

**NEWS** from the North Dakota Department of Human Services  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**ND Department of Human Services Youth Advisory Council to meet  
March 7- 8 in Bismarck**

BISMARCK, ND - The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Youth Advisory Council is meeting March 7-8 in Bismarck to identify issues affecting youth in their communities and to share their concerns with policymakers and members of the Governor's Prevention Advisory Council.

CLIMB Theatre Actor Educators will work with council members, using interactive theatre activities, to help identify issues and key concerns facing their generation. Council members will then create a performance piece reflecting their perspectives, concerns, questions, and ideas.

The department's Youth Advisory Council was formed by the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Its purpose is to provide leadership development opportunities and to advise the department and other partners on issues of concern to North Dakota's youth, especially related to the prevention of underage drinking, transition to adulthood, and overall health and well-being. Members have already identified suicide prevention and substance abuse prevention as two priority areas.

The Youth Advisory Council consists of 30 members from across the state ranging in age from 14 to 24. Individuals interested in more information about the council can contact the department at 701-328-8920.

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