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. 4-6, 2012, 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.

Educational workshops presented by in-state and nationally-recognized substance abuse prevention and mental health experts will be held on Sept. 5 and 6. Topics include recovery management, self-care strategies to prevent burnout, clinical supervision, behavioral addictions including gambling, Internet, work, and food; health care reform and its effect on the mental health and substance abuse service delivery system, understanding chronic pain with chemical dependency issues, and more.

“The summit provides an opportunity for addiction professionals to meet, discuss treatment challenges and successes while learning about the latest information to assist in the delivery of substance abuse treatment services to North Dakota citizens,” said JoAnne Hoesel, director of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division.

A pre-conference professional development workshop on Sept. 4 will examine the roles, rules, and responsibilities of a clinical supervisor, as well as dealing with legal and ethical management issues.

The summit is open to addiction counselors and other professional counselors, psychologists, prevention professionals, educators, medical personnel, social workers, and other interested individuals.

Continuing education units (CEUs) are available for licensed addiction counselors, other counselors, and North Dakota social workers. General CEUs will also be available. Registration will be accepted at the door. For more details or a schedule, go to www.dce.ndsu.nodak.edu/conferences/asas/.

Notable Workshop Speakers

Thursday, Sept. 6
Laura Sonderup, the managing director and senior strategist at Hispanidad, a full-service advertising agency, will discuss culture changes in North Dakota and how to serve the multicultural population from 8:15 to 9:15 a.m.

Dr. Andy McLean, the medical director for the N.D. Department of Human Services, will conduct a workshop from 11:15 to 12:15 p.m. on the use of medication in treating substance use disorders.

Dr. Frank White, an assistant professor of sociology at the University of North Dakota, is presenting from 1 to 2:30 p.m. on bath salts and other synthetic drugs. He will touch on the current marketing strategies, street names of synthetic drugs, and the legal responses to this growing problem.

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