

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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North Dakota Family-Based Services Conference to be Held in Fargo April 8-10

Keynote speaker to share message about childhood sexual abuse prevention

Bismarck, N.D. - Sexual abuse prevention efforts are stronger when prevention education is effective and meaningful to both adults and children. Speaker and advocate Pattie Fitzgerald will share real world insight on how to help protect youth from sexual predators as one of many featured speakers at the 27th annual North Dakota Family-Based Services Conference, April 8-10, 2015, at Fargo's Holiday Inn.

The three-day conference themed "Growing Hope; Cultivating Awareness" features presentations from local, regional, and national experts on topics including post traumatic parenting, human trafficking, motivational interviewing, engaging families in Indian Country, the impact of providing foster care on children of foster parents, locating and engaging fathers in a child's life, and ethics training relating to social work practice. Attendees will also learn about Nurtured Heart Approach®, a behavior management strategy that helps create healthy relationships.

Fitzgerald's presentation on childhood sexual abuse prevention is Thurs., April 9, from 8 to 10 a.m. in the Sterling/Crowne conference room.

The conference is open to mental health counselors and clinicians, licensed addiction counselors, social workers, child welfare professionals, providers, juvenile justice personnel, foster parents, and others. Any professionals who work with children and families are encouraged to attend.

Continuing education credits are available for licensed social workers.

Information on the conference including online registration and a schedule of events is at www.ndfbsa.org. Registration fees are \$85 for single day registration on Wednesday and Thursday, \$65 for single day registration on Friday, and \$155 for the entire conference. The registration fee for a parent or student is \$100. Registration will also be accepted at the door.

The event is sponsored by the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division.

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