

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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Spring Behavioral Health Conference is May 17-19 in Minot

Highlighting behavioral health integration, suicide assessment, and trauma-informed care

BISMARCK, N.D. – Over 200 behavioral health professionals and other interested individuals have registered for North Dakota’s Spring 2016 Behavioral Health Conference that will be held May 17-19, at the Grand Hotel in Minot. Conference programming runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Organizers have sought out experts to offer a wide array of training. Highlighted topics include behavioral health integration, suicide assessment, and trauma-informed care. Details are available online at <http://behavioralhealthconference.nd.gov/>.

The pre-conference session on May 17 will focus on clinical supervision, which is the cornerstone of quality improvement in the behavioral health treatment field. In addition to providing a bridge between the classroom and the clinic, clinical supervision improves client care, develops professionalism, and imparts and maintains ethical standards in the field.

On May 18, Benjamin Miller, Psy.D., Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine, will present the conference opening keynote address and a breakout session on integrating behavioral health and primary health care services. Integration helps identify needs early, improve access to treatment, and support recovery.

Miller is the director of Eugene S. Farley Jr. Health Policy Center, and is a principal investigator on several federal and foundation grants, and state contracts related to comprehensive integration of primary health care and mental health, behavioral health, and substance use.

Also on May 18, international workshop leader, author of six text books including one of the classic texts in the suicide prevention field, and Director of the Training Institute for Suicide Assessment and Clinical Interviewing, Shawn Shea, M.D., will provide a full day of training. His training will include suicide assessment and his interviewing strategy for uncovering suicidal ideation and intent: the Chronological Assessment of Suicide Events (CASE Approach). Participating clinicians will learn skills to tackle suicide assessment and prevention, documentation of risk, treatment planning, and building resiliency.

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More attention is being focused on trauma and its prevalence in communities. Conference attendees can also learn about how trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy can benefit some children and how being trauma-informed is critical in behavioral health treatment.

The conference also features breakout sessions on how age stereotypes influence the treatment of elders, depression and suicide later in life, assertive community treatment, human trafficking trends and the response in North Dakota, health disparities and integrating LGBT communities into behavioral health services, advocate empowerment, illness management and recovery, and other topics.

For more information on the conference schedule, topics, and speakers visit <http://behavioralhealthconference.nd.gov/>.

People can register online at <https://behavioralhealthconference.nd.gov/register>. Registrations will also be accepted at the conference.

Reduced registration fees are available to students, consumers, and consumers' family members.

Conference planning partners include the North Dakota Mental Health and Substance Abuse Planning Council, Mental Health America of North Dakota, the North Dakota Protection and Advocacy Project, the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the North Dakota Addiction Counselors Association, the North Dakota Addiction Treatment Providers Coalition, the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, and the North Dakota Department of Human Services.

For information about the conference, contact Lauren Sauer, North Dakota Department of Human Services, Behavioral Health Division, at lsauer@nd.gov or 701-328-8733, ND Relay TTY 800-366-3888.

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