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Behavioral health professionals provide vital services to North Dakotans

BISMARCK, N.D. – Behavioral health is health. In this time of uncertainty, the services and support provided by behavioral health professionals are even more essential to individuals' well-being. The North Dakota Department of Human Services would like to thank all of the behavioral health professionals who continue to serve individuals and families in North Dakota.

"People are the heart of our communities," said Chris Jones, the department's executive director. "Supporting people through the range of life events and life stages that all of us experience helps ensure that people are able to live their lives as fully-engaged members of their community."

Behavioral health professionals work in various capacities, both in public and private sector organizations and provide medically-necessary services, treatment, counseling and support to people dealing with addiction, mental illness and other related issues. They may work in residential and inpatient facilities and outpatient community clinics and include psychiatrists, psychologists, mental health and crisis counselors, therapists, licensed addiction counselors, peer support specialists, case managers and other professionals.

The department employs behavioral health professionals at its regional behavioral health clinics and the North Dakota State Hospital who provide treatment and recovery support to North Dakotans with chronic and severe behavioral health needs.

"We are grateful for all of these professionals and their commitment to vulnerable North Dakotans every day, and now especially during this uncertain time, because behavioral health is an essential part of overall health," Jones said.

For more information on behavioral health resources and services, visit www.behavioralhealth.nd.gov/ and www.nd.gov/dhs. FirstLink 2-1-1 is available for listening and support, referrals to resources for help and crisis intervention. Individuals can also call the 24-hour Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration disaster crisis helpline at 800-985-5990.

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