




**DATE:** February 20, 2009

**TO:** Consumers, Consumer Specialists and Regional Administrators

**FROM:** Dan Powers,  Interim Administrator, Division of Behavioral Health –  
Office of Consumer Affairs

**RE:** Alternatives Conference in Omaha Oct. 28-Nov. 1, 2009

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The 23rd Annual Alternatives Conference has been scheduled to be held in Omaha, Nebraska.

The only national mental health conference organized by and for people with psychiatric labels, the next Alternatives Conference will be held Wednesday, October 28, 2009 through Sunday, November 1, 2009, at the Hilton Omaha in Omaha, Nebraska.

This is a great opportunity for Nebraska consumers to attend Alternatives Conference this year. In order to support Nebraska consumers, the Division of Behavioral Health has decided to not hold the Nebraska Consumer Conference this year and to allocate the funding for the Nebraska Consumer Conference to support consumers attending Alternatives in Omaha. This is just for this year and we will continue to have a Nebraska Consumer Conference in future years. It will be changed by what we learn at the Alternatives Conference.

Scholarships will be made available for Nebraskan Consumers to attend. More information on scholarship applications will be coming soon. Details of how the selection process will take place are still being worked on.

Each Alternatives Conference offers in-depth technical assistance on peer-delivered services and self-help/recovery methods. Beyond the exchange of knowledge and networking, Alternatives offers a rich social, artistic, and healing environment. Said one attendee of a prior conference, "The conference transformed me so I can transform the system."

Please feel free to call Dan Powers, Interim Administrator of the Office of Consumer Affairs at 1-800-836-7660 if you have any questions.