

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alcohol and Substance Abuse Summit to be held in Bismarck

BISMARCK, N.D. – The N.D. Department of Human Services' Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division is sponsoring its annual Alcohol and Substance Abuse Summit, Sept. 6-8, 2011, at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck. The summit will explore various intervention, treatment and recovery methods, and models. Substance abuse prevention and treatment professionals from across the state are attending.

Numerous educational workshops hosted by in-state and nationally-recognized substance abuse prevention and mental health experts will be held on Sept. 7 and 8. Topics include anger and addiction, Native American spirituality used in recovery, brain injuries and addictions, N.D. Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, guilt and shame associated with addiction, energy drinks and alcohol, addiction among the elderly, cutting-edge developments on brain-based diseases, and more.

"This event brings alcohol and substance abuse professionals together to network and learn about new strategies that create a positive environment for people in recovery," said JoAnne Hoesel, director of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division.

A pre-conference workshop on Sept. 6 will examine the roles, rules, and responsibilities of a clinical supervisor. Participants will also have the opportunity to discuss the pressures and influences related to the career.

The summit will also feature a panel discussion led by representatives from Prairie Public Radio's *High Risk High: Youth Drinking in North Dakota* project that the Department of Human Services co-sponsors. Participants will learn about initiatives taking place in communities across the state to reduce underage drinking.

Hoesel said nearly 230 people are registered for the summit, which is open to addiction and professional counselors, psychologists, prevention coordinators, educators, medical personnel, social workers, and other interested individuals.

Continuing education credits are available. Registration will be accepted at the door. For more details or a schedule of events, go to www.dce.ndsu.nodak.edu/conferences/asas/.

Notable Workshop Speakers

Wednesday, Sept. 7

Dr. Andy McLean, the medical director for the N.D. Department of Human Services, will conduct an afternoon workshop from 1:30 to 3:45 p.m. on addiction and its affect on the brain.

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Thursday, Sept. 8

Annette Pearson, a licensed alcohol and drug counselor and a certified brain injury specialist with the Brain Injury Association of America, will lead an all-day workshop titled “*Why is it so hard? Breaking the Frustrating Cycle: Strategies for Working with Individuals with Brain Injury and Addiction.*” It begins at 10 a.m. She is employed by the Vinland National Center in Minnesota as the outpatient service manager.

Dr. Frank White, an assistant professor of sociology at the University of North Dakota, is presenting from 1 to 2 p.m. on the dangers of mixing energy drinks and alcohol. He will also touch on current marketing strategies and the legal responses to this growing problem.

Mavis Doster, a registered nurse who has worked in the field of chemical dependency inpatient and outpatient treatment for 40 years, presents from 2:15 to 3:15 p.m. on additions affecting the elderly. Doster is the director of residential and nursing services at Heartview in Bismarck.

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