

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Upcoming Training on Alternatives to Guardianship

BISMARCK, N.D. – The N.D. Department of Human Services Aging Services Division and Legal Services of North Dakota are sponsoring free training on alternatives to guardianship for professionals who work with seniors, people with disabilities, and their families. Training is scheduled in April and May in several cities and will benefit social workers, discharge planners, nursing home staff, attorneys, and others.

“If an individual becomes incapacitated, medical and financial decisions can be made by a designated, trusted individual, and people can plan ahead and make these arrangements easily and at low or no cost. We are conducting training so that the professionals people consult have current information about guardianship alternatives,” said Lynne Jacobson, administrator of vulnerable adult protective services and guardianship services for the department.

Jacobson said surrogate decision-making such as establishing a power of attorney, health care advance directives, and other pre-planning efforts do not replace long-term financial and estate planning, which may involve attorneys and is recommended for those with significant assets.

Training will be held April 27 at West Central Human Service Center, **Bismarck**; April 30 at Northwest Human Service Center, **Williston**; May 1 at Badlands Human Service Center, **Dickinson**; May 4 at North Central Human Service Center, **Minot**; and May 5 at Northeast Human Service Center in **Grand Forks**. The Bismarck training is from 10 a.m. to noon and is open to center staff and community partners. The other sites will host a morning session for human service center staff from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and an afternoon session for community partners from 1 to 3 p.m. Due to space limits, the May 6 training in **Fargo** is limited to human service center staff. Details about training in **Devils Lake** and **Jamestown** are pending.

For information, call the N.D. Department of Human Services at 800-451-8693.

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