

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Building Bridges  
Northwestern Ontario Concurrent Disorder Conference**

(Thunder Bay, ON, May 3, 2006) More than 300 mental health, addictions and allied professionals from across the region are in Thunder Bay to attend the 'Building Bridges Northwestern Ontario Concurrent Disorders Conference'. The focus of the three-day event is to enhance awareness of the issues and challenges facing individuals and family members who are coping with both substance abuse and mental health concerns, and to support an integrated model of service delivery.

Nancy Black, Program Manager, Mental Health & Addictions, St. Joseph's Care Group says, "For many years, individuals coping with both mental health and addiction issues faced untold frustrations arising from barriers which existed between the mental health and addiction service systems. In recent years, significant efforts have been made to remove these barriers and to develop a more holistic, coordinated approach to care. This conference represents an important step toward enhancing our collective knowledge and improving services for individuals and families throughout our region."

The conference will feature international, provincial and regional expertise in the field. The keynote speaker is Dr. Kenneth Minkoff, MD, currently a clinical assistant professor at Harvard Medical School and a senior systems consultant for Zialogic in Albuquerque, NM. He is recognized as one of the leading experts on treatment for concurrent disorders in the United States. In 2000, he began consulting and training in this area full-time and co-developed a tool kit for implementation aimed at facilities with scarce resources. The other conference highlight is the return of Dr. Adrian Hynes who has practiced and taught concurrent disorders for the past ten years.

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Attached: Conference Flyer



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