

# Ron Sasso, M.S., LPC, CBIST

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## **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
- Certified Brain Injury Specialist Trainer, C.B.I.S.T. (# 6578) since 2010
- Board Member of the Brain Injury Alliance of South Dakota since 2006

## **PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Director of The Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center from 2001-2015
- Supervised and coordinated cognitive rehabilitation, counseling services, independent living training, case management, as well as employment training and job placement for people with brain injury
- Supervise staff of 20 people
- Coordinated majority of business activities, including program development and growth, admissions, billing, and marketing
- Co-facilitator and organizer of the Brain Injury Support Group of the Black Hills 2003-2015
- Founder and facilitator of the Black Hills Scleroderma Support Group 2017
- Founder and co-organizer of the Black Hills Brain Injury Conference 2006-2014
- Psychotherapy: individual, marital, family and group
- Consultation with interdisciplinary teams, agencies, groups and individuals

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

- 2001 to 2015: Director of The Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center (formerly called 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 Detention Center – “Working with Brain Injury in Prison Populations” 2006
- Black Hills Brain injury Conference – “Understanding Brain Injury” 2006

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## **PRESENTATIONS (continued):**

- South Dakota Division of Rehabilitation Services Fall Conference – “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
- South Dakota Human Services Center, Yankton, SD – “Brain Injury in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” 2007
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Black Hills Brain Injury Conference – “Breaking the Rules, Prison and Brain Injury” and “Brain Injury in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, A Changing World” 2007
- Sioux Falls Brain Injury Support Group, Sioux Falls, SD – “Awareness and Acceptance” 2008
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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
- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Black Hills Brain Injury Conference, Rapid City, SD – “Fourth and Long: Sports Concussions” 2009
- 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Traumatic Brain Injury in the Community” April 13, 2010
- 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference for Professionals in Brain Injury, Minneapolis, MN – “Sports Concussions” April 29-30, 2010
- 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Black Hills Brain Injury Conference, Rapid City, SD – “Brain Injury Through the Lifespan” May 13-14, 2010
- 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Black Hills Brain Injury Conference, Rapid City, SD – “Brain Injury: Independent Living Considerations” May 13-14, 2010
- Offender Re-entry Task Force, Rapid City, SD – “Breaking the Rules: Brain Injury and Prison” December 14, 2010
- South Dakota Department of Education Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting, Pierre, SD – “Traumatic Brain Injury” January 6, 2011
- 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Black Hills Brain Injury Conference, Rapid City, SD – “Brain Injury Panel” (Facilitator), May 6, 2011

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## **PRESENTATIONS (continued):**

- 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Brain Injury Conference, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN – “Brain Injury: Independent Living Considerations” June 17, 2011
- 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Black Hills Brain Injury Conference, Rapid City, SD – “Sports Concussions” September 20, 2012
- Greenstar Symposium, Sioux Falls, SD – “Brain Injury: Overview of Emotional, Cognitive and Lifespan Issues” September 27, 2013
- 8<sup>th</sup> Black Hills Brain Injury Conference, Rapid City, SD – “Brain Injury Through the Lifespan” May 8, 2014
- 8<sup>th</sup> Black Hills Brain Injury Conference, Rapid City, SD – “Awareness, Depression and Catastrophic Reaction” May 8, 2014
- Brain Injury Association of America Caregiver Webinar - “Awareness, Depression, and Catastrophic Reaction After Brain Injury” April 16, 2015
- Scleroderma Foundation National Patient Education Conference, Chandler, AZ – “Finding Calm in the Storm” July 21-23, 2017

## **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 and 2003
- Served as City Alderman for the City of Rapid City, 2011 to 2013
- Served as a Board Member for the Rapid City Public Library, 2011 to 2013
- Freelance columnist for The Rapid City Journal, 2014 to 2015
- REALTOR with Coldwell Banker Lewis-Kirkeby-Hall, 2015 to Present
- Black Hills School of Real Estate – Teacher – 2017
- Board Member for the Humane Society of the Black Hills, 2014 to Present
- Member of the Black Hills Runners Club, 2014 to Present