

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | November 13, 2019

Autism Task Force to meet Nov. 18 to discuss career-readiness programs, behavior analyst licensing and more

BISMARCK, N.D. – North Dakota’s Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force will meet Monday, Nov. 18, from 1 to 4:45 p.m. Central Time to discuss career-readiness transition programs for students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and intellectual disabilities and the upcoming North Dakota Autism Conference April 29-30, 2020. Members will also hear updates on changes to behavior analyst licensing and ASD voucher administrative code; service utilization and expenditures and options to increase the number of slots and qualifying ages served by the Medicaid ASD waiver.

Dr. Catherine Yeager, a licensed clinical psychologist who specializes in assessment and treatment of children, adolescents and families, will share information on ASD screenings and recent research published by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Other topics will also be discussed.

The task force meeting is open to the public and will be held via Skype video conference originating from Great River Energy’s Fort Union Room East in Bismarck. Attendees should enter the Great River Energy building through the public entrance on the north side. Individuals unable to attend via Skype can join by conference call at 701-328-0950, passcode 42896467#.

The meeting agenda is available online at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html.

People who need accommodations to participate should contact Krista Fremming prior to the meeting at 701-328-2342, toll-free 800-755-2719, 711 (TTY) or krfremming@nd.gov.

The legislature created the task force in 2009; members are appointed by the governor. The task force is responsible for reviewing early intervention and family support services that enable individuals with autism spectrum disorder to live at home or in community settings, and programs helping individuals with autism spectrum disorder to transition from school-based settings to adult services and workforce development programs. In addition, the task force monitors the provision of services, and reviews, amends and updates the state plan to better meet the needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorder.

The department provides information about its autism spectrum disorder services online at www.nd.gov/dhs/autism/index.html. Task force information is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/autism/taskforce.html.

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