

News You Can Use

Your monthly resource for news and information about behavioral health and intellectual/developmental disabilities in western North Carolina and beyond

Carolina HealthTEC Live: Professionals converge in Asheville for Smoky-sponsored conference, expo



The renowned author Dr. Gabor Maté was first diagnosed with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) as an adult. Later, his children were diagnosed. Maté, keynote speaker at Carolina HealthTEC Live Friday in Asheville, agrees ADHD can be inherited – but inherited through exposure to stress in utero and early childhood – not through genes.

“Genes don’t change in a population over 10 years, or 30, or 40,” he said. “It’s something else happening. It’s got to be the culture. It’s the culture that is transmitted to the child through the parent.”

Maté’s talk kicked off the inaugural conference, which drew approximately 800 professionals to the Crowne Plaza Resort to hear from innovative leaders in the mental health, developmental disability and substance use fields and experience first-hand the latest technologies in care and services management. Smoky served as presenting sponsor.

Vendor demonstrations included a technology-equipped apartment that allows people to live as independently as possible, a screening tool that identifies and tracks health risks in vulnerable populations, web-based training for direct

service workers, a home-based attention training program and more. Dr. Maté also held a book signing, led a workshop on the nature of addiction and touched on the role of technology in modern treatment.

“Keeping pace with ever-changing technology is imperative to offering the most complete care to our area’s most vulnerable populations,” said Allison Inman, Smoky’s Senior Marketing and Communications Director and a lead conference organizer. “The success of Carolina HealthTEC Live was a clear indicator that our community embraces innovation and the promise it holds for those we serve.”

The day also featured more than 30 vendors. Speaker Lynne Seagle, Executive Director of Norfolk’s Hope House Foundation, shared how the organization transitioned individuals from group homes to their own apartments. Later in the day, speaker Dr. Luis Pérez spoke on his insights into inclusive learning.

Organizers plan to establish Carolina HealthTEC Live as an annual event.