

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2014

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Speaker to share story of trauma and recovery at N.D. Spring Behavioral Health Conference

BISMARCK, N.D. – Trauma from abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction can lead to behavioral health needs, including addiction, if left untreated. Speaker and advocate Tonier “Neen” Cain will share her story of overcoming trauma as one of many featured presenters at the N.D. Department of Human Services’ 2014 Spring Behavioral Health Conference, May 12-14, 2014, at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck.

Two full-day preconference sessions will be held on Monday, May 12 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Kelly Chrestman will conduct preconference training on military culture, the deployment cycle and its impact on service members and their families, and trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder screening and treatment. Gerry Blasingame will provide training on sex offender treatment, management, and supervision including strategies for engaging individuals who are resistant to treatment efforts.

The conference begins Tuesday, May 13 at 8:30 a.m. with a keynote by national expert and published researcher Jill Williams from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on the need for addressing tobacco use in behavioral health. Williams is professor of psychiatry and director of the Division of Addiction Psychiatry at Rutgers University - Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

Cain’s presentation about recovery from trauma is May 14 at 8:30 a.m. Cain is the team leader for the National Center for Trauma-Informed Care with the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors and has been featured in a documentary about trauma, incarceration, and recovery.

Conference breakout sessions include presentations about medication assisted treatment, early psychosis intervention, client rights and informed consent, adult protective services mandatory reporting, mental health first aid, mental health and substance abuse issues later in life, and peer support. North Dakota professionals will participate in a panel about local programs such as the mobile crisis unit in the Fargo region.

On May 14, clinical psychologist and ethics expert Mary Alice Fisher will conduct training on ethics and high risk temptations and avoiding slippery slopes. Conference registrants can attend training by Dr. Patricia Bradley on the American Psychiatric Association's newly revised classification and diagnostic tool: the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-5).

Detailed information about the conference schedule, presentations, speakers, and other information is online at www.dce.ndsu.nodak.edu/conferences/ndbhc.

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Individuals interested in mental health and substance abuse issues are invited to attend. Registrants include professional counselors, licensed addiction counselors, social workers, nurses, therapists, psychologists, psychiatrists, students, and consumers of behavioral health services. Continuing education hours are available and vary by profession and licensure.

People can register up to the start of the conference. Consumers, their family members, and students can attend the two-day conference for a \$60 registration fee. Fees vary for others based on whether people register to attend the entire conference, one-day, both days, or only a pre-conference session.

Individuals who need auxiliary aids to participate or who have questions should contact Lauren Sauer in the department's Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services at lsauer@nd.gov, 701-328-8733, or ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888.

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