



North Dakota HIV/STD/TB/Hepatitis Symposium

Two awards for extraordinary contributions towards improved care in HIV, HCV, STD or TB in North Dakota were presented during the North Dakota HIV/STD/TB/Hepatitis Symposium held April 11-12, 2012, at the Radisson Hotel in Bismarck, N.D.



JoElle Thomas

The first recipient to receive this award is JoElle Thomas. Joelle works as a women's health-care

nurse practitioner and is employed with Central Valley Health.

As a Ryan White case manager for six years, JoElle has given 100 percent to helping HIV positive clients become active members in the community; this includes establishing an HIV support group where HIV positive clients can share with each other challenges they face with their disease. JoElle's foresight in developing this group is a model of care that could be replicated throughout the state of North Dakota.

JoElle also works with clients and their partners in expedited partner therapy through the Family Planning program. JoElle has committed her career to addressing issues in the field of STDs, HIV and HCV in North Dakota.

The second award recipient is Custer Family Planning. Custer Family Planning provides a variety of services to the Bismarck/Mandan community. Custer Family Planning provides free HIV, HCV and STD services. They also sponsored the National HIV Awareness day in 2011.

Custer Family Planning has done presentations at schools, colleges and businesses such as Charles Hall, Fort Yates and



Erica Greff, Sara Schumacher and Krissie Guerard

PRIDE. Custer provides free condoms as a method of preventing STDs and other sexually transmitted diseases. Along with testing, Custer Family Planning provides the needed counseling and prevention education in areas of HIV, STDs TB and Hepatitis.

Bismarck HIV/AIDS Support Group

The American Red Cross is sponsoring a confidential support group providing emotional support for people living with HIV/AIDS.

A meal and beverages are provided during the meeting, but attendees must RSVP. Contact Christopher Wegner at 701.223.6700 or 888.800.9259 for more details.

If you were unable to attend the symposium or missed any of the presentations, all of the handouts can be found at:

<http://www.ndhealth.gov/disease/Hepatitis/Training/2012SymposiumPresentations.htm>