

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Child Welfare Professionals to Benefit from Conference in Bismarck July 28-30

BISMARCK, N.D. – The Children and Family Services Division of the North Dakota Department of Human Services is sponsoring the Children and Family Services Conference July 28-30, 2015, at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel, 800 S. Third St., in Bismarck. The conference provides training, information, and skill development in the areas of child safety, permanency, and well-being.

Preconference workshops will be held Mon., July 27 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. starting with training on the federal instrument used to assess child welfare case practices and a presentation on Nurtured Heart Approach: Transforming a Difficult Child method. Following lunch, conference attendees will learn about North Dakota State University's Basic Beginnings, a parenting program for new and expecting parents and the effects of secondary trauma on professionals who work with traumatized individuals.

The conference begins Tues., July 28 with numerous workshops led by regional and local speakers on topics including enhancing child protection through family engagement, balancing privacy and protection in child abuse investigations, understanding adolescent development, assessing psychological maltreatment, and mental health and substance abuse use disorders. Other workshops topics include the use of social media in child welfare practice, human trafficking, emotional hardiness for caring professionals, Indian Child Welfare Act, practicing gratitude and positive thinking, and more.

People can register and obtain a conference schedule and other details online at www.cfstc.und.edu.

In conjunction with the conference, Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota will hold a film screening of *Authentic Voices: How We Survive*, as well as a book signing with authors of *Authentic Voices 2*, on Wed., July 29, from 5:15 to 5:45 p.m. in the Patterson Room at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel. This event is free and open to the public.

Individuals interested in the child welfare system are invited to attend the conference. Registrants include social workers, counselors, foster and adoptive parents, therapists, law enforcement, tribal social services staff, juvenile court directors, students, and other child welfare professionals who work with children and families.

Continuing education credits are available for social work, counselors, law enforcement, continuing judicial education and continuing legal education.

Preregistration is encouraged, but registrations will be accepted at the door. The registration fee is \$125 for the three-day conference. All pre-conference workshops are provided at no cost to attendees.

The Children and Family Services Conference is co-sponsored by the University of North Dakota Children and Family Services Training Center and the North Dakota Department of Human Services Children and Family Services Division with support from the North Dakota Supreme Court.

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