

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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Opioid symposium for professionals offered in Bismarck and Fargo

BISMARCK, N.D. - The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Behavioral Health Division, in collaboration with the Reducing Pharmaceutical Narcotics Task Force, invites professionals to learn about effective responses in addressing opioid issues, including prescription pain medication and heroin in mid-August in Bismarck and Fargo.

The Opioid Symposium: Preparing Professionals to Confront the Opioid Crisis, part of the "Stop Overdose" effort, will be offered at no cost to professionals on August 15, in Fargo, at the Holiday Inn, Harvest Room, and on August 16, at the Bismarck Event Center.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Sessions will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This symposium will bring together medical professionals, pharmacists, behavioral health providers, first responders, educators, policymakers, as well as criminal justice, public health, and other professionals.

The experts leading the training will share information about evidence-based strategies that can help address the opioid crisis and save lives. Some training topics include best practices for safe and effective opioid prescribing, legal and liability considerations, evidence-based overdose prevention principles, and effective treatment practices.

Experts and other special guests include Erin Winstanley, Ph.D., a leading expert on overdose prevention and evidence-based treatment of opioid disorders. Winstanley has been a lead investigator of federally-funded studies and is the director of health services research at Mercy Health in Ohio and a faculty member at the University of Cincinnati.

Professionals interested in attending should pre-register online at <https://prevention.nd.gov/opioid-symposium-rsvp> by August 5. Space is limited.

For more details, visit <https://prevention.nd.gov/stopoverdose>, or contact the department Behavioral Health Division at 701-328-8920 or dhsbhddiv@nd.gov.

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