

Ron Sasso, MS, NCC, LPC, CBIST

EDUCATION:

- M.S. in Counseling and Human Resource Development (CACREP Accredited), South Dakota State University, 1997
- B.A. in English, The College of New Jersey, 1988

LICENSES AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

- Licensed Professional Counselor, South Dakota (#LPC1104) since 2003
- National Board Certified Counselor, (NCC), (#46969) since 1997
- Certified Brain Injury Specialist Trainer (CBIST) since 2010
- Member, American Counseling Association
- Vice President of the Brain Injury Alliance of South Dakota since 2009
- Board Member of the Brain Injury Alliance of South Dakota since 2006

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Director of Community Transitions brain injury rehabilitation program since 2001
- Supervise and coordinate cognitive rehabilitation, counseling services, independent living training, case management, as well as employment training and job placement for people with brain injury
- Co-facilitator and organizer of the Brain Injury Support Group of the Black Hills since 2003
- Founder and co-organizer of the Black Hills Brain Injury Conference since 2006
- Psychotherapy: individual, marital, family and group
- Consultation with interdisciplinary teams, agencies, groups and individuals

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- 2001 to Present: Director of Community Transitions, Rapid City, SD
- 1995 to 2001: Service Coordinator, Community Living Instructor of adults with disabilities including brain injury for Black Hills Workshop, Rapid City, SD
- 1996 to 1997: Graduate Counseling Intern at Healthcare for the Homeless and Rapid City Community Health Center

PRESENTATIONS:

- South Dakota Division of Rehabilitation Services Mid-Winter Conference 2001
- South Dakota Division of Rehabilitation Services Mid-Winter Conference 2002
- South Dakota Association of Persons in Supported Employment – “Thinking Outside the Trapezoid” 2003
- Juvenile Services Center, Rapid City, SD – “Working with Brain Injury in Prison Populations” 2006
- Black Hills Brain injury Conference, Rapid City, SD – “Understanding Brain Injury” 2006
- South Dakota Division of Rehabilitation Services Fall Conference, Spearfish, SD – “Providing Brain Injury Services to People in Rural Areas” 2006
- Sioux Falls Brain Injury Support Group – “Understanding Catastrophic Reaction” 2006
- Aberdeen Brain Injury Support Group – Guest Speaker 2007

PRESENTATIONS (continued):

- South Dakota Human Services Center, Yankton, SD – “Brain Injury in the 21st Century” 2007
- 2nd Annual Black Hills Brain Injury Conference, Rapid City, SD – “Breaking the Rules, Prison and Brain Injury” and “Brain Injury in the 21st Century, A Changing World” 2007
- Sioux Falls Brain Injury Support Group, Sioux Falls, SD – “Awareness and Acceptance” 2008
- 3rd Annual Black Hills Brain Injury Conference, Rapid City, SD – “Brain Injury and Homelessness” 2008
- Dare to Dream Conference, Pierre, SD – “Brain Injury: Changes, Challenges and Opportunities” 2008
- Mayo Clinic 15th Annual Brain Injury Conference, Rochester, MN – Poster Presentation: “Awareness and Depression” 2008
- Green Star Symposium, Sioux Falls, SD – “Brain Injury – Understanding the Emotional Impact and Treatment Strategies” 2008
- 4th Annual Black Hills Brain Injury Conference, Rapid City, SD – “Fourth and Long: Sports Concussions” 2009
- 4th Annual Black Hills Brain Injury Conference, Rapid City, SD – “Brain Injury: Understanding Emotional Impact and Treatment Strategies” 2009
- IBIA Eight World Congress on Brain Injury, Washington, DC – Poster Presentation “Awareness and Depression: A Teaching Model for Understanding Brain Injury Recovery” March 10-14, 2010
- Centers for Independent Living Staff Training, Fort Pierre, SD – “Best Practices for Supporting People with Brain Injury in the Community” April 13, 2010
- 25th Annual Conference for Professionals in Brain Injury, Minneapolis, MN – “Sports Concussions” April 29-30, 2010
- 5th Annual Black Hills Brain Injury Conference, Rapid City, SD – “Brain Injury Through the Lifespan” May 13-14, 2010
- 5th Annual Black Hills Brain Injury Conference, Rapid City, SD – “Brain Injury: Independent Living Considerations” May 13-14, 2010

AWARDS:

- Awarded Citizen of the Month for Rapid City, SD - April 1997 (for human services work and counseling at the Rapid City Community Health Center and Healthcare for the Homeless at the Cornerstone Rescue Mission)

OTHER:

- Completed the Mount Rushmore International Marathon (26.2 miles) while wearing a bicycle helmet to raise awareness for brain injury prevention – 2002, 2003