

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 East Boulevard Avenue – Department 325, Bismarck ND 58505-0250**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Governor's Olmstead Commission to meet Nov. 2 in Bismarck

BISMARCK - The Governor's Olmstead Commission will meet Friday, Nov. 2, 2007, from 1:30 to 4 p.m. in the AV Room of the Capitol. The AV Room is located on the second floor of the Judicial Wing.

Agenda items include a report on the task force on transitioning people from the Developmental Center to community settings, update on the N.D. Department of Human Services' public stakeholder meetings, the Senior Info Line/Aging and Disability Resource Link, Governor's Olmstead Commission accomplishments, update on tele-health services, long term care continuum services, discussion of service gaps in Indian Country, State Olmstead Plan Work Group report, public awareness activities, Ad Hoc members, and an update on an Aging and Disability Resource Center.

Gov. John Hoeven established the Olmstead Commission in August 2001 to evaluate the state's service delivery system in relation to the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Olmstead vs. L.C. and to develop a state plan to serve people with disabilities in the least restrictive appropriate setting.

The governor's Health and Human Services Policy Advisor, Tami Wahl, and N.D. Department of Human Services Executive Director Carol K. Olson co-chair the commission. Members are appointed by the governor and also include Sen. Judy Lee, Rep. Gary Kreidt, Rep. Merle Boucher, Jean Mullen, Assistant Attorney General; Pam Sharp, director of the Office of Management and Budget; Teresa Larsen, executive director of North Dakota Protection and Advocacy; Janis Cheney, state director of AARP; Susan Helgeland, executive director of Mental Health America of ND; Cheryl Kulas, executive director of the N.D. Indian Affairs Commission; Virginia Esslinger representing consumers and families for the ARC of North Dakota; Stephen Repnow, executive director of Centers for Independence and representing the ND Independent Living Council; and Colleen Stockert representing the public at large.

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