

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Federal officials seek input on services some agencies provide to people with developmental disabilities**

BISMARCK, N.D. – Federal Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) officials are holding a public comment forum in North Dakota on May 12, from 4 to 6 p.m. (CST), and they want to hear from individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, advocates, and others about the work and programs provided by N.D. Developmental Disabilities Network agencies. These include the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, the state’s Protection and Advocacy Project, and the N.D. Center for Persons with Disabilities at Minot State University.

The forum will be conducted using the Interactive Video Network at the following locations: Bismarck State College – VocTech Building, Room 228, **Bismarck**; Minot State University, Administration Building, Room 158, **Minot**; University of North Dakota, Abbot Hall, Room 119, **Grand Forks**; State Developmental Center, North Valley Vocational Center, Room 02, 1540 School Road, **Grafton**; Standing Rock Junior High School, Conference Room, 9189 Highway 24, **Fort Yates**; and Williston State College, Main Building, Room 107, **Williston**.

Individuals can call ahead to 1-800-233-1737 to be placed on the comment schedule to provide public comment during the meeting. This is preferred, but not required. If individuals need disability-related accommodations to participate, they should contact 1-800-233-1737 or TDD Relay at 711.

“The forum will provide federal officials with information about peoples’ experiences with N.D. Developmental Disabilities Network agencies,” said Andrea Peña, executive director of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. “This is an opportunity for people to comment about how the programs have changed their lives and how the programs can improve.”

The Administration on Developmental Disabilities is part of the federal Department of Health and Human Services. Its mission is to improve and increase services for individuals with developmental disabilities. It also works to assure that people with developmental disabilities have opportunities to make their own choices, contribute to society, have supports to live independently and free of abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, sexual exploitation, and violations of their legal and human rights.

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