

ADVISORY

Department of Human Services' behavioral health experts to offer demonstrations and lifesaving information at North Dakota State Fair

BISMARCK, N.D. (July 19, 2019) – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Behavioral Health Division will be at the North Dakota State Fair in Minot, July 19-27, in Commercial Building II to spread the word that "Behavioral Health is Health" and to demonstrate different services offered to North Dakotans to support recovery and save lives.

WHAT: People attending the North Dakota State Fair in Minot are encouraged to stop at the Behavioral Health Division's booth, July 19-27, in Commercial Building II. Behavioral health experts will demonstrate different services offered to North Dakotans.

WHERE: North Dakota State Fair, Commercial Building II between 10 a.m. and 9 p.m.

WHY:

- By 2020, mental and substance use disorders are expected to surpass all physical diseases worldwide as major causes of disability.
- Behavioral health conditions affect people from all walks of life and age groups.
- Nine percent of North Dakota adults are living with an addiction and 17 percent are living with a mental illness.
- The 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, access to services and quality services.

WHEN/FEATURED TOPICS:

Friday, July 19 – Saturday, July 20

TOPIC: Opioid overdose prevention

The federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported that overdose deaths in North Dakota decreased for the first time since a record 77 deaths were reported in 2016. According to the CDC, drug overdose deaths in North Dakota fell by 13.2 percent to 68 deaths in 2017.

- Information will be available on who is most at risk for an overdose, what individuals can do to reduce the risk, and how to respond in the event of an overdose.
- **FREE Narcan** (naloxone) will be available. Naloxone is a prescription medication that temporarily reverses an opioid overdose.

Sunday, July 21 – Tuesday, July 23

TOPIC: Parents Lead and statewide children's behavioral health initiatives

Parents Lead is a North Dakota evidence-based prevention program that provides parents and caregivers a wide variety of tools and resources.

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Parents are the number one influence in preventing behavioral health issues like underage drinking, drug use, depression and anxiety.

- Information and resources will be available for parents, caregivers and individuals interested in supporting children.

Wednesday, July 24

TOPIC: Behavioral health services for addiction and mental illness

- Resources highlighting specific programs for individuals and family members regarding treatment and recovery will be available.
 - Free Through Recovery
 - Peer Support
 - North Dakota Substance Use Disorder Voucher

Thursday, July 25 – Saturday, July 27

TOPIC: Prescription drug take back and opioid overdose prevention

- [FREE Detera® drug disposal bags](#) and information on how to safely dispose of unused prescription opioids and other medications will be distributed. By getting rid of unused/unwanted medications, individuals can all play a role in reducing the risk for misuse.
- **FREE Narcan** (naloxone) will be available. Naloxone is a prescription medication that temporarily reverses an opioid overdose.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Fair attendees, North Dakota residents and media professionals

WEBSITE: www.behavioralhealth.nd.gov

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