

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 27, 2014

For more information, contact: Heather Steffl at 701-328-4933 or LuWanna Lawrence at 701-328-1892.

Experts on health care changes and marijuana-related public policy to speak at Human Services conference

BISMARCK, N.D. – Experts on health care changes and marijuana-related public policy are among the mental health and addiction treatment professionals featured at the N.D. Department of Human Services' Fall Behavioral Health Conference set for Sept. 2-4, 2014, at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck.

Psychiatrist David Mee-Lee will share information on Sept. 3, from 9 to 10:30 a.m., about how communities, employers, administrators, health care providers, and individuals can reduce costs and address chronic illness more effectively by changing the current focus on "sick care" to a system that focuses on wellness and health. Mee-Lee will offer strategies to achieve self-change and effective and efficient systems of care. He will also lead a Sept. 2, pre-conference session on the American Society of Addiction Medicine's (ASAM) Treatment Criteria for Addictive, Substance-Related and Co-Occurring Conditions. The Central Rockies Addiction Technology Transfer Center is sponsoring his presentation.

On Sept. 3, Beau Kilmer, a senior policy researcher and co-director of the RAND Corporation's Drug Policy Research Center, will give a presentation titled "*Legalized Marijuana: What Everyone Needs to Know*," from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Kilmer's research has appeared in leading professional journals and explores substance use, illicit markets, crime, and public policy.

Other conference speakers will share information on child traumatic stress, prescription opioid addiction treatment strategies, prescription drug overdose prevention, mental health advance directives, the screening, assessment, and diagnosis of gambling disorders, and other topics. Conference details and all handouts are online at www.dce.ndsu.nodak.edu/conferences/ndbhc/.

Professional counselors, licensed addiction counselors, social workers, nurses, therapists, psychologists, psychiatrists, students, consumers of behavioral health services, and other interested individuals are encouraged to attend. Continuing education hours are available and vary by profession and licensure.

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

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

###