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North Dakota Behavioral Health Conference set for Nov. 13-15 in Bismarck

Event will bring together behavioral health professionals from across North Dakota to inspire action

BISMARCK, N.D. – The 2019 [North Dakota Behavioral Health Conference](#) is scheduled for Nov. 13-15 at the Bismarck Event Center. Behavioral health clinicians, peer support specialists, health care professionals, community agencies interested in supporting behavioral health, consumers and family members will gather to hear about the status of behavioral health in North Dakota and learn from several keynote speakers and breakout sessions.

“Many changes are occurring in North Dakota’s behavioral health system. This conference provides an opportunity for individuals interested in behavioral health to learn and be inspired to take action,” said Pamela Sagness director of the North Dakota Department of Human Services’ Behavioral Health Division.

Keynote speakers include:

- Dan Nevins, a highly decorated soldier who was severely injured during combat in Iraq in 2004, losing both legs below the knee and living with a traumatic brain injury and the emotional wounds of war, will begin the conference with his message of perseverance, resiliency and hope.
- Kevin Hines, a best-selling author, global public speaker and award-winning documentary filmmaker, attempted to take his life by jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge in 2000. Back to North Dakota by popular demand, he will share his story of hope, healing and recovery while teaching people about the art of wellness.
- Dr. Melinda Moore, a licensed psychologist and assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at Eastern Kentucky University, will explore national trends in addressing suicide prevention and integrating suicide prevention into clinical practice.
- Ryan Sallans, a renowned transgender speaker and author specializing in health care and workplace issues impacting the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) community, will discuss minority stress and LGBTQ identities.
- Jeffon Seely, a senior consultant, transformational speaker and workshop facilitator, will provide information about workplace wellness and mindfulness.

Conference participants will have the opportunity to learn about new behavioral health initiatives and programs, connect with state and national behavioral health leaders, and advance their skills. Participants will also identify how to employ peer support specialists in multiple settings, integrate suicide prevention efforts, and ensure person-centered practices in their work.

The full agenda is available on www.behavioralhealth.nd.gov/conference. Also, visit the website to find more details about the event and to register.

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[Recovery Reinvented](#) precedes the conference on Nov. 12, and a post-conference training is available on Nov. 15. The post-conference training will have two tracks, including peer support supervision/administration and ethics for clinicians.

Approximately 12 continuing education units (CEU) are available both days (November 13-14). Six CEUs are available by participating in the post-conference training on Nov. 15.

ABOUT NORTH DAKOTA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The department's Behavioral Health Division is responsible for reviewing and identifying service needs and activities in the state's behavioral health system to ensure health and safety and access to quality services. It establishes quality assurance standards for the licensure of substance use disorder program services and facilities and provides policy leadership in partnership with public and private entities. For more information, visit www.behavioralhealth.nd.gov/.

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