

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | May 24, 2022

May 26 webinar highlights companionship and supervision services and emergency response system lifeline services that support independent living

BISMARCK, N.D. – Social isolation and loneliness can compound health concerns, increasing a person’s risk of premature death from all causes, according to the National Academies of Sciences.

To support independent community living and health and well-being, professionals in the North Dakota Department of Human Services’ Adult and Aging Services team will give a webinar May 26, 12-12:30 p.m. CT, to raise awareness about companionship and supervision services and emergency response system lifeline services that are available and serve older adults and adults with physical disabilities who live in the community.

People can join the webinar by phone at 701-328-0950, Conference ID 676 451 010#. Details about joining online via mobile device or computer can be found in the event flyer posted online at www.nd.gov/dhs/services/adultsaging/.

Companionship services reduce social isolation and involve a service provider coming into the home or accompanying an individual on outings and activities in the community that align with therapeutic goals. Supervision services can provide up to 24 hours of supervision to individuals and benefit those with cognitive impairments, dementia or high physical needs where it is not safe for them to be left alone.

Emergency response system, often called a lifeline system, can help individuals get help if they fall or have a health emergency. A wearable pendant or other devices and technology solutions enables a person to reach an on-call service, designated family member or emergency responders if needed.

Individual and agency qualified service providers deliver the companionship and supervision services, and agency QSPs provide the emergency response system equipment and support.

Details about other upcoming webinars and recordings of past webinars are available on the division’s webpage at www.nd.gov/dhs/services/adultsaging/.

To learn more and find services, contact North Dakota’s Aging and Disability Resource Link toll-free at 855-462-5465, 711 (TTY), email carechoice@nd.gov, or apply for services online at <https://carechoice.nd.assistguide.net/>.

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MEDIA CONTACTS:

Heather Steffl | 701-328-4933
hsteffl@nd.gov

LuWanna Lawrence | 701-328-1892
lklawrence@nd.gov