



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**



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Free sessions, open to the public, offered at Age & Disabilities conference this month in Duluth

Members of the public as well as conference attendees are welcome to attend free pre-conference intensive sessions being offered the morning of Monday, June 15, the first day of the Age & Disabilities Odyssey Conference at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center.

One option is to attend a White House Conference on Aging listening session from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the convention center. The purpose of this and other listening sessions being held this summer is to develop recommendations for the President and Congress on issues, policy and research in the field of aging. A White House Conference on Aging, held every 10 years, is planned for later this year.

Other free sessions, being led by a variety of Minnesota leaders in the field of aging and disability services, will cover topics including:

- Elder abuse
- Transportation in Greater Minnesota
- Moving Home Minnesota, an initiative to help people move from institutions to homes in the community
- Supporting older adults in community living
- How to create a lifetime community
- Person-centered thinking and positive support approaches

More information on these pre-conference intensives, how to register to attend an intensive or the full conference and other information on the conference is available at www.mn.gov/dhs/odyssey.

The theme for the conference, which runs through June 16, is “The Odyssey Continues: Person-Centered Perspectives.”

The event will feature more than 100 workshops and round-table sessions on topics ranging from adult protection to cultural sensitivity to emergency preparedness. Other highlights will include:

- A keynote delivered by Mary Lou Bourne, a consultant on implementing person-centered practices
- Award presentations to individuals and organizations making a difference in the lives of people who are aging or who have disabilities
- A fresh look at change management by comic Stevie Ray at the awards general session
- Observance of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15.

The conference is sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the Minnesota Board on Aging.