

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 325, Bismarck N.D. 58505**

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Agency sponsors training March 27-28 for case managers and others who help adults remain living in their homes and communities

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Aging Services Division is sponsoring training March 27-28 in Bismarck for county case managers, Older Americans Act service providers, social workers and others who help older adults and adults with disabilities remain living in their homes and communities.

Professionals can register now through March 16 for the North Dakota Symposium on Aging, which will be held at the Radisson Hotel, 605 E. Broadway Ave. Registration is \$80 per person.

Regional and state experts will provide training that has been approved for 12 social work continuing education units and 12 training hours. About 125 people are expected to attend.

Attendees will learn about North Dakota's grant-funded Caregiving Across the Lifespan project that involves developing an emergency respite network for family caregivers. They will also learn de-escalation and communication skills promoting personal safety during in-home visits, and to appreciate how service preferences and expectations differ among individuals and the multiple generations they serve, and how to adapt their approaches to providing services.

North Dakota Council of the Arts Folklorist Troyd Geist will discuss *Art for Life* and how art, in its many forms, can be therapeutic and enhance quality of life. Julijana Nevland, a clinical psychologist at Chambers and Blohm Psychological Services P.C., will share information about assessments and observation skills that can help determine individuals' needs and whether concerns are due to mental illness or dementia, so that professionals going into clients' homes are better prepared to work effectively with them.

The department's Vulnerable Adult Protective Services Administrator Michelle Gayette will provide training on victim-centered response and intervening and preventing the abuse, neglect and financial exploitation of vulnerable adults.

Skyler Dutton of the North Dakota Safety Council will provide opioid and other drug recognition and awareness training. Drawing from his law enforcement background, he will discuss the signs of substance abuse in the home and how that can affect older adults.

Socially isolated individuals often consider case managers and others who work with them as their friends. Kathryn Krukenberg, assistant professor of social work at the University of Mary, will share information on how to maintain professional boundaries and cope with traumatic events involving clients, including grief and loss.

To register, contact the Minot Commission on Aging Inc., at 21 First Ave. S.E., Minot, ND 58701, 701-852-0561, Relay ND TTY 800-366-6888 or 7-1-1 or mcoapsc@srt.com.

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