

# **NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505**

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## **North Dakota Family-Based Services Conference to be Held in Fargo March 28-30**

Bismarck, N.D. - "*Through the Eyes of a Child*" is the theme of the 24<sup>th</sup> annual North Dakota Family-Based Services Association Conference March 28-30, 2012, at the Holiday Inn in Fargo. The conference will feature child and adolescent experts addressing issues relating to the well-being of children and families. The event is sponsored by the N.D. Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division and Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division.

"This conference will shed light on new and relevant topics that maintain, strengthen, and empower children and their families," said Tim Gienger, president of the North Dakota Family-Based Services Association. "Attendees will also have the opportunity to network among their peers and to access professional development involving a 'whole family' approach to mental and behavioral health."

The conference will feature two keynote presentations. On March 28 from 9 to 11:30 a.m., Dr. Read Sulik will discuss promoting optimal mental health in children and adolescents. Dr. Jeffrey Edleson, a national expert on domestic violence, will headline the second day of the conference starting at 8 a.m. with a presentation on research, policy, and practice with children exposed to domestic violence.

Other conference workshops include understanding depression and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in children and adolescents, strengthening parent and professional partnerships, testifying in court, addressing long-term effects of abuse and neglect, grandparents raising grandchildren, online safety, and more.

Gienger, an individual and family therapist at the department's West Central Human Service Center, said mental health counselors and clinicians, licensed addiction counselors, social workers, child welfare professionals, providers, juvenile justice personnel, and other professionals who work with children and families are encouraged to attend.

Continuing education credits are available for licensed social workers. Registration will be accepted at the door. Single day registration is also available. For more details including a schedule of events, go online to [www.ndfbsa.org](http://www.ndfbsa.org).

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