



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release—April 30, 2007

Internationally recognized experts connect Violence and Addictions in the second annual Conference on Family Violence Treatment – May 3 – 5, 2007

CALGARY – Calgarians are prosperous and affluent; yet as Albertans, they have the longest work weeks, the highest suicide rates and the highest domestic abuse rates in the country. The pressure to compete in Calgary's workplace can create tremendous stress and result in a range of consequences. Recent survey results shows one in five Calgarians currently has an addiction.

Calgary Counselling Centre presents a three day professional conference, aiming to address controversial issues in Family Violence Treatment - the issue of addiction and domestic abuse. Featuring four internationally recognized domestic violence experts: Dr. William Fals-Stewart, Dr. Christopher Murphy, Dr. Sandra M. Stith and Dr. Eric E. McCollum, the conference runs May 3, 4 and 5, 2007 at the Delta Calgary South.

"In a recent Ipsos survey, we have found as many as 20 percent of Calgarians admit to having an addiction*," says Robbie Babins-Wagner, CEO, Calgary Counselling Centre. "The connection of addiction and domestic violence treatment is undeniable. Offering this conference challenges our traditional intervention techniques and our approach to therapy."

Domestic abuse infiltrates every facet of our community. Calgary Counselling Centre is steadfast in its commitment to collaborating with Calgary's coordinated response to domestic abuse and its affects on the whole family.

The Centre offers extensive programs in family violence counselling. Each family or individual receives a customized treatment plan based on situation. Customized treatment is just one of the many reasons the Centre is recognized as a leader in North America for family violence research and programming.

"For 13 years we have been tracking the Centre's cases of domestic abuse," says Babins-Wagner. "Our clients are experiencing a lasting change post-treatment."

Co-sponsored by the University of Calgary's Faculty of Social Work, the conference will present general research findings on the associations between intimate partner violence and problematic use of substances. Studying the negative effects of substance use problems on standard interventions for partner violence, will lead to basic assessment tools and strategies for clinical skills when dealing with substance use problems in partner violent individuals.

Calgary Counselling Centre is a not-for-profit, registered charitable organization and the leading research and knowledge-based counselling facility in Canada. The Centre is committed to providing compassionate, professional and affordable counselling services that help build better lives for Calgarians through positive outcomes. Offering service in 23 first languages, the Centre is also a recognized leader in the treatment of family violence, depression, self esteem and eating disorders. Through its ongoing research and education programs, Calgary



Counselling Centre strives to meet the changing needs of our community. The Centre's fee structure is based on income - no one is turned away for an inability to pay.

-30-

Dr. William Fals-Stewart, University of Rochester New York School of Nursing, is a clinical psychologist whose research has focused on family adjustment in which one or more members have alcohol or drug-use disorders; marital and family therapy with substance-abusing patients, and the effects of substance use and intoxication on intimate partner violence.

Dr. Christopher Murphy directs the New Behaviors Program at the Domestic Violence Center of Howard County, Maryland, a comprehensive clinical training, service, and research program focused on perpetrators of intimate partner violence. He is an expert using individual treatment for domestic violence offenders. He has the key to cognitive-behavioural and motivational treatments for abusive behaviour in adult relationships.

Dr. Eric McCollum, is Professor and Clinical Director in the Marriage and Family Therapy Program at Virginia Tech's Northern Virginia Center and a Licensed Social Worker and Marriage and Family Therapist. **Dr. Sandra Stith**, Virginia Tech, has worked at a shelter for battered women in the early 1980's and has published over 50 articles and book chapters on intimate partner violence since that time. Working together, McCollum and Stith will present best practices regarding conjoint treatment of couples who have experienced intimate partner violence.

* **Addiction** is defined as a problem behaviour that has negative consequences for an individual and his or her family. Addiction is often associated with drinking, gambling, drugs or pornography.

For more information, or to arrange interviews with any presenter on May 2-5, please contact:

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