

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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Governor's Olmstead Commission to meet June 10 in Bismarck

BISMARCK, N.D. - The Governor's Olmstead Commission, which focuses on issues related to the delivery of state services for people with disabilities, will meet June 10, 2008, from 1 p.m. to about 4 p.m. in the AV Room (Room 210) on the second floor of the Judicial Wing in the Capitol in Bismarck.

Gov. John Hoeven established the 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.

Agenda items include the State Olmstead Plan Work Group report, Money Follows the Person Grant update, update on the state's Medicaid Buy-In program and waivers, report on the federal-state Own Your Future long-term care planning public awareness effort, update on the Aging and Disability Resource Center grant opportunity, review of the Olmstead Plan, and related topics.

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. They also include Sen. Judy Lee, Rep. Gary Kreidt, Rep. Merle Boucher, 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.

Individuals who need accommodations for disabilities to participate or who have questions, can contact Heather at 701-328-4933 or hsteffl@nd.gov, or through ND Relay 711.

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