

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Bismarck ND 58505**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 15, 2018**

Training for child caregivers and professionals who work with children and families to be held April 4-6 in Fargo

Bismarck, N.D. – Child caregivers and other professionals who work with children and families are invited to attend the North Dakota Family Based Services Association Conference April 4-6 at Fargo's Holiday Inn. This year's event celebrates "30 Years: Together with Families." Since 1988, the annual conference has become a premier event for the collaboration of its members to maintain, strengthen and empower North Dakota families.

On April 4 at 3 p.m., speaker Tina Meier, a mother who tragically lost her 13-year-old daughter, Megan, after she was the victim of online bullying, will give a presentation on the effects of bullying and cyberbullying and tools available for professionals and caregivers to help identify situations and provide assistance to youth. Meier will also give her presentation at a special community event on April 4, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Fargo Holiday Inn. The event is free and open to the public.

On April 5, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., F5 Project founder Adam Martin will discuss the effects of parental incarceration on children and families, and how the dynamics of a family unit change when incarceration and recovery from substance use are components.

The three-day conference will also feature local, regional and national experts on topics such as managing a multi-generational workforce, therapeutic interventions for de-escalating highly emotional behaviors, opioid treatment trends in North Dakota and resiliency and strengths of immigrant youth. Attendees will also learn about professional ethics, technology and social media; clinical supervision of students; and common anger traps that can trigger emotional power struggles for foster care children. Other sessions are also planned.

There will also be a preconference workshop on April 3 with hands-on activities and skill building exercises on emotional regulation for children of all ages. The workshop is sponsored by The Kids Therapy Center and the Red River Behavioral Health System.

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.

Information about the conference, including online registration and a full schedule of events, is available at www.ndfbsa.org. Registration fees are \$195 for the entire NDFBSA conference including the preconference, \$90 for one-day registration on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday and \$65 for the preconference session on Tuesday.

Individuals who need accommodations to participate in the training conference should contact Amy Oehlke in advance of the conference at 701-777-3261, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888 or amy.oehlke@und.edu.

-MORE-

**Training for child caregivers and professionals who work
with children and families to be held April 4-6 in Fargo**
Page 2

The 2018 conference is a partnership between the North Dakota Family Based Services Association, Imagine Thriving of Fargo and the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division.

###