

# **NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Behavioral Health Conference is Sept. 4-5 in Bismarck**

BISMARCK, N.D. – Addiction and mental health professionals, social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, educators, and other behavioral health and medical professionals are invited to the N.D. Behavioral Health Conference Sept. 4-5, 2013, at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck. The conference is sponsored by the N.D. Department of Human Services' Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

The conference will feature numerous educational workshops hosted by in-state and nationally-recognized substance abuse prevention and mental health experts. Presentation topics include treatment strategies for prescription opioid dependency and for individuals with traumatic brain injuries and other cognitive limitations who struggle with substance abuse, cognitive impairments and its impact on treatment; early intervention and treatment services for people at-risk of substance use disorders, overview of the latest version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), recovery coaches, North Dakota's Consumer and Family Network, and more.

"This conference aims to bring together a diverse group of professionals to share knowledge and experience and to learn about proven and effective treatment methods that promote the well-being of children and adults," said JoAnne Hoesel, director of the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services for the N.D. Department of Human Services.

A pre-conference workshop on Sept.3 will examine new ethical dilemmas facing clinicians and other professionals regarding the use of technology and social media outlets.

Hoesel said conference planners expect about 250 professionals in attendance.

Continuing education credits are available. Information on the conference, including online registration and a schedule of events, is at [www.dce.ndsu.nodak.edu/conferences/ndbhc/](http://www.dce.ndsu.nodak.edu/conferences/ndbhc/). Registration will also be accepted at the door. Registration fees are \$60 for the pre-conference, \$90 per day for the two-day conference and \$210 for the entire conference.

The N.D. Department of Human Services' Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services coordinates two separate behavioral health conferences each year with different topics and presentations that provide training to mental health and substance abuse professionals and to support and encourage a statewide system of behavioral health services for children, adults, and the elderly.

For more information on mental health and substance abuse treatment services in the state, visit [www.nd.gov/dhs/services/mentalhealth/](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/mentalhealth/).

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