



Regional, National Professionals Presenting At Annual Conference

The 12th annual Yankton Area Mental Wellness Conference will be held June 9-10, at Mount Marty College. The conference, sponsored by Yankton Area Mental Wellness, Inc (YAMWI), is aimed at increasing knowledge, identifying resources and building a network of contacts.

This conference will uphold YAMWI's mission for "Caring for Self...Caring for Community" through the 2010 theme of "Counting on YOU to Make a Difference." Presentations at the conference will address topics of special interest to family members caring for loved ones or professionals serving clients with mental health concerns. The conference will feature various mental health issues while showcasing professional presenters from throughout the state, region, and nation.

MARK J. BRITZMAN

Dr. Mark J. Britzman will present the keynote address on Wednesday, June 9th, titled "Ethical Approach to Pursuing the Good Life." He will also present breakout sessions on "Ethics of Personal Relationships," "Ethics in the Workplace" and "Raising Ethically Minded Children." Dr. Britzman is diverse in his knowledge and his life experiences. He is a Tenured Professor at South Dakota State University where he teaches in the Department of Counseling and Human Resource Development, and he holds a senior faculty position at the Josephson Institute of Ethics in Los Angeles, California. Through this position, Dr. Britzman he has been instrumental in conducting certified trainings for the national CHARACTER COUNTS! Initiative.

Dr. Britzman is also a licensed Psychologist and a Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor. His experience and education have led him to conduct keynote speeches, in-services, workshops and seminars that are inspirational, meaningful, research-



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based and potentially life-changing. His work as a consultant and motivational speaker has led him to speak nationally and internationally on subjects ranging from "Ethics in the Workplace" to "Pursuing the Good Life."

He was chosen as a William Glasser Scholar and is currently receiving advanced training and supervision in Choice Theory to ensure that he can keep his counseling skills at a high level and collaborate with others throughout the world to research. Most recently, Dr. Britzman won the Marvin Kemp Award for Outstanding Service to the Counseling Profession.

Dr. Britzman's greatest professional satisfaction comes from facilitating his graduate students' professional development so they can find meaningful employment, conducting character development certification seminars across the United States and beyond, continuing to expand a successful pre-marital program that has served well over a thousand couples, and successfully working with colleagues to secure over one million dollars of grant money for innovative educational programs. He recently received the South Dakota Counseling Association's highest award for service to his field and the Outstanding Teaching and Research Award in the College of Education and Counseling at South Dakota State University.

In addition, Dr. Britzman is an accomplished author. He has written five books, all focused on hopeful, positive messages for people of all ages. His latest book,

"Pursuing The Good Life," is available as a workshop and/or seminar designed to teach people how to live up to their greatest potential for happiness.

Dr. Britzman is also a dedicated family man and recipient of the "Family of the Year" for the Sioux Falls area. He lives in Brandon, South Dakota with his family.

TIMOTHY J. SOUNDY

During Wednesday's luncheon, Dr. Timothy Soundy will present "Psychiatric Genomics in South Dakota". Timothy J. Soundy, MD, grew up in rural Nebraska. He received his Bachelor of Arts with High Distinction from Hastings College. He attended the University of Nebraska Medical School in Omaha. He then did an Internship in Internal Medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota where he completed a Psychiatry Residency and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship. During his time at Mayo he participated in research in Eating Disorders. After leaving Rochester in 1992 he came to South Dakota to assist in starting a Child and Adolescent Fellowship at the USD School of Medicine. In 1999 he became head of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. In 2004 he was promoted to Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at the Sanford School of Medicine. Dr. Soundy has been involved in adolescent substance abuse research and recently has pursued an interest in psychiatric

genomics.

MATTHEW FEDERICI

Matthew Federici, Executive Director of the Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery in Brattleboro, VT, will be the featured presenter on Thursday, June 10th. His featured presentation "WRAP® World View & System's Transformation" will focus on the world view and benefits of WRAP implementation into our services delivery system to create recovery transformation. Matthew came to the Copeland Center from the Institute for Recovery & Community Integration where he served as Program Director. He is an Advance Level Mental Health Recovery Educator and WRAP Facilitator through the Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery. Matthew's personal and professional journey in wellness and recovery includes facilitating group therapy sessions, resource management for people entering independent housing; supervising community rehabilitation residents and implementing a supported employment and education program. In addition he has been a member of family and consumer advocacy groups for several years. He has also been involved in promoting Psychiatric Advance Directives through local, state and national consumer and provider conferences and is a Certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioner. He received his B.A. from Alvernia College in Psychology and Communications and M.S. in Rehabilitation Counseling at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. He was awarded Distinguished Advocate Award from the Pennsylvania Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services in 2002 and Exemplary Practice Award in 2007 from the Mental Health Association of Southeastern PA



Yankton Mayor Dan Specht (pictured second from left) has proclaimed June 9-10, 2010, as "Yankton Mental Wellness, Inc 12th Annual Conference Days." The proclamation promotes support for Yankton Area Mental Wellness, Inc in hosting the Twelfth Annual Conference at Mount Marty College on June 9-10. Pictured left to right are Yankton Area Mental Wellness, Inc representative Shari Hussing of the South Dakota Human Services; Mayor Dan Specht; Thomas Stange, Chair of Yankton Area Mental Wellness, Inc; Craig Sherman, Executive Director of Yankton Area Mental Wellness, Inc.; and Charlie Barron, Conference Planning Committee Chair.

Mayor Proclaims Mental Wellness Conference Days

Yankton Mayor Dan Specht has proclaimed June 9-10, 2010 as "Yankton Mental Wellness, Inc. 12th Annual Conference Days". Yankton Area Mental Wellness, Inc. (YAMWI) will host the 12th Annual Conference at Mount Marty College on June 9-10.

The Mayor's proclamation and the conference reflect the commitment to training and networking in Yankton, a region that is both extremely concerned about serving those in need and is also rich in both resources and professional expertise to educate others, especially about mental health issues.

"Counting on YOU to Make a Difference" is the theme for the 2010 conference emphasizing recognition to those who provide information on mental health issues and to those who provide mental health care to individuals and families dealing with mental health issues. Conference sessions will address various topics pertaining to mental wellness that are of special interest to mental health professionals serving family members or clients with mental health concerns.

The conference has become known throughout the region for providing professional presenters with high quality information about mental health issues. The conference is aimed at identifying resources and building a network of contact.

Professional Credit Offered At Conference

Yankton Area Mental Wellness, Inc. is pleased to announce that professional credit will be available to those participants attending the 2010 Mental Wellness Conference. The conference will be held on June 9-10, 2010, at Mount Marty College, in Yankton.

The Planning Committee for the event will offer professional credit in various disciplines.

Applications for the continuing education credit have been submitted to the following:

- S.D. Board of Counselor Examiners
- Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators in S.D.
- S.D. Board of Social Work Examiners
- Certification Board of Alcohol and Drug Professionals
- S.D. Department of Emergency Services (Emergency Medical Technicians)
- S.D. Department of Social Services Childcare Services for registered and licensed Providers
- Continuing Education Units - by the S.D. Department of Education

• CNE-Net-Continuing Nursing Education Network
In addition, Mount Marty College will be offering one undergraduate credit (\$110.00 fee) and the University of Sioux Falls will be offering one graduate credit (\$40 fee).

For additional information or questions concerning the above information contact Craig Sherman at (605) 665-4659 ext. 218 or yanwi.org@gmail.com

PFLAG Has An Important Mission

BY SHERRI RODGERS-CONTI

Did you know that there is a PFLAG chapter in Yankton, and monthly meetings have been held since September, 2009?

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is a national support, education and advocacy organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people, their families, friends and allies. PFLAG is the largest grassroots-based family organization of its kind.

According to statistics, one in every ten people in this country and around the world is LGBT. Approximately one in four families has an immediate family member who is LGBT, and most people have at least one LGBT individual in their extended circle

of friends and family.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is here for you. Our members are parents, families and friends of LGBT people and LGBT people themselves. We have been through much of what you are now feeling. We understand.

PFLAG members come from all walks of life. We are moms and dads, siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles, friends, children and allies. We are straight, we are gay and we are bisexual. We are transgender. We come from large cities and small towns. We live in rural areas. We are people of color. We come from all economic backgrounds. We

come from all faith traditions. We are disabled. We are youth and we are elderly. Our membership and our leadership are diverse, but what we have in common is our commitment to grow beyond false and harmful perceptions of LGBT people, to educate our communities, and to stand up for full equal rights and protections for LGBT people.

Through PFLAG people will find resources specific to family and friends of the LGBT community. Only with respect, dignity and equality for all will we reach our full potential as human beings, individually and collectively. PFLAG welcomes the participation and support of all who

share in, and hope to realize this vision. Please consider joining the PFLAG-Yankton chapter. We meet on the fourth Sunday of each month at 3:00 p.m. in Peace Presbyterian Church, 206 E. 31st Street (airport road). For more information, email pflag_yankton@hotmail.com.

Sherrri Rodgers-Conti is the president of PFLAG-Yankton. She is a presenter at the 2010 YAMWI conference, and is a collaborator with YAMWI for advocating, educating, and informing the public about good mental health.

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Were You Aware?

Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) is the leading cause of blindness and there is NO cure. Over 15 million people in the U.S. are now affected. That number could double by 2020. If you have a family history of AMD, do you realize it puts you at greater risk?

Vision Care Associates offers a unique, simple, and non-invasive test to determine your risk for AMD, and a prevention program to help manage that risk. If you have been diagnosed, we have a program that can potentially help slow or stop the progression.

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