

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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Northern Plains Conference on Aging and Disability is Sept. 5-7 in Fargo

BISMARCK, N.D. – Caregivers, people with disabilities, older individuals, advocates, service providers, and the public are invited to attend the 2006 Northern Plains Conference on Aging and Disability, September 5-7, at the Holiday Inn of Fargo. This annual event features experts on aging, health and well being, disability issues, and public policy.

This year, a number of speakers will share their expertise related to Alzheimer’s disease and related conditions, as well as Parkinson’s disease. Their presentations will cover diagnosis and treatment, caregiving issues, dealing with related grief, and related matters. Other presentations focus on pain management, alcohol and prescription drug abuse in older adults, assessing mental health issues, leading healthy lifestyles, nutrition, planning for long term care needs and the options available to address changing abilities.

“The annual conference brings together individuals who share an interest in the changing demographics of the Northern Plains,” said Sandy Arends, the regional aging services program administrator at Southeast Human Service Center.

“We believe it promotes dialogue and provides valuable information to people who are assuming a growing role in shaping the service delivery system,” she said.

Conference programming also includes area humorists Jerry O’Connor and TV personality Terry Dullum, inspirational speaker Judy Siegle, as well as facility tours, meals and refreshments, door prizes, and exhibit booths.

On-site registration is available and ranges from \$90 for professionals and others to \$35 for students and retired individuals age 60 and older. For conference details, see the brochure online at http://www.nd.gov/humanservices/calendar/2006/docs/2006-conf-on-aging-and_disability-brochure.pdf. Information is also available through the Fargo Senior Commission and Southeast Human Service Center.

Major event sponsors include Gate City Bank, AARP North Dakota, the Alzheimer’s Association, Bethany Homes, and Minnesota State University-Moorhead. Other sponsoring organizations include 4 Seasons of Moorhead, the Coalition of Service Providers to the Elderly, Eventide Moorhead/West Fargo, Metro Area Mayors Committee on People with Disabilities, Riverview Place, Trollwood Village, and the Waterford at Harwood Groves.

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