

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services  
600 E. Boulevard Ave. - Dept. 325, Bismarck N.D. 58505**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **North Dakota Family-Based Services annual conference to be held in Fargo April 5-7**

Bismarck, N.D. – “Action Meets Compassion” is the theme of the 29<sup>th</sup> annual North Dakota Family-Based Services Association (NDFBSA) annual conference April 5-7, at the Fargo Holiday Inn, 3803 13th Ave. S. The conference will feature local, regional and national experts on child and adolescent mental health, and other children and family issues. The event is sponsored by the North Dakota Department of Human Services’ Children and Family Services Division, the NDFBSA membership and Music Therapy in Motion.

The three-day conference includes educational sessions on topics such as self-compassion and practical ways to approach work with a positive attitude, effects of illegal drugs and gangs on a community, personal journeys of violence and healing from mental health disorders, and navigating the journey to independence.

Breakout presentations will include topics on the positive aspects of music therapy for all ages of children, developing skills to communicate and engage with non-compliant people, and creating an LGBTQ-affirmative environment for youth. Attendees will also learn about the neurobiology of trauma and understanding victim behavior, rights of youth who are homeless, creative supervision techniques and stress management.

Sanford Health is sponsoring a preconference workshop on April 4 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., that will focus on chronic illness and school reintegration, compassion fatigue and self-care, tools for helping children and families understand bereavement, and child maltreatment recovery.

The conference is open to behavioral health and child welfare professionals, service providers, juvenile justice personnel, parent aides, foster parents, retired professionals, students, educators and others. Professionals who work with children and families are encouraged to attend.

Continuing education credits are available for licensed social workers. Required social work ethics training will also be provided.

Information about the conference including online registration and a schedule of events is available at [www.ndfbsa.org](http://www.ndfbsa.org). Registration fees are \$195 for the entire NDFBSA conference including the preconference, \$85 for one-day registration on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday and \$65 for single day registration on Tuesday.

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