

NAVIGATING THE CURRENTS OF CHANGE JUNE 22-25, 2011

AgriWellness is pleased to partner with the National Association for Rural Mental Health (NARMH) to offer:

Navigating the Currents of Change

June 22-25, 2011

**Grand Harbor Hotel and
Grand River Conference Center
Dubuque, Iowa**

This conference is a partnership between two longtime organizations that serve the behavioral health needs of rural and farm people. The 2011 session will be NARMH's 37th annual conference and the 5th biennial conference for AgriWellness. Since both organizations

have some common purposes and members, and both organizations chose the heartland river town of Dubuque, Iowa for their 2011 meetings, the organizations determined to join forces and to explore the advantages of working together in a shared venue.

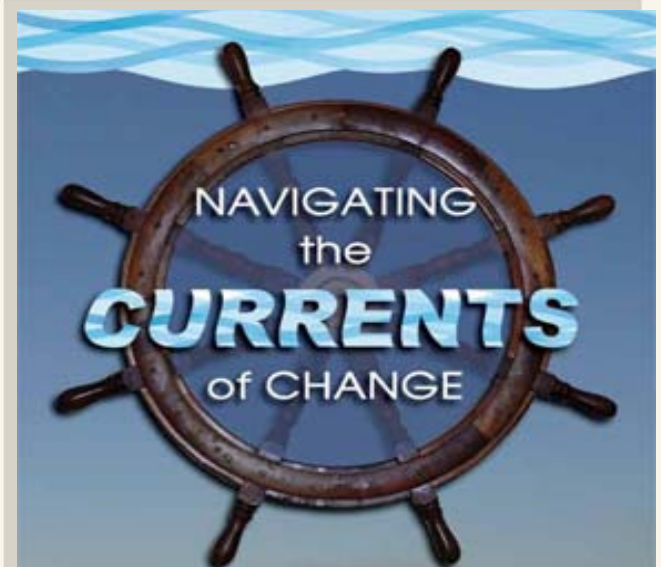
Featured Speakers

The conference committee has several keynote speakers lined up who are leaders in their fields of expertise and who will provide challenging and informative sessions.

Dr. Ron Manderscheid, Executive Director of the National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Directors, has agreed to open the conference with his address about national healthcare reform and its implications for reducing disparities in delivering behavioral healthcare to rural Americans. Dr. Manderscheid worked for many years at the National Institute of Mental Health where he was the chief of mental health statistics and at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration where he served, among other things, as a senior policy advisor on healthcare reform.

Mr. Mark Rukavina, Executive Director of the Access Project, will also be providing a keynote address. The Access Project addresses health disparities that exist for the residents of rural America and conducts many studies about health insurance and health care in rural America. The results of these studies often lay the groundwork for continued focus on rural health issues.

Ms. Cheryl Cook, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Undersecretary for Rural Development, has agreed to deliver two plenary addresses at the conference, one devoted to the role of the USDA in enhancing healthcare in rural and agricultural areas of the country and the other devoted to indicating how the USDA can impact rural diversity, disparities, disasters, deployment issues and domestic violence.



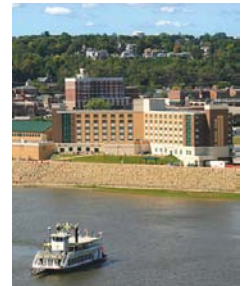
Conference Themes

The conference planning committee has selected five themes for the conference. There are many workshops presentations already confirmed in these areas and the committee is still accepting proposals for additional sessions. If you are interested in submitting a proposal, please visit www.narmh.org.

- 1) Increasing diversity of rural and agricultural people
- 2) Growing disparities in delivering behavioral healthcare in rural America
- 3) Disaster behavioral health services in rural areas
- 4) Special issues of deployed rural warriors and their return to distant rural communities
- 5) Domestic violence in rural areas. This section is dedicated to the memory of Ann Schumacher who was killed by her ex-husband last year. Ann was a dedicated board member of both NARMH and AgriWellness and was very committed to strengthening behavioral health services in rural areas.

Conference Venue

The Grand Harbor Hotel and Grand River Conference Center are located on the banks of the Mississippi River in Dubuque, Iowa. The area was recently renovated and offers something for everyone's interests. The district is great fun for families and includes family attractions such as the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, rides on a paddle wheeler and the indoor water park at the resort. Other available activities include twilight dinner cruises and carriage rides through historic areas of Dubuque.



For the history buff, the historic downtowns of Dubuque and Galena, IL are just a few minutes away. And for the baseball fan, the famous Field of Dreams that was featured in the 1989 film of the same name is just a short drive away in Dyersville. There is no admission fee or organized activities and visitors can bat balls and run bases around the legendary field.

For those who know their way around farm equipment, there is the National Farm Toy Museum, also in Dyersville, that traces the history of agriculture through farm toys and artwork. It includes an original Ertl toy company assembly line. This warehouse is a delight to the farmer, the toy collector and the child in all of us.

The boards of directors and staff of AgriWellness and the National Association for Rural Mental Health look forward to welcoming you to their partnered conference in June!

Registration materials will be available online by mid-February at www.narmh.org and www.agriwellness.org

The new nationally based AgriWellness organization accepts contributions. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Please contact AgriWellness for more information:

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