

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | June 6, 2022

Agency hosts conversation June 9 with older adults and others to discuss in-home and community care options and new developments

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services is hosting a U.S. Department of Justice (USDJO) North Dakota Settlement Agreement stakeholder meeting on Thursday, June 9, 1-3 p.m. CT. Older adults, adults with physical disabilities, their family members and other stakeholders are invited to participate by phone, online or in person to learn about state efforts to expand access to in-home and community-based long-term support services that promote independent living.

Department experts will share updates on the state's transition plan, settlement agreement report and new developments in home and community-based services, including upcoming visits beginning in June with all North Dakota Medicaid members referred for a long-term stay in a nursing home. As part of the settlement agreement, Adult and Aging Services Division team members will discuss care options with Medicaid members who are referred to or residing in nursing homes. They will share information about in-home supports, transition services to help people move from a nursing home to community living with care and support, and the planning process involving the individual.

The agenda also includes an update from the UND Center for Rural Health about the Qualified Service Provider Hub launched in May with DHS. Direct care professionals enrolled as qualified service providers can contact the customer service hub if they have questions about billing, marketing, operating a small business and more. The agenda includes time for stakeholders to ask questions and share concerns and recommendations about long-term support services and programs.

Stakeholders can participate in the meeting virtually from computers, mobile devices or by telephone at 701-328-0950, Conference ID: 297 640 39#. The public meeting notice issued on May 26 includes details on joining the meeting online and is available at <https://bit.ly/3QeyY6u>.

Individuals can attend in person too at the Prairie Rose Room in the department's Prairie Hills Plaza location, 1237 W. Divide Ave., Suite 6, in Bismarck. Attendees should enter through Door 2.

Individuals who need disability accommodations to participate can contact Michele Curtis at 701-328-8679, 711 (TTY) or mimcurtis@nd.gov.

ND hosts USDOJ settlement agreement stakeholder meeting June 9

North Dakota's long-term care options have grown steadily as people's preferences have shifted toward in-home and community support¹, and North Dakota and other states have developed programs and services aligning with the Americans with Disabilities Act community integration requirement.

North Dakota provided state and federally funded in-home and community-based services to 3,143 older adults and other adults with physical disabilities in 2021.

In 2021, North Dakota also helped 88 Medicaid members transition, at their request, from nursing homes to integrated community housing with necessary support.

In addition, the Adult and Aging Services Division team and its partners diverted 268 people from nursing home services by connecting them to needed in-home and community-based services and supports so they could live at home in the community.

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

The USDOJ N.D. settlement agreement was announced in December 2020 and focuses on expanding access to in-home and community services so that individuals with physical disabilities can live in the least restrictive setting possible. Learn more at <https://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/doj-settlement.html>.

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SOURCES:

1 Binette, Joanne. *2021 Home and Community Preference Survey: A National Survey of Adults Age 18-Plus*. Washington, DC: AARP Research, November 2021. <https://doi.org/10.26419/res.00479.001>

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