

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services and Head Injury Association of North Dakota

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness and Recovery Focus of Conference

Governor Dalrymple Proclaims March as Brain Injury Awareness Month

BISMARCK, N.D. – About 13,000 North Dakotans live with a traumatic brain injury. The “*Mind Matters 2013*” Brain Injury Conference on March 13-14, 2013, at the Radisson Hotel in Bismarck, aims to educate medical and other treatment professionals, veterans, brain injury survivors and their family members, and others about the prevalence and effects of brain injury and the recovery process. An entire day will be dedicated to traumatic brain injury issues facing men and women serving in the armed forces and their families.

“A brain injury can have a dramatic impact on a person’s life, as well as the lives of family and friends,” said Richard Ott, executive director of Head Injury Association of North Dakota. “This conference offers a variety of perspectives to better understand brain injuries and their long-lasting effects.”

Presentations from regional and national speakers include vision disturbances following a brain injury, errorless learning principles, understanding brain-behavior relationships in children with a brain injury, exercise-based therapy that manages dizziness and balance disorders, and assistive technology.

The second day of the conference will feature various presentations for military veterans including a panel discussion from 1 to 2:15 p.m. with veterans and their spouses on adjusting to life following a traumatic brain injury.

The conference is sponsored by the Head Injury Association of North Dakota, N.D. Protection and Advocacy Project, and the N.D. Department of Human Services.

Continuing education credits are available for psychologists, nurses, social workers, and licensed addiction counselors. Preregistration is encouraged, but registrations will be accepted at the door. For more details or a schedule of events, go online to www.braininjurynd.com/.

Featured Speakers

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Annette Pearson is a licensed alcohol and drug counselor and a certified brain injury specialist. She will lead a presentation from 1 to 2:15 p.m. on brain injury and addiction.

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Thursday, March 14, 2013

Dr. Verle Valentine who specializes in sports medicine with Sanford Health will discuss sports concussions from 8:15 to 9:45 a.m.

Dr. Don Marion is the director of clinical affairs with the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center in Maryland. His presentation from 8:15 to 11:45 a.m. will focus on a progressive degenerative disease of the brain found in athletes with a history of repetitive brain trauma.

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