

Frequently Asked Questions

2015 Real Voices, Real Choices Conference

August 16 - 18, 2015

Tan-Tar-A Resort and Conference Center

Question not answered here? Email: consumerconference@dmh.mo.gov

General Questions:

- **What is the Real Voices, Real Choices Conference?**

The Real Voices, Real Choices Conference will inform, educate and empower individuals who receive services through the vast array of providers supported by the Missouri Department of Mental Health. The conference is planned by a committee of volunteers who receive treatment services for substance abuse and addiction, developmental disabilities and mental illness.

- **When will the Real Voices, Real Choices Conference be held?**

The conference will be held August 16-18, 2015. The conference will begin at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 16 and end at noon on Tuesday, August 18, 2015.

- **Where will the Conference be held?**

The conference will be held at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach, MO. The web site for Tan-Tar-A is <http://www.tan-tar-a.com/>. Directions to Tan-Tar-A are listed on their web site. You may also contact them at 573-348-3131.

- **Will I need to bring money for the conference?**

Yes. You will want to bring money if you plan on buying a conference t-shirt or a pizza dinner on Monday night. T-shirts are \$6.00 and the pizza dinner is \$8.00. Also, you may want to have money on hand for the vending machines and shops located on the grounds of Tan Tar A. You will want to bring money for additional meals that are not provided. See Meals below.

Registration Questions:

- **When will registration be open for the Real Voices, Real Choices Conference?**

Registration will be open on **May 1st 2015**. When registering, you will have one hour to complete the form. Please be sure to have all of your information ready.

- **What is the cost of registration?**

Single Registration: The conference registration fee for a consumer, self-advocate, person in recovery or family member is \$90.00 for a single sleeping room.

Double Registration: The conference registration fee for two individuals who do not mind sharing a room is \$150.00. **When you register, you must identify the person you are sharing your room with and pay \$150 total.**

***PCA's do not have to pay a separate registration. For more information, see the information below about Personal Care Attendants.

- **What does that cost include?**

SINGLE REGISTRATION: This registration includes all conference materials, all conference activities, four meals including Sunday Evening Box Dinner, Monday Breakfast, Monday Lunch and Tuesday Breakfast and one sleeping room for two nights on August 16 & 17, 2015 at Tan Tar A Resort.

DOUBLE REGISTRATION: This registration includes all conference materials for two people, all conference activities for two people, four meals for two people including Sunday Evening Box Dinner, Monday Breakfast, Monday Lunch and Tuesday Breakfast, and **one sleeping room to share** for two nights on August 16 & 17, 2015 at Tan Tar A Resort.

- **Where do I send my check or money order and who do I make it payable to?**

Please make your check or money order payable to: Missouri Mental Health Foundation. You may mail your check or money order to:

Missouri Mental Health Foundation
1739 E Elm Street, Suite 103
Jefferson City, MO 65101

- **What is the cost for a professional to register?**

The cost for a professional is \$160.00. This registration includes all conference materials, all conference activities and four meals including Sunday Evening Box Dinner, Monday Breakfast, Monday Lunch and Tuesday Breakfast. Individuals registering as a professional are responsible for making their own hotel reservation. The cost for a hotel is \$77.00 per night. You may contact Tan-Tar-A at 573-348-3131.

Will you offer any kind of CEU credits for professionals?

Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer CEU's for attendance. The focus of the conference remains to empower individuals, self-advocates, persons in recovery, consumers and family members with lots of information and keep folks connected to services. Each attendee will receive a Certificate of Attendance.

- **How do I do group registration?**

On the registration you can choose to register up to 20 people at one time. It would be helpful if you contact the Conference Coordinator for additional details.

Phone: 573-645-7103

Email: consumerconference@dmh.mo.gov

Additionally, with your help, we will make every attempt to locate your sleeping rooms close together.

Can I substitute someone if another person was unable to attend?

The Conference Coordinator will assist you with any substitutions. No substitutions will be granted without the approval of the Coordinator. If you have additional questions about substitutions, you may call 573-645-7103.

- **What if I miss the deadline to register?**

We know sometimes that happens, however, if you miss the August 1, 2015 registration deadline, the Conference committee may not be able to accommodate your requests (including hotel and special meal requests) or provide you with the conference materials.

The conference is growing quickly which is very exciting, and there are limited rooms available at Tan Tar A. In 2014, over 900 attended.

- **Can I cancel my registration and get my money back?**

If you need to cancel your registration, you must notify the Missouri Department of Mental Health Conference Coordinator 573-645-7103 by August 1, 2015. Any cancellations or replacements after August 1, 2015, will not be granted a refund.

If you register for the conference, and you do not attend and do not cancel, we will not make you a hotel reservation at next year's conference.

- **When can I check in at the conference registration desk?**

Conference check-in begins at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 16. The conference does not begin until 2:00 p.m.

- **What if I have questions during my registration process?**

You may call the Conference Coordinator at 573-645-7103.

Meals and Dining Questions:

- **What meals will be included in my conference registration?**

Four meals will be provided during the conference. They include Sunday evening, Monday breakfast, Monday lunch, and Tuesday breakfast. A boxed meal will be served on Sunday evening so you may eat in Windgate Hall with others or you may take the meal to your room. You may bring food with you to the conference and place it in the refrigerator in your room or you may purchase food at the various restaurants located at Tan-Tar-A or travel off the property to enjoy other local restaurants. ***For the provided meals, you will need to show your badge at the entrance to Windgate. If you do not have a badge, you will not be allowed to enter Windgate for the meals.

→→ NEW!! On Monday night for \$8.00, you may purchase a pizza dinner that includes 3 pieces of pizza and a soda in Salon A. **You must bring cash** to pay for the pizza. (Pizza toppings are limited and there is a chance the pizza will run out, so line up early.)

For additional guests, meal tickets may be purchased for \$15.00 and may be purchased at the Conference Registration Desk. Only cash and checks will be accepted for the additional meal tickets.

- **What if I need a special diet?**

If you need a special diet, please indicate that when you register. The hotel will attempt to accommodate reasonable requests. **You may need to ask Tan Tar A staff in the eating areas for your special meals as they are set aside for request only.**

- **Are there any restaurants on the Tan-Tar-A Resort Properties?**

Yes, there are several options in the main complex.

Black Bear Lodge Restaurant

Casual dining in a rustic hunting lodge atmosphere. Breakfast buffet, sandwiches and hearty "Ozarkian Specialties" served daily.

Windrose

The finest lakeside dining experience on the Lake. An upscale American steak-and-seafood restaurant featuring food prepared with contemporary flair.

Burger King

"Have it your way, right away." BK Whoppers, fries & shakes. Breakfast favorites served daily. Menu is limited and does not have the \$1.00 deals or meals.

Sbarro

Piping hot pizza, by the slice or whole pie. Eat in, take out or order through Room Service.

Java Lakes

The perfect place to start every day. Specialty pastries, flavored coffees, vanilla & mocha frappio, iced lattes, espresso & cappuccino.

Please remember, if you are eating there...sometimes the lines are long and services takes a while.

Entertainment Questions:

- **Will there be entertainment on Sunday and Monday evenings?**

Yes. There will be entertainment on Sunday evening as well as Monday evening. Please see the details below.

- **SUNDAY EVENING!** Sunday evening entertainment will consist of a variety of games and a movie night. Signs will be posted that evening for further instruction.
- **KARAOKE TIME!** The longest Conga line in Tan Tar A history! Monday evening we will host karaoke. If you would like the opportunity to perform Karaoke on Monday evening, you must sign up on Sunday for a chance to have your name randomly drawn. On Monday morning, a list of individuals whose names were drawn will be posted in the lobby. Because of the enormous amount of individuals who wish to perform and the limited time we have, all performers will be selected during a random drawing.

Resort Accommodation Questions:

- **How will my hotel room at Tan-Tar-A Resort be reserved?**

If you register as a consumer, self-advocate, person in recovery or family member, conference planning staff will make a hotel reservation for you on Sunday, August 16 and Monday, August 17. If you require special accommodations, please make sure you indicate your request on the registration form so conference planning staff can make your requests known to the hotel.

If you register as a Professional, you are responsible for making your own hotel reservations. You may contact Tan-Tar-A at 573-348-3131.

- **Will I have a room reservation in the main building?**

Tan-Tar-A resort has reserved rooms for our conference in the main buildings (Building A and E). However, because the conference has grown so much, you might be assigned a room in the buildings around the grounds. If you are coming as a group, there are several larger duplexes that sleep 8-10 people that we might be able to put your group in. Please contact conference staff as soon as possible if you are interested in this accommodation. These duplexes do have kitchens and multiple bathrooms. Shuttle service is provided to and from the main building.

These accommodations do not have phones in the rooms. Please make sure you have a cell phone for emergencies.

- **Will I have to share a room with someone else?**

No, you are not required to share a room with anyone unless you have committed to the double registration in which you have already chosen who will share a room with you, or you have a PCA. Individuals who register as a consumer, self-advocate, person in recovery or family member will not have to share a room if you register and pay for a single registration.

- **May I book additional nights at Tan-Tar-A?**

Tan-Tar-A has agreed to offer hotel rooms to conference participants the night before and the night after the conference at a special reduced rate of \$77.00. If you take advantage of this offer, you are responsible for making arrangements with Tan-Tar-A and paying for the extra nights and any related charges. Please contact Tan-Tar-A directly to make these arrangements as soon as possible and let conference staff know.

Please Note: It is important that you register for the conference as soon as possible and contact Tan Tar A about your plans to stay. It is difficult for Tan Tar A to commit for a Saturday night stay in the same room as they are full with other guests. They cannot guarantee that you will not be moved to another room if you are booking for Saturday night.

- **When can I check in to the hotel and get into my room?**

The official check-in time for the hotel is 4:00 p.m. in the hotel lobby. When you arrive, you may ask if your room is ready. If it is not, hotel staff will hold your luggage until your room is ready. A special room has been reserved for conference attendees to place their luggage. *Please do not get frustrated with the hotel staff if your room is not ready before 4:00 p.m. They are attempting to make accommodations, but the rooms have to be cleaned after the last guests depart.*

- **What will I do with my luggage if my room is not ready?**

Luggage will be able to be stored upon check in and departure will be available right off the main registration desk. Please watch for signs.

- **Is there Wi-Fi available?**

Wi-Fi is available at the hotel in the guest rooms and public foyer areas. Meeting rooms do not have Wi-Fi access.

- **Is there transportation within the Tan Tar-A Resort?**

If requested, transportation is available by Tan-Tar-A resort staff on the resort complex only. If you need transportation services, you may contact the front desk.

If you need transportation outside the resort area, you must make your own arrangements.

- **May I bring my pet with me?**

Only designated/dedicated service animals will be allowed on the property.

- **What kind of clothing will I need?**

Casual dress is appropriate for the conference. Please be aware that conference rooms may be cold, so you might want to bring a sweater or jacket with you. It is difficult to control the temperatures for everyone's liking, so please plan accordingly.

- **Will the pools be available for use?**

Swimming areas are available at Tan-Tar-A so you may wish to pack a swim suit. There is an indoor accessible pool at Tan-Tar-A, if you have questions during your stay ask the Tan-Tar-A of Conference staff. Waterpark available onsite for additional cost.

Accessibility:

- **Is there Accessible Parking?**

There is free accessible parking located next to the hotel.

- **Can I get an accessible hotel room?**

Tan Tar A Resort does have accessible hotel rooms. If you need an accessible room, it is important to register as soon as possible. We provide these rooms on a first come first registered base. Tan Tar A has recently purchased accessible raised toilet seats that can be utilized in regular rooms and they have some portable stools that can be used in showers. If the Committee runs out of accessible rooms, you may want to consider another hotel location near the Resort. Your conference fee does not include rooms at another hotel nor can the Committee make reservations or reduce your conference fee or pay your additional expenses if you choose to stay at another location.

- **What if I need interpreter services?**

The Conference Committee will provide interpreter services for the conference workshops only on an as needed basis. If interpreter services are needed you must indicate this on your registration form and submit your form no later than August 1, 2015. The Conference Coordinator will then contact you to determine which sessions you plan to attend so an interpreter will be available in those sessions. It will be critical for you to speak with the Conference Coordinator regarding additional logistics by August 8, 2015.

If you cannot be reached by that date, an interpreter will not be provided.

- **What if I need large print or Braille?**

The Conference Committee will provide large print and Braille for the conference workshops only on an as needed basis. If this service is needed you must indicate this on your registration form and submit your form no later than **August 1, 2015**.

If you have made arrangements with Conference Staff for large print or Braille, these documents will be available at the conference registration desk. Please make sure you let the staff know as they will not be with your packet.

- **May I bring my service animal?**

Only designated/dedicated service animals will be allowed on the property.

Personal Care Attendant Questions:

- **Attendants/Personal Care Attendants (PCA)**

PCA's do not have to complete or pay for a separate registration but they must be listed as a PCA on someone's registration form. **PCA's will not be given a separate sleeping room from the person they are assisting.** If a PCA wants to stay in a separate room from the individual they are assisting, they must make the reservation and pay for the reservation on their own.

If you have a Personal Care Attendant, you will need to provide us the attendant's name so they will have a name badge for provided meals. If you do not have their name at the time of registration, we will make a generic registration packet for your attendant and they can personalize it when they arrive.

Our staff does not provide transfer services for individuals. Please make sure your Personal Care Attendant is able to perform the necessary functions for your care.

- **As a PCA with a group, what do I need to know?**

You must know the name of every person who is in your group before arriving at the resort. The Conference Coordinator will be in touch with the main contact person to ensure that all folks are accounted for prior to arrival.

To keep everyone is in the same block of rooms; contact the Conference Coordinator to ensure that everyone is in the same building ahead of time.

Phone: 573-645-7103

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If you have substitutions on the day of the conference, you must get with the Conference planning staff for approval. No substitutions will be made without the Conference Coordinator.

Exhibitors:

- **Where will the Exhibits be located?**

Exhibits will be located in Windgate Hall. Again, this year we will have a checklist. If you have all exhibitors sign your list, you may enter your card in a prize drawing.

- **What do I need to know if I am an exhibitor?**

If you have registered as an exhibitor, your registration materials will be located in the Windgate Hall with the Conference Planning staff. If you arrive late, you may check in at the registration desk in front of Salon A. All conference meals are included with your exhibit registration for up to two people. You are responsible for making your reservations with the hotel.

Sessions & Presentation Questions:

- **How long will the presentations last?**

Presentation will be about 45 minutes long with 15 minutes of questions and answers.

- **What will the presentations be about?**

Presentations will be about a variety of topics. You can find out the content of a presentation by looking in your program booklet.

- **Will there be attendance prizes at each session?**

Yes, the committee will have attendance prizes to be given away throughout the conference and at each individual session. A grand prize will be given away at the final session. You have to be present to win.

Additional Activities:

- **Will there be other activities?**

Yes, there will be an Art Room located in Room 61. Come and be creative! The Art Room times will be posted by the door. Supplies will not be allowed out of the Art Room.

- **What can I do until the conference starts if I get there a little early?**

We will be hosting some pre-conference activities for early arrivals which will begin at noon. Watch for signs.

- **Will there be Friends of Bill W. or 12 Step Program?**

Yes, a meeting will be held each night. The locations and times will be posted at the conference registration desk.

- **Will there be any souvenirs to purchase?**

The Conference Committee will be selling T-shirts for \$6.00 each. Sizes are limited and therefore, we would encourage you to purchase early during the conference.

Assistance Questions:

- **Will there be a nurse available 24 hours a day?**

Yes, there will be a nurse available 24 hours a day. During the scheduled conference, the nurse will be located in Room 60. After hours, please contact the hotel front desk who will page the nurse or appropriate emergency personnel.

Nurses are not responsible for providing transfer services to individuals.

- **What if I need assistance or have questions during the Conference?**

If you need assistance or you have questions during the conference, please come to the Conference Registration Desk or talk to a Conference Planning Committee member. They will be roaming and working throughout the conference and will be wearing volunteer t-shirts.

- **What if I lose my conference bag, ID and give away items during the conference. What do I do?**

We will be able to provide you with another nametag. However if you lose your conference bag and give away items, there is nothing the conference committee can do. We will have limited supplies. We would encourage you to put your name on your items. Lost and Found will be at the Registration Desk.

- **Will I have my photo taken?**

Photographers will be canvassing the crowds throughout the event. Photos will be shown in a slide show at the end of the conference and on the DMH public website. **Everyone attending the conference is required to sign a release form which is connected to the online registration form.** The committee is unable to guarantee your photo will not be taken or posted.

- **Please Note:**

To the fullest extent permitted by law, I/we indemnify and hold harmless, the Missouri Department of Mental Health, Missouri Mental Health Foundation, Tan Tar A Resort and Conference Center and their directors, officers, consultants, agents, employees and volunteers from and against all claims, damages, losses and expenses, including but not limited to attorney's fees and court costs, arising out of or resulting from my participation in this event, including damage, loss or expense is attributable to bodily injury, sickness, disease or death, or personal injury, or to injury to or destruction of tangible property or to others involved in the event.