

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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Behavioral Health Conference to be held in Fargo Sept. 6-8

BISMARCK, N.D. - The North Dakota Behavioral Health Conference will be held Sept. 6-8, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Fargo. The conference theme, *"Bridging the Gap: North Dakota's Behavioral Health Continuum of Care,"* encourages all North Dakota behavioral health professionals and other interested partners to develop integrated approaches for promoting awareness, prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery.

The three-day conference will begin on Sept. 6 at 8:30 a.m. with a plenary session featuring Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Regional Administrator Charles Smith, Ph.D., and staff of the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Behavioral Health Division providing a global overview of the behavioral health continuum of care in North Dakota and across the nation.

The conference will conclude Sept. 8 with a plenary session at 11 a.m. featuring Rita Reeves from the Oklahoma State Department of Health presenting on Chronic Disease Management in Behavioral Health.

Other conference highlights include these speakers and presentations:

- Dr. Donald Warne, M.P.H.: Impact of Population Health Programming on Behavioral Health Outcomes
- Suzanne Candell, Ph.D.: Mind-Body Healing and Treating Chronic Pain: Principles and Strategies
- Sean A. Bear: Recovery Oriented Systems of Care and Native American Culture
- Amy Mosher-Garvey: Growing a Culture of Outcome-Informed Care in Behavioral Health, and
- Leanne Desart, M.S.: System of Care Values – A Trauma Informed Framework

The entire schedule can be accessed online at <http://behavioralhealthconference.nd.gov/schedule>.

Sessions begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 5 p.m., Sept. 6-7. The conference will conclude at noon on Sept. 8. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. each day. Throughout the conference, many behavioral health and community service providers will display exhibits and provide information.

Participants will include mental health clinicians, social workers, substance use disorder clinicians, non-clinical program staff, nurses, consumers, parents and family members, medical practitioners, clergy, state agency staff and program administrators, and other behavioral health partners.

The behavioral health conference is developed in partnership with 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.

Online registration is open at <https://behavioralhealthconference.nd.gov/register>, and walk-up registration will be available. Learn more at <https://behavioralhealthconference.nd.gov>. For conference-related questions, contact lsauer@nd.gov.

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