

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ND Family Based Services Conference to be held March 26-29 in Fargo

BISMARCK, ND – “Together Inspire Hope” is the theme of the 31st annual North Dakota Family Based Services Association (NDFBSA) conference March 26-29, at the Fargo Holiday Inn. The conference will feature local, regional and national experts who will discuss various behavioral health-related topics, youth engagement, childhood trauma and other children and family-related topics geared towards strengthening North Dakota families.

The conference kicks off on March 26 with a workshop from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on North Dakota’s coordinated system for responding to victims of human trafficking. Later in the evening, the public is invited to attend a free two-hour presentation on how an adolescent brain changes from childhood to adulthood. This event starts at 5:30 p.m. at the Fargo Holiday Inn and is in partnership with Imagine Thriving, an initiative of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota.

On March 27 at 8:30 a.m., author and international speaker Dr. David Walsh and Erin Walsh will give a presentation on the art and science of helping children thrive by understanding brain science. On March 28 at 8 a.m., Ty Sells from Youth to Youth International will share practical and interactive ways to engage and connect with youth. At 10:30 a.m., attendees will learn about the federal Family First Prevention Services Act (PL 115-123) and its aim to strengthen families.

The conference will also feature 16 educational sessions on topics such as the impact of social media on adolescent development, neuroscience of addiction and the implications of recovery, the North Dakota Dual Status Youth Initiative, youth engagement strategies, child trauma and eating disorders, grandparents raising grandchildren and the effects of dyslexia on learning. One session will feature Taylor Berhow, a Mandan native who was incarcerated for manslaughter, and his personal story of impaired driving that affected the lives of three of his best friends. Other sessions are also planned.

The conference is open to behavioral health and child welfare professionals, service providers, juvenile justice personnel, parent aides, foster parents, retired professionals, students, educators and others. Professionals who work with children and families are encouraged to attend. Continuing education credits are available for licensed social workers.

Information about the conference, including online registration and a full schedule of events, is available at www.ndfbsa.org. Registration fees are \$195 for the entire NDFBSA conference including the preconference, \$90 for one-day registration on Wednesday or Thursday, \$65 for the preconference workshop and \$70 for Friday’s session. There is also a \$100 parent/student registration fee available that covers the entire conference.

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The 2019 conference is sponsored by North Dakota Family Based Services Association, the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division, Pediatric Partners, Prairie St. John's and Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota.

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