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## **Department of Human Services seeks input on substance abuse** *Listening sessions across state focus on treatment, prevention*

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is hosting a series of listening sessions across the state to hear from individuals, families and service providers about substance abuse treatment and prevention.

“Your Opinion Matters! Substance Use Disorder Community Forums” will be held in eight locations across Minnesota, with the goal of understanding the successes and challenges of our current system of preventing and treating substance use disorder.

“It is critical that we hear from stakeholders about how chemical health services are working and how together we can improve services for those in need,” said Minnesota Human Services Commissioner Lucinda Jesson, who will attend several of the forums.

Two-hour community forums are scheduled for:

- St. Paul: Sept. 25, 2015, 3 – 5 p.m.
- Rochester: Sept. 29, 2015, 3 – 5 p.m.
- Granite Falls: Oct. 6, 2015, 4 – 6 p.m.
- Thief River Falls: Oct. 15, 2015, 3 – 5 p.m.
- Fergus Falls: Oct. 16, 2015, 1– 3 p.m.
- Onamia: Oct. 22, 2015, 3 – 5 p.m.
- Minneapolis: Oct. 30, 2015, 3 – 5 p.m.
- Duluth: Nov. 6, 2015, 3 – 5 p.m.

Minnesota has a long and respected history of providing effective substance use disorder treatment. Most Minnesotans who complete treatment show considerable improvement in substance use, employment, housing, criminal behavior and participation in recovery support groups. Studies show that these benefits tend to continue over time

Input is welcome via email as well. Meeting locations and registration information can be found at: <http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/adad/>.