

# **NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services and the ND Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Youth Leadership Conference to Be Held in Bismarck June 30 and July 1**

BISMARCK, N.D. – “Nothing About Us Without Us” is this year's theme for the North Dakota Youth Transition Conference June 30-July 1, 2013, at the Radisson Hotel in Bismarck. The conference will feature presentations for teens and their parents on various topics promoting team building and successful transition planning to adulthood.

“Transition is an exciting time for both parents and young adults, but it can also be scary, overwhelming, and confusing,” said Carlotta McCleary, executive director of the ND Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health. “This conference will provide youth and families the opportunity to network and learn what options are available to them as the youth move into adulthood.”

On Monday, July 1, at 11 a.m., attendees will participate in a “career dash,” which gives youth an opportunity to meet with over a dozen area employers and business leaders in a high-speed resource and referral employment search. There will also be a resource roundup for parents from 11 a.m. to noon.

Also on Monday, the nationally recognized CLIMB Theatre will perform from 1 to 4 p.m. Theater artists write, produce, and present plays and drama classes on topics such as bullying, self-control, respect, accepting differences, friendship, and drug prevention.

Conference planners said participants will gain a better understanding of how they can become better advocates for themselves by networking with peers and understanding what supports and services are available to lead successful lives.

The conference is sponsored by ND Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, Family Voices of North Dakota, Youth M.O.V.E BeyoND, N.D. Department of Public Instruction, Protection and Advocacy Project, and the N.D. Department of Human Services' Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division, Children and Family Services Division, and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Registration and lodging scholarships are available. To register for the conference, call 701-222-3310 or toll-free 1-877-822-6287.

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