

June, 2015

# healthcare Workforce update

ADDRESSING THE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE NEEDS IN SOUTH DAKOTA THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION, LABOR & REGULATION, HEALTH AND THE BOARD OF REGENTS

## Inside This Issue

- 1 Healthcare Workforce Collaborative
- 2 Rural Nursing Conference
- 3 Emergency Medical Services Moves to New Office
- 3 New Paramedic Program
- 4 3RNet
- 4 Student-Produced Videos Increase Healthcare Workforce Awareness
- 5 2015-2016 Scrubs Camps
- 5 Caring Careers Expo
- 6 Health Care on the Road
- 6 The Sanford Pediatrics Residency Program
- 7 325 HOSA Members Attend State Leadership Conference;  
66 Champions Crowned
- 8 Comfort One
- 8 AHEC Project Aims to Improve Clinician Training of HPV Immunization
- 9 2015 Rural Healthcare Facility Recruitment Assistance Program
- 9 Health Professions Students Experience Rural Care across South Dakota
- 10 Recruitment Assistance Program
- 10 SD-IPEC Joins National Center
- 11 Recruitment Resources for Communities
- 11 Shortage Designations
- 12 SDAHO and Office of Rural Health Hold Successful CAH Conference
- 12 More Information?



## Healthcare Workforce Collaborative

Greetings from the South Dakota Healthcare Workforce Center. Staffs of the Center and the Healthcare Workforce Collaborative continue to work at addressing South Dakota's healthcare workforce needs. Read on to see what's noteworthy over the past few months as well as what's coming up in the near future! As always, we welcome any feedback you have regarding these and other workforce development issues.

# 2016 INTERNATIONAL RURAL NURSING CONFERENCE

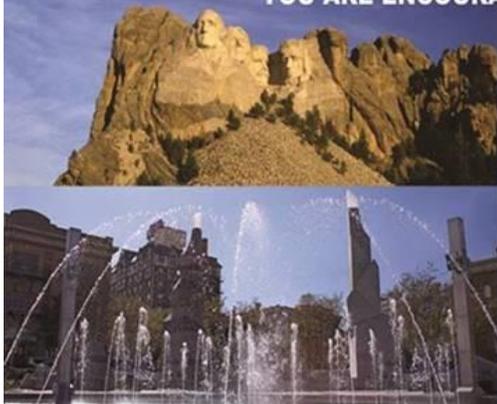
RAPID CITY  
SOUTH DAKOTA



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
July 19-21, 2016

Please join us in the scenic Black Hills of western South Dakota for the bi-annual International Rural Nursing Conference. Nationally and internationally known researchers, practitioners and educators from multiple disciplines that focus on improving the health of rural people and communities will be participating.

## YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT PROPOSAL



Submissions will open September 1, 2015  
and close October 31, 2015

Information will be posted and periodically updated at  
[www.mhch.org/service/international-rural-conference-2016](http://www.mhch.org/service/international-rural-conference-2016)

Conference Location:  
Rushmore Plaza Civic Center  
444 N. Mt. Rushmore Rd.  
Rapid City, SD 57701

 **M.H.C.H FOUNDATION**  
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 **SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
College of Nursing

 **UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH DAKOTA**  
SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

 **RURAL NURSE  
ORGANIZATION**

## Emergency Medical Services Moves to New Office

*(Contributed by SD Office of Rural Health/EMS)*

On April 20, the state's emergency medical services program moved to a new location and a new department. The program is now part of the Office of Rural Health in the Department of Health as the result of an executive order signed by Governor Dugaard earlier this year. It was previously part of the Department of Public Safety. The new address is:

Office of Rural Health, Emergency Medical Services  
South Dakota Department of Health  
Robert Hayes Building  
600 East Capitol Ave  
Pierre SD 57501-2536

The telephone number remains 605-773-4031 and the fax number is 605-773-5683. The new website address is <http://doh.sd.gov/providers/ruralhealth/EMS/>.

For more information regarding EMS, please contact Halley Lee at 605-773-3361.

## New Paramedic Program

*(Contributed by University of South Dakota)*



The Department of Health Sciences within the University of South Dakota's School of Health Sciences will offer the opportunity to become a paramedic through an academic partnership with the Sanford USD Medical Center for Pre-hospital Care and Emergency Preparedness. The new paramedic program, designed to provide the student with the skills and knowledge to assess and manage patients who are acutely ill or seriously injured, is an area of specialization within the bachelor of sciences in health sciences offered by the University of South Dakota. The faculty hired to teach the paramedics program as well as the supervising physicians are Sanford employees. The program will include classroom lecture, classroom demonstration, laboratory simulation, and actual patient care in various areas of the hospital as well as the pre-hospital arena. All classroom experiences will be held in Sioux Falls at the Health Sciences Center. Classes will begin fall semester, 2015.

Sanford USD Medical Center for Pre-hospital Care and Emergency Preparedness' paramedics and EMT's have witnessed the shortage of emergency personnel across the State of South Dakota. Many of the ambulance services in South Dakota have declared a hardship, i.e., they no longer have enough people to run the ambulance calls in their town. Many of the current EMTs practicing in our rural towns are in their upper 40's and 50's with no succession plans in place to assure viability for the future needs of emergency services within their communities. Numerous current EMTs have approached the staff members of the Sanford Center for Pre-hospital care with requests to offer the Paramedic Specialization in Sioux Falls. The paramedic specialization will serve the region and state of South Dakota well, as it addresses a critical need in meeting emergency medical services in our rural state.

## 3RNet

(Contributed by SD Office of Rural Health/SD Healthcare Workforce Center)



Want help finding qualified healthcare professionals interested in South Dakota? 3RNet is a nonprofit organization that helps to connect providers across the nation with potential employers. The South Dakota Office of Rural Health has a contract with 3RNet to provide assistance to South Dakota facilities that have available job opportunities. This service is provided FREE to both providers and South Dakota facilities. To post or search job opportunities please visit [www.3rnet.org](http://www.3rnet.org). Registering is easy and only takes a few minutes! For more information or assistance, please email South Dakota's organizational member at [Jacob.Parsons@state.sd.us](mailto:Jacob.Parsons@state.sd.us).

## Student-Produced Videos Increase Healthcare Workforce Awareness

(Contributed by Yankton Rural AHEC)

Three teams of South Dakota high school students shared cash prizes of \$2,000 with their schools by telling the story of the state's healthcare workforce shortage through a 30-second video. Their videos are posted online in an effort to educate their peers about the state's workforce needs and the possibilities available with healthcare careers.

The contest was sponsored by the SD Association of Health Care Organizations, the SD Healthcare Workforce Center, Midcontinent Communications and Yankton Rural AHEC. The contest aims to bring a greater awareness to high school students, their peers and others about the demand for healthcare workers in the state.

A Yankton High School team took top prize with their video entitled "Healthcare for the Future." Team members are: Becky Frick, Sydney Ingalls, Erin Luken and McKenna Golden. The students put their video together as part of their Anatomy/Physiology class instructed by Dr. Angela Hejl. Both the Yankton High School and the team took home a \$500 prize for a total \$1,000 package.

The winning video aired on Midcontinent Communications cable in April. This video along with the runner-ups are posted online at [www.yrahec.org](http://www.yrahec.org).

Two entries took runner-up prize of \$500 each to be split with their schools. Jordan Fostvedt, a junior at Vermillion High School, took runner-up with her video: "A Better World" which she completed in Brandy Wallin's Anatomy/Physiology class. Also taking runner-up honors were: Savannah Johnson, Emma Smith and Megan Wattenhofer of Rapid City. Their video "Health Care Commercial" was a project of Rapids Speech and Debate Club instructed by David Johnson.

*McKenna Golden, Erin Luken, Anatomy/Physiology Instructor Dr. Angela Hejl, and Sydney Ingalls take a break from rat dissection at Yankton High School. The three students along with Becky Frick (not pictured) placed first in the 2015 Healthcare Video Contest earning the team \$500 and their*



## 2015-2016 Scrubs Camps

*(Contributed by SD Office of Rural Health)*

The Department of Health and the Department of Education began a partnership in 2007 to implement Scrubs Camps that are held across the state of South Dakota. These camps are free, one day, hands-on health career awareness opportunities for high school students. The majority of Scrubs Camps are held during the fall of the year, with the remaining camps held during the spring. Listed are the locations and tentative dates for the upcoming camps during the 2015-2016 academic year:

For more information, contact Jill Dean at 605.773.2706 or visit our website: [scrubscamps.sd.gov](http://scrubscamps.sd.gov).



Aberdeen: October 12, 2015  
Chamberlain: October 13, 2015  
Eagle Butte: October 28, 2015  
Hot Springs: October 14, 2015  
Huron: October 7, 2015  
Madison: April 8, 2016  
Mission: October 7, 2015  
Mitchell: November 18, 2015  
Mobridge: October 21, 2015  
Pierre: September 30, 2015  
Rapid City: November 17, 2015;  
February 2, 2016;  
April 13, 2016  
Sioux Falls: February 5, 2016  
Spearfish: February 20, 2016  
Vermillion: March 15, 2016  
Watertown: October 28, 2015  
Winner: April 8, 2016  
Yankton: October 6, 2015

## Caring Careers Expo

*(Contributed by North East SD AHEC)*

A “Caring Careers” Expo, designed for adult students looking at a career change, skilling-up from one profession to another, and those interested in starting a health career was held in Huron, South Dakota on Wednesday, April 22.

North East South Dakota Area Health Education Center coordinated the evening with partners including: the Huron Community Campus, Huron Regional Medical Center, Lake Area Technical Institute, and Northern State University. Participants were able to participate in interactive activities to see what the career involved and also allowed attendees to receive personalized career guidance plans and learn about educational opportunities. Admission representatives were available to answer questions concerning tuition costs, scholarships, the admission process, and financial aid opportunities.



With an increased need for health care professionals in South Dakota, the expo was geared to allow students, of all ages, opportunity and support to transition back into the scholastic environment as they pursue a career in healthcare. A few professions showcased included: EMT, nursing, radiology, respiratory therapy, medical coding, medical laboratory science, and biomedical technology.

For more information on details of the Expo and how you can recreate one in your community, please contact NESD Area Health Education Center at (605) 229-8305.



## Health Care on the Road

*(Contributed by South Dakota Allied Health Training Consortium)*

The South Dakota Allied Health Training Consortium (SDAHTC), in partnership with Southeast Tech, has hit the road in their cutting-edge mobile Licensed Practical Nurse/Certified Nursing Assistant Simulation Lab.

The lab, located at the Avera Clinic in Chamberlain, is outfitted in a Wi-Fi enabled semi-trailer custom designed for LPN and CNA lab experiences and testing. The Simulation Lab will be utilized in Chamberlain as an LPN lab through the summer and beginning this fall it will be utilized throughout rural South Dakota to offer CNA training.



### **About the Consortium -**

The South Dakota Allied Health Training Consortium, a Southeast Tech led consortium group of the state's four technical schools, Oglala Lakota College, and Sinte Gleska University was awarded a \$16.2 million U.S. Department of Labor grant to maximize the development and expansion of innovative training programs in partnership with local health care employers. This award provides the SDAHTC with the funding to expand and enhance 25 training programs over the next two years. Over that period, the consortium will implement strategies to expand and enhance education and training opportunities in health care courses and programs. Emphasis will be placed on serving rural communities and Native American reservations by increasing the number of adults earning certificates, degrees, and diplomas in two years or less; replicating innovative and effective methods for designing and delivering instruction that addresses specific industry needs; and improving the learning outcomes of participants.

An open house featuring the Simulation Lab was held on June 24<sup>th</sup> at the Avera Dakota Family Medical Center in Chamberlain. For more information, check out [sdalliedhealth.com](http://sdalliedhealth.com)!

## The Sanford Pediatrics Residency Program

*(Contributed by University of South Dakota)*

The Sanford Pediatrics Residency Program, sponsored by the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine, is the only pediatrics residency program in the Dakotas. Its purpose is to train leaders in Pediatrics and to attract highly qualified physicians, fresh out of medical school and from all over the country, to train in and eventually practice rural Pediatrics in South Dakota and the surrounding region. Officially accredited by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) on July 1, 2010, the Sanford Pediatrics Residency Program graduated its first class of seven pediatricians last year, all of whom have careers in general pediatrics in inpatient or outpatient medicine. While the majority of residents were from out of state, five of the seven residents chose to live and practice in South Dakota. Though still in its infancy, the Sanford Pediatrics Residency Program is already enhancing the care of the children of the Upper Midwest, by training specialists in children's health who will populate communities, both large and small.

Sanford Children's Hospital serves as the center of training for the residency program, yet the program takes advantage of the distinctive characteristics of healthcare in South Dakota, North Dakota and Minnesota, including rural pediatrics and medical research at the Sanford Children's Health Research Center. In addition, pediatric residents train side by side with medical students from the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine, family medicine residents and other healthcare trainees from the region.

## 325 HOSA Members Attend State Leadership Conference; 66 Champions Crowned

*(Contributed by the AHEC Program Office)*

South Dakota HOSA hosted its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual HOSA State Leadership Conference on April 9-10 at the Sanford Pentagon. Lieutenant Governor Matt Michaels welcomed SD HOSA's bright-eyed, energetic constituents in the Opening Session of the 2015 South Dakota State Leadership Conference giving a simple message... "The first thing every successful person does in life is show up." He thanked them for their courage just to attend and try something new. He commented on his background as an EMT and then a nurse. He mentioned how caring for individuals is at the heart of what he aims to accomplish as a Lieutenant Governor of the people of South Dakota. He stressed to the students that no matter what career you land in, servant leadership are the leaders every employee, patient, and customer desires.

Students then competed in over 40 competitive events. The Public Service Announcement (PSA) event had teams create a 30-second PSA around "Concussion Awareness and Prevention." Biomedical Debate involved the benefit and/or harm of e-cigarettes. The Researched Persuasive Speaking topics included "Childhood Vaccines: Parent Choice?" and "Should Children Play Contact Sports?" Presentation competitions ranged from projects involving Health Education, Health Career Display, Community Awareness, and Medical Innovation. Procedural-based competitions including Physical Therapy, Clinical Nursing, Veterinary Science, Nursing Assisting, and Biomedical Lab Science were judged my health care professionals.

Briana Gross said, "It was a great experience competing at the SD HOSA State Leadership Conference. The events are based on skills you might do someday in your healthcare job. For example the Nursing Assisting event you learn how to take vitals. It was also exciting to get to know and make connections with people across the states who are interested in going into the medical profession."

On Thursday evening Avera Health hosted a Recognition Banquet at the T. Denny Sanford Premier Center where a Nacho Bar was served. Paul TenHaken, CEO of ClickRain, was the keynote for the evening. Paul spoke about "wearable technology" and how technology is changing to include the "internet of things". He mentioned the development of flexible computer chips that would attach to the body to detect all vital signs as well as wearable drones that will have a multitude of functions.

Connor Hickman commented, "The SD HOSA SLC was an amazing opportunity to strengthen my knowledge of healthcare as well as a perfect way to meet students from around the state also interested in the health sciences."

64 South Dakota students will compete at HOSA Nationals, having the opportunity to compete against peers from across the country. HOSA Nationals is June 24-27 in Anaheim, CA.

For more information regarding South Dakota HOSA-Future Health Professionals, please visit our website at [www.sdhosa.org](http://www.sdhosa.org) or contact the State Advisor Brock Rops at 605.357.1505 or email [Brock.Rops@usd.edu](mailto:Brock.Rops@usd.edu).



## Comfort One

(Contributed by SD Office of Rural Health/EMS)

The Comfort One initiative was adopted in 2007 for those that do not want heroic life saving measures nearing end of life and still allowing them to be comfortable. Comfort One is different from a living will or advanced directive and cannot be individualized. Living wills and advanced directives can be lengthy and time consuming to sort through during an emergency, delaying care and confusing care givers of the patient's preferences of care.

The Comfort One form allows clear-cut guidelines for pre-hospital providers to assist patients while at home and not wanting these heroic measures taken to sustain life. It allows for the EMS staff to keep the individual comfortable with palliative care.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Directive (DNR) is an advanced directive pertaining to the administration of cardiopulmonary resuscitation, which is a medical order based on informed consent, signed by or on behalf of an individual and a Physician, a Physician Assistant, or Nurse Practitioner, directing emergency medical service personnel to **not** perform resuscitative measures in the event of a respiratory or cardiac arrest malfunction.

For a Comfort One patient, emergency medical services personnel:

- *Will:*
  - Assist in maintenance of an open airway, excluding advanced airways.
  - Provide suction;
  - Provided oxygen;
  - Control bleeding;
  - Provide pain medications as directed by patient's provider
  - Provide comfort care; and
  - Be supportive to patient and family.
- *Will Withhold or Withdraw:*
  - Chest compressions
  - Defibrillation
  - Advanced airway procedures
  - Assisted breathing;
  - Administration of resuscitation medications



To date, there are approximately 2,603 South Dakotan's who have signed up with Comfort One. Out of those, 900 have purchased the Comfort One bracelet.

## AHEC Project Aims to Improve Clinician Training of HPV Immunization

(Contributed by Yankton Rural AHEC)



Corryn Celmer, Program Specialist at Yankton Rural AHEC and Region H, HPV Project Coordinator

The National AHEC Organization National Training Center is embarking on the Improving HPV Immunization Rates on a National Scale Utilizing the National AHEC Network project. The project will work in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to improve HPV immunization rates of 11 and 12

year old, males and females, throughout the nation by improving clinician training and understanding of the vaccine.

To complete this project, 10 regional HPV project coordinators were hired to work closely with selected AHEC entities in each state within their region to establish and maintain links with appropriate resources. Corryn Celmer, Program Specialist with Yankton Rural AHEC, is the Region H Coordinator. States in Region H are: Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.

## 2015 Rural Healthcare Facility Recruitment Assistance Program

(Contributed by SD Office of Rural Health/SD Healthcare Workforce Center)



Applications are being accepted for the Rural Healthcare Facility Recruitment Assistance Program. The program allows 60 professionals each year and we have already received over 50 applications. Submit your application soon which can be found at: <http://doh.sd.gov/documents/Providers/RuralHealth/2015RHFRAPapp.pdf> . The program helps rural medical facilities in South Dakota recruit nurses, therapists and other health professionals by providing \$10,000 incentive payments to participating health professionals who complete 3-year service commitments in communities with 10,000 people or less. Applications must be submitted by the employing health facility. Each eligible facility may have up to 3 participants each year. Health professionals currently participating include nurses, physical therapists, paramedics, pharmacists, dietitians, medical laboratory professionals, occupational therapists, respiratory therapists and radiologic technologists. For more information email [Jacob.Parsons@state.sd.us](mailto:Jacob.Parsons@state.sd.us), or visit <http://ruralhealth.sd.gov>.

## Health Professions Students Experience Rural Care across South Dakota

(Contributed by Yankton Rural AHEC)

Fifteen South Dakota communities are welcoming 30 health professions students for a four-week rural healthcare experience this summer. Now in its fifth year, the Rural Experiences for Health Professions Students (REHPS) program is designed to bring health professions graduates to rural South Dakota for rewarding careers.

The 15 communities selected for the 2015 experience are: Bowdle, Canton, Chamberlain, Custer, Hot Springs, Miller, Parkston, Philip, Platte, Redfield, Sisseton, Sturgis, Wagner, Webster, and Winner. The REHPS program connects interprofessional groups of students enrolled in clinical psychology, family nurse practitioner, medical, medical laboratory science, physician assistant, pharmacy, and social work programs at South Dakota State University and the University of South Dakota. Each community hosts two students from different areas of healthcare. Students are inspired by the experience, due in large part to the host communities, and their professionals' mentoring skills.



Lea Telkamp, left, a Pharmacy student at SDSU is experiencing rural healthcare at Miller, SD, along with Raychel Lorenz, a Physician Assistant student from USD.

"I feel so blessed that I was placed in such a great community and had the opportunity to meet such wonderful people, all while expanding and using my knowledge I've learned in the classroom. I know for a fact that this experience has forever changed my life and has had a positive impact on my education and future," stated Molly Sloom, PharmD, about her 2014 experience in Bowdle.

Facilities in REHPS communities are interested in the education of health professions students and understand the importance of giving students a first-hand look at how rewarding rural medicine can be. Community residents welcome the students with enthusiasm rounding off a meaningful experience that promotes a return to rural healthcare as a career.

REHPS receives funding from the Office of Rural Health/South Dakota Department of Health and is managed by the Yankton Rural Area Health Education Center. Follow the student's experiences at [www.rehps.org](http://www.rehps.org).

## Recruitment Assistance Program

*(Contributed by SD Office of Rural Health/SD Healthcare Workforce Center)*

The Recruitment Assistance Program has slots and provides qualifying physicians, dentists, physician assistants, nurse practitioners or nurse midwives an incentive payment in return for three continuous years of practice in an eligible rural community. Providers must enter into a contract with the South Dakota Department of Health in order to qualify. The amount of the incentive payment for a qualifying physician or dentist is equal to twice the University of South Dakota School of Medicine resident tuition for the four most recently completed academic years. The current amount is \$172,172. The amount of the incentive payment for a qualifying physician assistant, nurse practitioner or nurse midwife is equal to twice the University of South Dakota resident tuition for physician assistant studies for the three most recently completed academic years. The current amount is \$40,149. There are currently 5 physician slots available, as well as 1 dentist and 1 advance practice physician. To be eligible a community must:

- Have a population of 10,000 or less
- Be assessed by the Department of Health to evaluate the community's need for eligible providers and its ability to sustain and support additional providers and be found eligible for participation.
- Agree to pay a pro-rated portion of the total amount of the incentive payment
  - 0-2,500 population – 25%
  - 2,501-4,999 – 50%
  - 5,000-10,000 – 75%

For more information about the Recruitment Assistance Program, please email [Jacob.Parsons@state.sd.us](mailto:Jacob.Parsons@state.sd.us), or visit <http://ruralhealth.sd.gov>.

## SD-IPEC Joins National Center

*(Contributed by University of South Dakota)*



The University of South Dakota (USD) hosted a meeting June 2-3, 2015, in Sioux Falls between the South Dakota Interprofessional Practice and Education Collaborative (SD-IPEC) and the National Center for Interprofessional Practice &

Education. The purpose of the SD-IPEC is to promote a transformational environment that endorses interprofessional competencies supporting the goals of the Triple Aim. The Triple Aim refers to the Institute of Healthcare Improvement (IHI) goals for the simultaneous pursuit of 1) improving the patient experience of care, 2) improving the health of populations, and 3) reducing the per capita cost of health care.

The SD-IPEC is a statewide committee consisting of education and practice organizations across South Dakota working together to foster an environment that aligns the needs and interests of education with health care practice. The SD-IPEC is working with the National Center, which is housed at the University of Minnesota, to help close the gap between health professional education and real-world skills needed to deliver effective patient care. South Dakota is one of 11 member states in the National Center's Nexus Innovations Network.

Representing the SD-IPEC, USD recently signed a memorandum of agreement with the University of Minnesota and the National Center. Through its educational, government, and health systems partners, the SD-IPEC will be conducting applied research and submitting data about specific projects to the National Center that will be measured against data from other national sites. Results from these projects will be shared broadly, increasing the availability of evidence about the effectiveness of interprofessional practice and education.

If you have any questions or would like participate in SD-IPEC, please contact Dr. Carla Dieter, USD Nursing at [Carla.Dieter@usd.edu](mailto:Carla.Dieter@usd.edu). The national center's website can be found at <https://nexusipe.org>.

# Recruitment Resources for Communities

(Contributed by SD Office of Rural Health/SD Healthcare Workforce Center)

A new webpage was developed for communities to use as they recruit healthcare providers. This webpage was developed because of a recommendation by Governor Dugaard's Primary Care Task Force. The Task Force was developed in 2012 to consider and make recommendations to ensure accessibility to primary care for all South Dakotans-particularly those in rural areas of the state. The Task Force developed 23 recommendations around five specific areas. One of those recommendations was for the Office of Rural Health to establish community promotion programming to assist in development of "recruitable" communities.

A Recruitable community is a community that is able to showcase their positive components and is attractive to healthcare providers as they look at job opportunities and possibly relocating to the area.

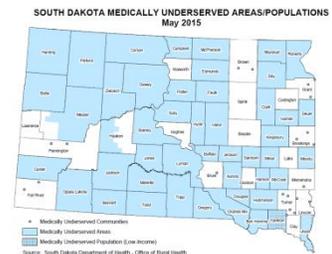
Meetings were held with several individuals from hospitals, clinics, human resources, SD Governor's Office of Economic Development, city economic development, SDAHO, other states, etc. to determine what resource would be beneficial. From all of these discussions it was decided to create a webpage that could provide a variety of resources, was easily accessible and the information could be updated.

The webpage can be found on the SD Office of Rural Health webpage. On the left side of the page click on "Recruitment Assistance for Healthcare Professionals" and "Additional recruitment resources for communities" or the direct link is: <http://doh.sd.gov/providers/ruralhealth/Recruitment/links.aspx>. I encourage you to check out the webpage, use the resources listed and share suggestions to make this webpage more beneficial to you.

# Shortage Designations

(Contributed by SD Office of Rural Health/SD Healthcare Workforce Center)

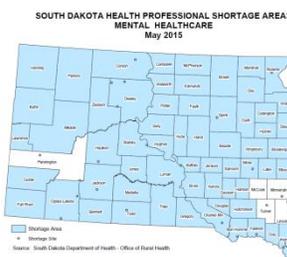
The South Dakota Office of Rural Health, Primary Care Office (PCO) works with Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to develop shortage designations for the State of South Dakota. There are two shortage designation types: Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) and Medically Underserved Area/Population (MUA/P).



Recently, HRSA developed and transitioned to a new shortage designation system for states to utilize in developing HPSA and MUA/P designations more efficiently. The regulations regarding HPSA and MUA/P designations did not change. As with any new system, issues have occurred and are being addressed and resolved.

With the transition to the new system, HRSA instructed states that HPSA and MUA/P designations are not required to be updated until 2016. Previously, HPSA designations were updated every three to four years, but with the transition the 2015 updates are not being required. Reviews of shortage designation requests are taking additional time at the state level and by HRSA due to the new shortage designation system.

For more information on shortage designations please contact Kyle Fuchs at (605) 773-6320 or via email at [Kyle.Fuchs@state.sd.us](mailto:Kyle.Fuchs@state.sd.us).



## **SDAHO and Office of Rural Health Hold Successful CAH Conference**

*(Contributed by SDAHO)*

SDAHO and the Office of Rural Health co-sponsored a successful conference for South Dakota's CAH leaders last week in Pierre.

Opening speaker for the 2-day conference was John Supplitt, Senior Director, AHA, Constituency Section for Small or Rural Hospitals. Mr. Supplitt reviewed the fiscal landscape, touching on proposed Medicare-related changes in the FY2016 Federal Budget, the 2015 Debt Ceiling's effect on rural hospitals and the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program which would extend the Medicare sequester. He discussed the AHA's recommended alternatives to the proposed cuts.

Mr. Supplitt also shared AHA's advocacy agenda including information on several pieces of legislation that would address the 96-Hour Rule, Direct Supervision, Therapy Cap Repeal and the Medicare Shared Savings Program, reminding attendees to watch for AHA Action Alerts for information on getting involved with protecting rural health care.

Office of Rural Health staff were on hand both days to give attendees the latest information on programs they offer to assist with the success of South Dakota's CAHs. Updates included:

- Kenny Doppenberg, Rural Hospital Program Coordinator – FLEX Update;
- Halley Lee, Office of Rural Health Administrator – SD EMS Update; Simulation in Motion – South Dakota;
- Marty Link, Trauma Program Manager – Trauma System Overview;
- Mark Anderson, Jacob Parsons, Josie Petersen, Kyle Fuchs, Jill Dean – Recruitment and Retention; Shortage Designation Areas; Pipeline activities.

Wednesday morning programming kicked off with a breakfast sponsored by The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust and an opening session featuring Brock Slabach, Senior Vice President for Member Services, National Rural Health Association.

Mr. Slabach gave an overview of the state of rural health care today noting delivery challenges unique to rural providers including the disproportionate share of rural patients relying Medicare and Medicaid. He reported on the 34 rural hospital closures since January 2013 with the expectation that the rate of closures will double in 2015. Mr. Slabach discussed the Save Rural Hospitals Act which includes several components designed to ease challenges faced by rural hospitals such as elimination of Medicare sequestration for rural hospitals; reversal of all "bad debt" reimbursement cuts and permanent extension of current Low-Volume and Medicare Dependent Hospital payment levels. The President's Budget continues to include eliminating CAH Designation if less than 10 miles; however, Mr. Slabach reported this is not gaining traction in Congress. Mr. Slabach's presentation included NRHA's take on several areas of opportunity for South Dakota including optimizing fee-for-service, attending to performance and innovation, driving efficiency, driving out variation, developing medical homes and engaging medical staff.

Thank you to John Supplitt and Brock Slabach, Halley Lee and the Office of Rural Health staff, Heidi Schultz, Sandy Viau-Williams, and David Anderson, along with all participants who helped make this conference a success. SDAHO distributed a link to an online evaluation for attendees to give their feedback on this conference and make topic recommendations for future CAH conferences. Please take a few minutes to complete the evaluation as feedback from attendees is the best way to assist in planning future events.

### **More Information?**

Contact [Josie Petersen](#), Department of Health

If you would like to be removed from this distribution list, please contact [Josie Petersen](#).

