

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Behavioral Health Conference is set for May 14-16 in Bismarck

BISMARCK, N.D. – The N.D. Department of Human Services' Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services is sponsoring the N.D. Behavioral Health Conference May 14-16, 2013, at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck.

“This conference brings together both substance abuse and mental health professionals to learn about emerging trends in both mental health and substance abuse treatment, recovery, and prevention that will better support the behavior health workforce in the state,” said JoAnne Hoesel, director of the department’s Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division.

The conference will include learning opportunities in the areas of ethics, social effects of trauma, clinical supervision, peer support, behavioral health treatment for returning veterans, prescription drug abuse, supported employment for individuals diagnosed with a co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorder, mental health promotion and mental illness prevention, and well as other areas of interest.

A pre-conference workshop on Tues., May 14 will analyze a case study involving trauma and its effect on Dissociative Identity Disorder (formally referred to as Multiple Personality Disorder).

The conference is a professional development opportunity for counselors, licensed addiction counselors, social workers, healthcare providers, therapists, psychologists, psychiatrists, students, and others interested in promoting the well-being of children, adults, and the elderly.

Continuing education credits are available. Pre-registration is encouraged, but registrations will be accepted at the door each day. People can register online and get a schedule of events at www.dce.ndsu.nodak.edu/conferences/ndbhc/.

Featured Speakers

Wed., May 15, 2013

Beth Caldwell is the principle consultant in a group dedicated to supporting children with special needs, and their families. Her presentation from 10:15 to 11:45 a.m. will focus on providing care to individuals who have experienced extensive trauma and prevention tools that support healing.

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(Wed., May 15, continued)

Dr. Barbara Sullivan is the associate director of the Utah Addiction Center. Her presentation from 12:30 to 2 p.m. will address how cognitive impairments impact substance abuse treatment and how clinicians can modify treatment protocols to more successfully treat clients.

Thurs., May 16, 2013

Dr. Alan Fehr is a licensed psychologist and a behavior health officer in the N.D. National Guard. His presentation from 9:30 to 11 a.m. will highlight issues impacting returning veterans and offer treatment strategies available to substance abuse and mental health clinicians.

Mark Parrino, president of the American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence, will discuss prescription drug abuse in his presentation from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. including abstinence treatment and the use of medication in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies for substance abuse treatment.

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