

# Homeless to Housing Summit

April 3-5, 2012



Ramada Plaza Riverside  
300 West F Street  
Casper

## ***Conference Agenda***

### **Tuesday, April 3, 2012**

11 a.m. Registration begins

1:00-2:30 **Rodger McDaniel, "Life at the Intersection of Ayn Rand and Don Quixote."**

2:30-3:00 Break with refreshments

3:00-4:30 **Breakout 1** Rene' Buchanan and Maggie Walker, "Identifying Barriers to Consumer integration."

**Breakout 2** AJ French, "Delivering Hope"

**Breakout 3** Cloud Peak Counseling Center : Washakie Works

5:30-7:00 **Evening networking and roundtable discussion facilitated by Lois "Lou" Dowell with hors d'oeuvres.**

### **Wednesday, April 4, 2012**

9:00-10:00 Lloyd Pendleton, "To House or Not to House."

10:00-10:15 Break with refreshments

10:15-11:45 **Breakout 1** Panel Discussion with Wyoming PATH teams

**Breakout 2** Terry Williams and Gina Salazar, "Organizing and Motivating Communities to Address Housing."

**Breakout 3** Dick Lefevre and Todd Koehler, "Legally Based Housing Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities."

**11:45 Lunch and presentation by Alice Russler, "Whole Health Care."**

1:00-2:30 **Breakout 1** Rene' Buchanan and Maggie Walker, "Identifying Methods to Overcome Barriers for Consumer Integration."

**Breakout 2** Janet Jares, "Conflict is Your Friend."

**Breakout 3** HUD Continuum of Care Panel, "10 Year Plan to End Homelessness."

2:30-2:45 Break with refreshments

2:45-4:15 **Breakout 1** Lloyd Pendleton, "Bridges Out of Poverty, More Effectively Connecting."

**Breakout 2** AJ French, "Delivering Hope"

**Breakout 3** Jamie Dakis, "The Human Experience."

### **Thursday, April 5, 2012**

9 a.m. **Panel discussion led by April Getchius, "Older Adults: Homelessness and Housing."**

10 Break with refreshments.

10:30 **Rene' Buchanan and Maggie Walker, "Consumer Stories" Panel Discussion**

11:30 Adjourn

## ***Speaker Bios***

**Rene' Buchanan** is the administrative coordinator at Daybreak, part of a network of housing and services based in Santa Monica, Calif. Serving women recovering from homelessness and mental illness, Daybreak provides vital services to some of the community's most vulnerable members. Having previously come to Daybreak in search of assistance, Rene' is honored to now be able to represent the agency that helped her save my own life.

**Jamie Dakis** is a community activist and a board member of Wyoming Survivors for Greater Empowerment (WYSAGE). Before her move to Wyoming, she worked with the Law Project for Psychiatric Rights in Alaska to pass legislation that would safeguard the rights of parents so that they would not lose custody of their children merely due to their psychiatric histories.

**Lois "Lou" Dowell** is a Certified Peer Specialist and currently works for Peak Wellness Center in Cheyenne. She is a board member for the Governor's Mental Health Planning Council and for WYSAGE. She presents and is a trainer for "In Our Own Voice." She is a tireless advocate for mental health and substance abuse consumers.

**AJ French** serves as Executive Director of Sacred Creations, a faith-based and peer-operated organization established to provide housing and life recovery services for individuals living with significant mental health conditions. She periodically contracts as a trainer for the National Alliance on Mental Illness. She was also recently appointed by Illinois Governor Pat Quinn to serve on the Statewide Independent Living Council.

**Janet Jares** is the Consumer Affairs and Advocacy coordinator for the Wyoming Department of Health, Behavioral Health Division, providing support for consumer advocacy and rights initiatives. During the past 18 years with the department, her passion for community involvement and advocacy has contributed to positive and lasting changes for Wyoming.

**Dick Lefevre** has a master's degree in psychology from the University of Wyoming. He has worked as a counselor at the Wyoming State Penitentiary, St. Joseph's Children's Home, and Fremont Counseling Services. For more than seven years, he has worked for Protection and Advocacy System, Inc., the nation's largest provider for legally-based advocacy services for persons with disabilities.

**Todd Koehler** received his law degree from the University of Wyoming in 2005. He has practiced disability law for more than six years with Protection and Advocacy System, Inc., the nation's largest provider for legally-based advocacy services for persons with disabilities.

**Rodger McDaniel** is the pastor at Highlands Presbyterian Church in Cheyenne. He was the director of the Wyoming Department of Family Services from 2003-07, Deputy Director of the Wyoming Department of Health (2007-2010) and Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division Director. He is an attorney and former legislator. Since retiring from government service in January 2011, he's regularly a guest columnist for the Wyoming Tribune-Eagle. Rodger is an activist and advocate for low-income children and families, homeless and the gay community.

**Lloyd S. Pendleton** is the director for the Homeless Task Force for the state of Utah. In 2004, he took the lead in writing and implementing the state's 10-year plan for ending chronic homelessness by 2014. Because of his work with Utah's homeless population and the agencies that serve them, he was awarded the 2009 Governor's Award for Excellence in Humanitarianism.

**Gina Salazar** was one of the first graduates of the Wyoming Family Home Ownership Program, which serves Laramie and Albany Counties. Since completing the program, she is now part of the Board of Directors and serves as a family advocate for the financial literacy course. Her family acts as a mentor to other families in the program.

**Maggie Walker** is a caseworker for the Salvation Army Open Door program in Marysville, Calif. The program is the PATH contracted agent to provide services to people with mental illness, including those with substance abuse issues and/or who are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless.

**Terry Williams** is the founder and program manager for the Wyoming Family Home Ownership Program. The goal of the program is to provide a "hand-up" through education mentoring, family savings and a community partnership grant for lower income working families with children to achieve first-time home ownership. Williams most recently worked as the Economic Assistance Administrator at the Wyoming Department of Family Services.

**Wyoming Housing & Homelessness Summit**  
**Ramada Plaza Riverside**  
**300 W. F Street, Casper, WY 82601**  
**(307) 235-2531 for hotel room reservations only**  
**(Ask for the "Housing Summit" or "NAMI Wyoming" rate –**  
**Deadline for special hotel rate of \$72 per night is March 20, 2012)**

**PLEASE SEND A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH PERSON REGISTERING**

**FIRST NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **LAST NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Registration fees include admission to conference sessions, Networking Session (April 3), Lunch (April 4), snacks and drinks.**  
 **Registration Fee: \$50**

**REGISTRATIONS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED WITHOUT PAYMENT:**

- Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_, **payable to NAMI Wyoming.**  
 Please bill my credit card for \$\_\_\_\_\_ Visa     MasterCard

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**A limited number of scholarships will be available. Contact the NAMI office at 1-888-882-4968 for information and a scholarship application.**

**Registration Deadline is Friday, March 20, 2012.**  
**No refunds after this date.**

**Mail this form with payment to:**  
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