service center directors will attend the meetings. Individuals who need accommodations to participate should contact their local human service center. Individuals who are unable to attend can submit comments and recommendations about human service needs to the department’s Executive Office at 600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 325, Bismarck ND 58505-0250.