



DIRECTIONS

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Explore NEW PATHS in Omaha, Nebraska

The 31st Annual Training Conference for NEW PATHS is shaping up to give many opportunities for learning and networking. This year, August 20-23, 2006, eligibility professionals in the human services field will gather at the Doubletree Hotel in Omaha, Nebraska, to explore the many topics that will be offered.

The well renowned **Town Hall** session has been revamped. Federal representatives will speak to the audience during general session about changes at the federal level and we will then break into separate sessions for the Q&A portion. This is will be an excellent opportunity to ask your burning questions about what is happening at the federal level.

Following is a small sample of the workshops that will be offered during the 31st Annual NEW PATHS Conference.

- **Supervising with a Heart** by Larry Bernhardt
- **Identifying your True Colors** by Dee Blankenship
- **How the Child Support Enforcement Program Helps You** by Brenda Lyttle
- **The Caseload Management Fix for 2006** by Debbie Spears & Lori Noyes

And many, many more...

These are only a few of the informative, instructive and motivating workshops offered at the conference this year. Look for your conference Blitz to be coming in mid-May. It will outline the conference in greater detail and list many more of the workshops offered.

By Susie Cummins

MECKLENBURG COUNTY N.E.W. WHAT'S IN STORE FOR 2006.....

The Mecklenburg County Chapter has a busy year in store for 2006. All our committees met in January to plan events for the upcoming year not only to raise money but also to show our members and staff that they are important.

To start the fundraiser year off, we had the annual Carnation sale for our agency's staff. Flowers were purchased and Valentine's sentiments were shared with friends and co-workers. We also plan to raise money with several our always popular Book Sales, and two Used Book and Bake sales. Nothing like homemade sweets and treats to get the attention of a Human Services professional! As the end of summer draws near, we have a Bath and Beauty sale planned for those early Holiday shoppers.

This year, we have all our staff favorite events returning for fun and fellowship. We will be offering three Lunch and Learn workshops covering "Couponing", presented by one of our own local members who knows how save a buck and then some, "Travel Tips" presented by Triple A, and a Recipe Swap open to all N.E.W. members. We will hold a committee fair in the spring to allow members and non-members alike to see what N.E.W. PATHS has to offer and hopefully gain some new members to join in on the fun still to happen. Also planned is a Food Tasting event, two Staff

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Letter From The President

Pam Harrison

Hello everyone, I hope this finds all of you enjoying the sunshine and being outside. I am one of those true cold weather people who actually like snow and winter but I like playing in my flowerbed as well. I guess the old saying is true: you can take the girl off the farm but you can't take the farm out of the girl.

I have been exploring a lot of NEW PATHS since becoming President in November. I have had the honor and privilege of attending two state conferences. In January I went to California and in April I visited Wisconsin. I felt welcomed at both and had my belief in our association reaffirmed. I am positive that no other association has as open, honest and accepting members as we do. From the west coast to mid-America eligibility workers share the same thoughts and feelings about our clients and our association. We truly are professionals in the field of human services.

The annual conference in Omaha is uppermost in our minds right now as the Board plans to provide the best

for those of you who plan to attend. At our recent spring board meeting the final touches were done to make this another outstanding conference. I stressed at both State conferences how much you get out of attending a National conference. While we all do the same job, we all do it in a different manner. By attending a National conference you are able to share your personal experiences with others and learn from them as well. The training offered is always interesting, up to date and exciting.

Regretfully the board has accepted the resignation of two of our members this spring, Donald Biscar and Jeff Birtten. Donald and Jeff were active on the board serving on several different committees. They will be missed, but we know that they will always be a part of NEW PATHS and we wish them well.

I invite all of you to come and join us in Omaha. Share the experiences of learning new ideas, making new friends and exploring NEW PATHS with your fellow eligibility workers. I hope to see you there!

DO YOU LIKE M&M'S?

We are looking for 60+ M&M lovers who would like to be Moderators and Monitors for the workshops at the Omaha Conference. The duties are not difficult and the rewards are great! You will reap several rewards: real M&M's, meeting the presenters, getting into the workshop of your choice and the satisfaction of helping put on a great Conference.

Moderators duties include: be in the workshop 10 minutes prior to the start time, make sure the set up and equipment are what the speaker ordered, introduce the speaker, present a thank you certificate at the end of the workshop and write a short article for the newsletter.

Monitors hand out and collect the workshop evaluation forms, put up the "session full" sign when all seats are taken, assist with handouts and help the Moderator if needed.

Please contact Mary Beth Gehrke at mgehrke@co.winnepago.wi.us if you are interested in participating as an M&M at the Omaha Conference. I will be contacting the people who have already expressed interest on the sheets collected at the Anchorage training.

Government Relations

Director Wanted

Social Service Coordinators (SSC) is the leading private social service organization that helps members of Medicare Advantage plans apply for Government Assistance Programs. We seek a dependable, energetic team player to join our Government Relations Department and handle the central United States. This position interacts with Medicaid officials at all levels.

The Director gathers information about Medicaid eligibility processes, makes initial contacts with State Medicaid Agency and SHIP Directors, travels **extensively** to the State Medicaid Agency, each office serving the assigned area, to county AAA and SCHIP offices, or other interested groups to present overviews of the SSC process. This position also serves as an internal policy expert to resolve eligibility-related questions.

Candidates may e-mail their resume to David Martin:

dmartin@sscincorporated.com

Night Out in Omaha

Make plans early to attend the annual Night Out with NEW PATHS scheduled for Monday, August 21, 2006.

We will enjoy a buffet style dinner while cruising aboard the River City Star, a multi-deck riverboat. A brief presentation on the history of the area will be provided as we explore the Missouri River. Seating is limited and the numbers must be confirmed prior to the start of the Conference.

Details will be provided in the training mailer coming out in May. Sign up for this enjoyable evening activity when you register for the Omaha Conference.

Attention! Attention!

The Professional Development Committee of your NEW PATHS Board is requesting membership feedback.

At the November 2005, NEW PATHS Board meeting, the training needs of the members of NEW PATHS was identified as a "high" organization priority. Please take time to think about workshops that would be beneficial to you and your professional growth. Provide examples of workshops you would like to attend at NEW PATHS conferences. Some examples are: Time Management, Business Ethics, Surviving and Thriving in an Intergenerational Workplace, etc.

Your input as a member will provide guidance in the development and selection of workshop presenters for future conferences. NEW PATHS is your organization. This is your opportunity to provide feedback. What will help you in your career? Has your work environment changed? What are your career enhancement expectations of NEW PATHS? What can NEW PATHS do to help insure you have the tools necessary to "make a difference" in the lives of the people we serve?

Thank you for your attention to this request. Please provide your input to the address provided below or a NEW PATHS Board Member.

Susan Fay Crockett
10cros@state.nd.us,
(701) 256-2175,
P. O. Box 630, Langdon, ND 58249
Fax # (701) 256-2179

WIN A FREE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION!

The Professional Development Committee is offering a chance for two (2) current NEW PATHS members to WIN a FREE conference registration to the 31st Annual Training Conference in beautiful Omaha, Nebraska.

PLUS there will be a third prize of a ticket to the Night Out with NEW.

THE ENTRY IS SIMPLE----

Please submit your name, address, email address and a phone number where you can be reached along with an answer to this question:

Our 'new' name now has a trailer; Professionals Associated Through Human Services, and we have become NEW PATHS. As a member of NEW PATHS, please share with us who we should be reaching out to and what method you would suggest we use to broaden our membership base.

A short paragraph (100 words or less) is enough to **WIN a FREE** conference registration. Entries must be received by 6/10/06 and can be sent via US mail, FAX or email to Gwen McCormick.

Mail: 1107 W 20th Ave.,
Anchorage, AK 99503

FAX: (907) 561-7685 Attn: Gwen

email:Gwen_McCormick@health.state.ak.us

Winners will be notified by 6/30/06 and must register for the Omaha conference by 7/15/06 or registration will be awarded to the runners up.

Chapter NEWS: Wyoming WOVES NEW

As with any organization, I believe our members are what make us a success. It is their interest and involvement in NEW PATHS that makes us strong. We encourage members to participate in our meetings, express their opinions and make suggestions to improve our Chapter.

With my experience as membership chair and as the President, I find that communication and meeting people face to face encourages and assists in the growth of our Chapter. Our most successful membership drive was this past year at our annual Benefit Specialist Conference. We obtained several new members and recruited prior members into rejoining our organization. The most expressed concern was to inform our members about the decisions the board was making. We are incorporating our approved minutes in our quarterly newsletter, to keep awareness available to each member or potential member.

People want to be heard. The best resource to improve any process is to listen to the people we are serving. We listen to what they are requesting, we address the issues as a board and then we take it to our members to determine the overall consensus of the path they are requesting and the feasibility of that request once we obtain their input.

During our annual conference, our members donate handmade items for the Craffle drawing at the end of the conference. They support our chapter by purchasing our Wyoming Chapter of N.E.W. items and participate in the Craffle and 50/50 raffles.

The other successful part of our Chapter is the support we receive from the Director of Family Services on down to the Field Office Staff. The State of Wyoming has sponsored members to attend the National Conference in the past and is working on sending members in the future. It is their support that makes the number of participants from Wyoming capable of attending. I see this support as a bonus in the recruitment of members and an asset in maintaining membership.

The Board of Directors of the Wyoming Chapter of N.E.W. give so much of themselves to ensure our members are being served to the best of their abilities. Board members are dedicated. They donate their own monies to our annual conference, provide food for our annual professional training and put forth time to our Chapter without compensation. "No successful person does it alone". Without the support of our Members, the Board of Directors and our State, we would not be the success we are.

By Darlene Martinez.



National Eligibility Workers Association
Professionals Associated Through Human Services

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We're on the Web —
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recognition afternoons where punch and snacks will be provided to our staff for all the hard work they do, a Veterans' Day Flag sale, and two Membership Meetings so all members can stay informed of happenings not only on the local level but the state and national level as well.

We'll round the year out with our annual Holiday Celebration in December to cap off all the fun and fellowship of the year until 2007. It'll be here before you know it...and we can do it
By Cynthia Sampson

**Vendor/Exhibit Tables
for the Conference!**

Do you want to reserve a table at the conference for your Chapter? Or do you know of an exhibitor that would like to rent a table to sell their wares at the Conference? Chapter tables are free up to the first 20 and exhibitor tables are \$75.00 per day or \$200.00 for the whole conference.

Please contact Gwen McCormick to reserve your table now at (907) 269-7832 or Gwen_McCormick@health.state.ak.us.