

September, 2017

# 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 Over 80 Students Joined Avera for Nursing and Pre-Nursing Student Programs
- 2 South Dakota Health Care Workforce Resource Center Launches
- 3 3RNET 2017 Academy
- 4 Annual Census of Industry Employment and Wages Available
- 4 Western Dakota Tech Welcomes Children's Hospital of Colorado
- 5 Improving Combat Veterans Care Conference-May 12, 2017
- 5 REHPS Mentoring Health Professions Students for Seventh Straight Year
- 6 USD Department of Nursing in Rapid City Implements Interprofessional Simulations
- 7 SDSU Receives Grant to Develop Immersive Clinical Traineeships
- 8 Southeast Tech Programs
- 8 Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment Announces New Interactive Website
- 9 Sanford Health Career Exploration & Opportunities
- 10 Health Professionals Hear Message of Improving HPV Immunization Rates in SD
- 10 Native American CNA Institute Held in Yankton in June
- 11 University of South Dakota/Sanford Health Paramedic Program Graduates First Class
- 12 Office of Rural Health EMS Program Updates
- 13 Advance Care Planning Training for Undergraduates at USD Nursing
- 13 DOH Social Media
- 13 More Information

## **Healthcare Workforce Collaborative**

Greetings from the South Dakota Office of Rural Health. This office along with our many partners continues 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 your feedback regarding these and other workforce development issues.

## **Over 80 Students Joined Avera for Nursing and Pre-Nursing Student Programs**

*Contributed by Avera Health*

**PDP - Professional Development Program in Sioux Falls** - The Professional Development Program at Avera McKennan in Sioux Falls is a summer well spent for students preparing for a career in nursing. The PDP provides educational and clinical experience for nursing students, enhancing their prioritization, critical thinking, problem solving and decision-making skills.

**CEP - Clinical Enrichment Program for Future Nurses in Yankton** - This summer work experience is designed to help students apply the nursing process to clinical practice within an encouraging, learning environment. It also offers the opportunity for increased understanding of the professional nursing role. As a CEP participant, you'll have a unique opportunity to function as part of the Avera Sacred Heart Hospital health care team.

**Nursing Internship Program in Aberdeen** - Avera St. Luke's Summer Intern Program is a clinical enrichment program designed to allow educational and clinical experience for senior nursing students. This nine-week program was developed for the student who has completed the third year of a baccalaureate nursing program and is two semesters or less away from graduation. The summer intern is provided with extensive patient care opportunities to apply knowledge and enhance clinical expertise.

**Nurse Internships in Marshall Minnesota and O'Neill Nebraska**



**Avera Nurse PREP** - This summer experience is for pre-nursing students who have completed their freshman or sophomore year of college. Avera hosted 21 pre nursing students for a 3-day experience and "backstage pass" to meet with nursing professionals in a variety of roles, and learn more about Avera's support of a nursing career journey.

## **South Dakota Health Care Workforce Resource Center Launches**

*Contributed by South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations (SDAHO)*

As a result of strategic priorities, SDAHO has launched the South Dakota Health Care Workforce Resource Center to share information, tips and best practices to help providers recruit and retain quality employees.

The site also provides valuable information about state resources, such as scholarship opportunities, activities of the area health education centers, and state workforce initiatives, providing a central repository of information for easy access by members.

Access to workforce information through national partners AHA and LeadingAge is also available.

SDAHO partners include SDAHO Enterprises, Yankton Area Health Education Center and the South Dakota Department of Health.

The site can be accessed at [www.sdworkforce.com](http://www.sdworkforce.com) or through [www.sdaho.org](http://www.sdaho.org) by clicking on workforce on the menu bar.

Questions regarding the site can be directed to Jen Porter at [jen.porter@sdaho.org](mailto:jen.porter@sdaho.org).



**South Dakota**  
Health Care Workforce  
Resource Center



# 3RNet

## 2017 Academy

### *Identify and Communicate Strengths, Invest in Challenges: A Workshop Approach*

*The South Dakota Office of Rural Health has chosen to offer this at no charge!*

Join 3RNet for this six-part webinar series starting October 3, 2017.

Every community has unique strengths and challenges in recruitment and retention; the 2017 Academy will guide facilities through the process of identifying and communicating their strengths, and investing in their challenges. Sign up for the 2017 3RNet Recruiting for Retention Academy to learn more about topics such as:

- Combating Isolation in Rural/Underserved Recruiting
- Compensation Trends for Providers – Balancing Financial and Lifestyle Needs
- Avoiding Burnout Through a Managed Scope of Practice
- Recruiting for Team Based Care in Rural/Underserved Communities
- Building Support for your Recruitment Efforts at the Local Level
- Identify and Communicate Strengths, Invest in Challenges
- and many more..

#### **Why 3RNet?**

There are a lot of options for recruitment education, but the 3RNet Recruiting for Retention Academy is the only online training specific to rural and underserved communities.

#### **Benefits**

- Access to six live 90 minute webinars (one webinar every two weeks) featuring national experts
- Password protected portal to gain access to the webinar recordings, session materials, and more
- Ability to ask questions to other Academy attendees and 3RNet members via the Academy listserv
- A certificate of completion
- *New this year!* Every facility that participates in the 2017 Academy will have a chance to opt-in to a recruitment for retention assessment that will classify their individual community's/facility's strengths and challenges discussed during the Academy. More information on this exciting new option coming soon!

#### **Agenda**

<https://academy.3rnet.org/agenda.html>

#### **Why Attend**

<https://academy.3rnet.org/why-attend.html>

**Register:** <http://academy.3rnet.org/register.html>

Enter coupon code: SDORH

#### **Questions?**

Contact Jill Dean at [jill.dean@state.sd.us](mailto:jill.dean@state.sd.us)  
or 3RNet at [info@3rnet.org](mailto:info@3rnet.org) or 1-800-787-2512



## **Annual Census of Industry Employment and Wages Available**

*Contributed by South Dakota Department of Labor & Regulation*

Industry employment and wage data from a 2016 census is available from the Department of Labor and Regulation. This annual summary includes numbers of establishments, numbers of workers, and average pay by industry sector and by size class of employer.

“Payroll data reported by employers to our unemployment insurance tax unit is converted into labor market information through the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages program,” said state Labor and Regulation Secretary Marcia Hultman. “This is valuable to businesses, economic developers, career decision makers and individual job seekers.”

The number of South Dakota employees covered by unemployment insurance in 2016 was 420,466, an increase of 1.1 percent from 2015. Average annual pay increased by 2.5 percent to \$41,168.

“Counties seeing the largest actual growth in workers from 2015 to 2016 were Minnehaha, Lincoln and Pennington,” said Secretary Hultman. “The census also shows the predominance of small businesses in South Dakota, with 77.8 percent of all establishments in 2016 falling in the 0-9 worker size class.”

Industry supersectors seeing the largest percentage in employment growth were Natural Resources and Mining, Construction, and Education and Health Services.

The detailed annual summary with a narrative analysis, tables and graphs for each industry is available from the Labor Market Information Center at <http://dlr.sd.gov/> or by calling 605-626-2314. A flier with highlights is also available for download.

- The Health Care and Social Assistance sector employed more workers than any other South Dakota industry sector in 2016, at 61,470.

- The Health Care and Social Assistance sector added 1,356 workers from 2015 to 2016, a 2.3 percent increase.



- Annual average pay in South Dakota’s Health Care and Social Assistance sector was \$49,099 in 2016, up 2.5 percent from 2015.

## **Western Dakota Tech Welcomes Children’s Hospital of Colorado**

*Contributed by Western Dakota Tech*

On September 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, Western Dakota Tech hosted an Emergency and Trauma Outreach Symposium conducted by Children’s Hospital Colorado in collaboration with Rapid City Regional Hospital and Medical Air Rescue Company. The event featured 16 different presentations ranging from advanced assessment to pediatric emergencies. According to the conference brochure, “*This symposium offers physicians, nurses, pre-hospital providers and other healthcare team members the latest guidelines for pediatric practice through patient-centered presentations. Learner outcomes are to expand your knowledge of pertinent clinical conditions through evidence- and case-based presentations and identify available resources for a variety of community and healthcare settings.*”

Lloyd McNett, Western Dakota Tech Simulation Director, stated, “With the college’s new event center and simulation center, Western Dakota Tech is poised to host future conferences such as this. We look forward to working with our regional partners to organize these types of events to improve patient outcomes and provide a nearby venue for completing continuing education credits.”



## **Improving Combat Veterans Care Conference-May 12, 2017**

*Contributed by Yankton Rural AHEC*

Veterans living in rural and highly rural areas are at a 20 percent greater risk of dying by suicide than veterans who live in urban areas, according to information from the Together with Veterans community based initiative.

Keynote speaker, Sarra Nazem, Ph.D., focused on Achieving Therapeutic Risk Management of the Suicidal Patient at the day-long conference held on May 12, 2017, at the University Center in Sioux Falls. The conference is sponsored by the Yankton Rural AHEC in coordination with the Sioux Falls VA Health Care System. Chaplain Bob Price, D.Min (ABD), BCC also spoke on moral injury, which has been defined as “perpetrating, failing to prevent, bearing witness to, or learning about the acts that transgress deeply held moral beliefs and expectations” (Litz et al., 2009).

This conference also delivered important information that will assist healthcare providers and other professionals as they work to support families of Veterans and our Citizen Soldiers in South Dakota. Attendees provided great feedback focusing on therapeutic risk management, moral injury, and access to care issues as presented during the conference.

For conference information please contact Yankton Rural AHEC at 605-655-8285 or email [info@yrahec.org](mailto:info@yrahec.org).

## **REHPS Mentoring Health Professions Students for Seventh Straight Year**

*Contributed by Yankton Rural AHEC*

The summer of 2017 was the seventh year that Rural Experiences for Health Professions Students (REHPS) brought students to rural healthcare facilities for four weeks of interprofessional healthcare and small community experiences.

Communities selected to participate in the program must have a critical access hospital, a population under 10,000 people, and an interest in recruiting students upon their graduation. Facilities that host students are asked to provide a holistic view on how healthcare in a rural community works and a firsthand look at how rewarding a career in rural medicine can be. The 2017 REHPS communities included: Bowdle, Britton, Chamberlain, Custer, Freeman, Hot Springs, Martin, Miller, Parkston, Philip, Platte, Redfield, Sisseton, Sturgis, and Winner.

Students are selected through a competitive process in January of each year from seven disciplines that include: clinical psychology, family nurse practitioner, medical, medical laboratory science, physician assistant, pharmacy, and social work. The selected SDSU and USD students are placed in interprofessional pairs to learn alongside one another and also complete a community project during their stay.

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. For more information on REHPS and to follow the student’s experiences, please visit [www.yrahec.org](http://www.yrahec.org) or email [info@yrahec.org](mailto:info@yrahec.org).



## USD Department of Nursing in Rapid City Implements Interprofessional Simulations

*Contributed by University of South Dakota*

With the large international push for highly coordinated and collaborated patient-centered healthcare and measurable positive outcomes, the need for quality interdisciplinary education, communication, and healthcare has never been greater. The USD Department of Nursing in Rapid City has implemented a number of educational events to address this need. In March, 2017, we implemented two new and very powerful interprofessional simulations, a poverty simulation and a mass-casualty trauma simulation.

**Poverty Training and Simulation:** This training and simulation was co-sponsored by the Prosperity Initiative, USD Department of Nursing, and the USD Nursing Honor Society, and consisted of approx. 65 participants from a variety of disciplines including Respiratory Therapy students, USD Nursing students, SDSU Counseling students, USD Physician Assistant Students, Regional Health Case Managers, and more. Participants voiced gaining valuable knowledge and insight of the struggles and challenges of those in poverty live with every day.

**Active Shooter and Trauma training, and Mass-Casualty Simulation:** This interprofessional event was a partnership between USD Department of Nursing and Black Hills LifeFlight, with a guest speaker from the S.D Highway Patrol. Both nursing students and respiratory students participated in the event, as well as RNs and Paramedics from LifeFlight, with drama students from Black Hills State University as the standardized patients. This day provided critically important training on what to do if there is an active shooter, as well as how to assess, prioritize, and treat victims in a mass casualty event.



## **SDSU Receives Grant to Develop Immersive Clinical Traineeships**

*Contributed by South Dakota State University*

As part of its continuing efforts to address rural health care in the state and region, South Dakota State University's College of Nursing recently received a two-year grant for more than \$1.3 million from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The college will use the funds to develop immersive clinical traineeships in rural and/or underserved primary care settings. To help create these opportunities, the College of Nursing has partnered with Sanford Health to recruit, engage and develop new clinical preceptors and practicum sites, and design innovative skills workshops with the Sanford mobile simulation unit.

The grant will cover tuition, fees, books and a stipend for up to 16 family nurse practitioner students each year. Those students must be enrolled full time and in one of three practicum courses, and agree to a longitudinal clinical training experience in a rural and/or underserved setting.

"This project is intentionally designed to address the gap in primary care providers for rural and underserved areas, by providing education and clinical experiences for our family nurse practitioner students that focuses on the unique role and skill set of the rural provider," said Assistant Professor Victoria Britson, principal investigator of the grant. "We're looking for our graduates to be more comfortable with the higher level of care often expected of them in a rural area.

"The selected students will have an immersion clinical experience with a preceptor. That experience will help them learn what it means to be a rural provider," she continued.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration designated 44 of South Dakota's 66 counties as health professional shortage areas.

"This project will strengthen the quality of advanced practice nursing education by intentionally focusing on rural and/or underserved populations, ultimately improving access to care and patient outcomes for these populations in South Dakota and the region," said Nancy Fahrenwald, the college's dean.

"The benefits of this project will be fully realized when the graduates are connected with employment opportunities throughout the region," said Mona Hohman, vice president of nursing and clinical services for Sanford Health. "Sanford is proud to serve rural locations and we know that the graduates can have long, fulfilling careers serving the health needs of rural communities."

Additionally, the innovative approach will place family nurse practitioner students in rural locations for the majority of their clinical education experiences.

"Traditional education has left many recent graduates feeling less confident when faced with emergency department, hospital rounding or long-term care facility work," said Hohman. "This important clinical-academic partnership and rural immersion experience will give them a new level of experience and, in the end, make them better prepared to serve the vast health needs of rural areas.





## **Southeast Tech Programs**

*Contributed by Southeast Tech*

### **Southeast Tech Pharmacy Technician Program Ranked #15 Best Program in the Nation**

Southeast Tech has been ranked #15 from TheBestColleges.org list of the Top 50 Pharmacy Technician Programs.

The team at [TheBestColleges.org](http://TheBestColleges.org) strives to connect prospective students with the best degree programs available. This year, they reviewed all accredited pharmacy technician programs in the US to select 50 that provide students with the best learning experiences. Southeast Tech stood out with an outstanding pharmacy technician program.

Southeast Tech's Pharmacy Technician program is a 48 credit Diploma that is accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASPH) and Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). *It is the only accredited program in the region.*

### **New Medical Coding Options at Southeast Tech**

Southeast Tech is offering a new option to attain their Medical Coding AAS degree as a hybrid program which is taught primarily online with limited coursework offered on-campus.

In addition, two new certificates are also being offered;

- Certified Professional Biller (15 credits) – credits can be applied towards a Healthcare Office Specialist diploma.
- Certified Professional Coder (19 credits) – credits can be applied towards a Medical Coding AAS degree.

Call Jacque in Admissions today at 605.367.4456 for more information on this program or to learn how tuition reimbursement can help you upskill your current workforce.

### **Southeast Tech's LPN to RN Degree – Now Offered as a Hybrid Program**

South Dakota's top 2-year RN program\* Southeast Tech is offering an LPN to RN degree to allow current LPNs with at least 750 hours of documented work experience to earn their RN associates degree in less than one year!

This is a perfect fit for Southeast Tech LPN graduates or other LPNs who are able to plug in their LPN diploma and move forward with their Registered Nurse, AAS Degree.

Students can start as early as January 2018 in either a traditional classroom format in Sioux Falls or through a hybrid program that blends online coursework with a limited number of clinical experiences in the Sioux Falls area. Many students continue working as an LPN while attaining their RN degree.

Call Joe in Admissions today at 605.367.6114 for more information on this program or to learn how tuition reimbursement can help you upskill your current workforce.

\*Southeast Tech's RN program was honored as the top 2-year program in South Dakota by [registerednursing.org](http://registerednursing.org)!

## **Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment**

### **Announces New Interactive Website**

*Contributed by University of South Dakota*



The Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment (CPCM) at USD is pleased to announce the development of a new interactive website. The CPCM website features information for service professionals and community members impacting child welfare in South Dakota and highlights the work done by stakeholders across the state. Visit [www.SDCPCM.com](http://www.SDCPCM.com).

In collaboration with The Helpline, CPCM developed a state-wide electronic resource database or portal that can be accessed on the CPCM website. The portal allows users to search their area for resources in medical, emergency, and community help related to child sexual abuse and maltreatment. The portal covers the entire state of South Dakota. If your agency would like to be listed in the portal, please contact CPCM at [cpcm@usd.edu](mailto:cpcm@usd.edu).

For up-to-date information from CPCM, join the CPCM mailing list by visiting [www.SDCPCM.com](http://www.SDCPCM.com).



## **Sanford Health Career Exploration & Opportunities**

*Contributed by Sanford Health*

### **Sanford Youth Medical Explorers (YME) and HOSA (Future Health Professionals)**

Regional High School students are preparing to kick off the Sanford YME school year program with 50 students enrolled for the 2017-18 program. Students have the opportunity to participate in HOSA activities, conferences and scholarships in addition to exploring healthcare roles through tours, hands on activities and conversations with healthcare providers at the Sanford Medical Center in Sioux Falls. See link for information: <https://www.sanfordhealth.org/about/academic-affairs/career-exploration>



*Sanford YME visit SSOM Parry Center for Clinical Skills and Simulation*

### **Calling all Nursing Students**

Nurses are in high demand and Sanford Health wants to develop relationships early with students who are interested in employment. The Sanford Health Summer of Excellence program provides the nursing intern an opportunity to work in partnership with an RN preceptor serving as a personal clinical coach while gaining experience and skill within actual patient care situations, clinical simulation and classroom sessions. Participants will be graduating with their BSN December 2018 or May 2019. Applications for the Summer of Excellence nursing program will be available September 9th for Summer 2018 participation. Go to [Sanfordhealth.org](http://Sanfordhealth.org); key word: Summer E

### **Resume Builder for Students – Volunteering**

Sanford Health is introducing a new volunteer opportunity to participate in the healing art of Reiki, a Japanese technique for stress reduction, relaxation and emotional well-being by means of touch. Sanford Volunteer services is offering to train individuals to positively impact the patient experience. To find out more about this new volunteer role and sign up for training, contact volunteer services at 605-333-6374 or [smcvolunteers@sanfordhealth.org](mailto:smcvolunteers@sanfordhealth.org). Another perk for volunteers, Sanford USD Medical Center student volunteers are eligible for the Health Career Scholarship to benefit student volunteers enrolled in health career programs. Scholarship awards of up to five \$2,000 scholarships and up to five \$1,000 scholarships as provided by the Sanford USD Medical Center Volunteer Advisory Board. See volunteer opportunities:

<http://www.sanfordhealth.org/careers/volunteer-opportunities/sioux-falls>

### **Sanford Research**

All students, elementary to college age have the opportunity to explore the state-of-the-art biomedical research facility at Sanford Research in Sioux Falls. Learn the practices of scientists through hands on-activities shadowing and research project internships, click on the link to view all available opportunities:

<http://www.sanfordresearch.org/education/k12students/>

**SANFORD**  
HEALTH

## **Health Professionals Hear Message of Improving HPV Immunization Rates in SD**

*Contributed by Yankton Rural AHEC*

Improving the HPV immunization rates among 11 and 12 year olds continues to be the focus of an effort by the National AHEC Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Yankton Rural AHEC.

At the Sioux Falls Area Immunization Coalition's August Conference, nearly 150 healthcare professionals attended a presentation by Dr. Archana Chatterjee, Professor and Chair, Department of Pediatrics at the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine. The presentation focused on HPV and was sponsored by Yankton Rural AHEC.

Dr. Chatterjee's CDC-approved educational message was "You are the Key to HPV Cancer Prevention" and included updated information regarding new CDC recommendations on a two-dose vaccine for patients under 15 years old, framing the HPV conversation with patients and parents, and introducing talking points to encourage HPV vaccination. Attendees provided fantastic feedback and reported of plans to implement many of the tools and resources at their practices and clinics.

Yankton Rural AHEC has a number of educational resources, posters, archived webinars, and presentations available for interested participants and clinics. For more information on YRAHEC's plans for the HPV project, please contact Yankton Rural AHEC at 605-655-8285 or email [info@yrahec.org](mailto:info@yrahec.org).



## **Native American CNA Institute Held in Yankton in June**

*Contributed by Yankton Rural AHEC*

YRAHEC partnered with The Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery, Northern Nebraska AHEC (NNAHEC) and Mount Marty College (MMC) to host the 2017 Native American Certified Nursing Assistant Institute (NA CNAI) in Yankton, SD. Tree of Life Ministries also provided additional support. Applications were distributed to schools and personal contacts throughout southern SD and northern Nebraska specifically targeting Native American students (grades 11-12).

Native American high school students who were interested in a rewarding healthcare profession applied to attend the Native American CNA Institute in Yankton from June 5-16, 2017. Four students attended the two-week camp and completed online and classroom didactic work, learned 25 essential skills, and completed their clinical rotations at a local long-term care facility.

The Institute is designed to offer CNA certification and an introduction to healthcare professions. Students will invest time in the classroom, with hands-on labs, in clinical training, listening to guest speakers, and making site visits to various healthcare facilities in Yankton or Mitchell. This is a great opportunity for students to learn skills that they can put to work in their local or area communities. And, the experience many times leads to additional healthcare career goals. The Institute is a great opportunity to enter the healthcare field in a short time.

Upon passing of the certification exam, participants are eligible to begin work as CNAs, who are in high demand across the state.

Contact Yankton Rural AHEC for details at 605-655-8285 or email [info@yrahec.org](mailto:info@yrahec.org).

## **University of South Dakota/Sanford Health** **Paramedic Program Graduates First Class**

*Contributed by University of South Dakota*

USD and Sanford Health entered into an educational partnership in 2015 to offer high quality paramedic education in South Dakota. On May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 the program graduated its first class of five students. The graduates completed the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians psychomotor (skills) test with a 100% first time pass rate and an 80% first time pass rate on the cognitive (written) exam. South Dakota's state average for the NREMT exam in 2016 was 60% according to the NREMT's website.

### **Program Overview**

The paramedic curriculum is delivered in a unique and convenient format. Students have the ability to concurrently complete their bachelor's degree or to attend class while maintaining full-time employment. Class is held two evenings per week from 6-10pm and one Saturday per month for eight hours. The face-to-face class is physically held in Sioux Falls however the program utilizes a "blended" teaching model for remote students. Classes are broadcast in a live format, allowing students to log in from remote locations reducing their travel throughout the program.

Paramedic coursework is completed during five consecutive semesters with a fall start date each year. Throughout the program, Paramedic students participate in approximately 1200 hours of combined classroom, lab, and clinical encounters.

Prerequisites for admission include: current State or National EMT certification in good standing, current BLS certification, and acceptance to USD.

Early Look Deadline: March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018

More information can be found on the USD website at: <http://www.usd.edu/paramedic>



## **Office of Rural Health EMS Program Updates**

*Contributed by Office of Rural Health*

The Office of Rural Health's EMS Program is pleased to share with you a number of great initiatives that will be implemented over the next several months in 2017. Since the transition from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Health, the EMS Program has enjoyed two successful years of legislative activity, along with many other project milestones. Last year, Senate Bill 27 repealed the hardship exemption and redefined personnel requirements for ambulance services. This year, the passage of Senate Bill 48 allowed for the certification of the Emergency Medical Responder.

### **Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)**

EMR is defined in statute as, "any person certified by the Department of Health trained to provide simple, noninvasive care focused on lifesaving interventions for critical patients. The Emergency Medical Responder renders on site emergency care while awaiting additional emergency medical services response from an emergency medical technician or higher level personnel. An Emergency Medical Responder may not make decisions independently regarding the appropriate disposition of a patient."

The passage of SB48 allowed for the creation of the EMR level and authority to promulgate Administrative Rules defining the certification, recertification, and reciprocity processes along with the scope of practice for the EMR. The Administrative Rules were officially approved mid-July and took effect July 27, 2017. Since SB27 redefined personnel requirements for ambulance services and SB48 allows for the EMR as a certification level in SD, ambulance directors can now utilize EMRs as part of an ambulance response. Please note an individual who has completed the "Driver" components or an EMR can only function on an ambulance with an EMT or higher level of provider.

The Administrative Rules defined procedural steps necessary for certification, recertification, and reciprocity of EMRs. Individuals wishing to become certified as an EMR in the State of South Dakota may visit the EMS Program's website for the appropriate application and requirements.

### **ImageTrend Electronic Patient Care Reporting System**

In 2009, the EMS Program began using a National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) compliant software vendor for electronic Patient Care Reporting (ePCR) for ambulance services. As NEMSIS has evolved over the years from one standard to the next, several positive changes have occurred. The current version allows for more customization of the data elements collected, more specificity of the data elements, and more data elements to potentially choose from.

NEMSIS standard has evolved so much that the current ePCR platform utilized by ambulance services across the state will need to be replaced to remain compliant with NEMSIS and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's efforts. To that end, the Office of Rural Health published a Request for Proposal, reviewed vendor proposals, and selected and signed a contract with ImageTrend, a leading ePCR software vendor located in Minnesota.

The Office of Rural Health is extremely happy with this new partnership and is actively engaged in implementation efforts. This implementation, however, will be expeditious.

### **Naloxone Project for First Responders**

The South Dakota Department of Social Services (DSS) recently received a grant award similar to many other states to combat what has been called a nationwide opioid epidemic. As part of South Dakota's target response to this epidemic, the Department of Health (DOH) in collaboration with DSS has established training sessions to equip and educate first responders including hospital staff, Emergency Medical Services, and law enforcement; specifically, local Sheriff Offices, local Police Departments and Highway Patrol agencies statewide.

First Responder agencies are on the front lines of the opioid crisis and are challenged with the many dangers of opioids and the result of potent synthetic manufacturing thereof; some synthetics, 100 times more powerful require special handling for responder safety. During these training sessions, DOH will educate responders about the opioid crisis, the symptomatology of an opioid overdose, and general treatment and safety recommendations of a patient suffering a suspected opioid overdose. Furthermore, DOH will equip first responder agencies with Naloxone, a medication intended to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.

DOH plans to conduct training sessions during the months of October, November, and December of 2017 in various communities across SD. The coordination of these efforts will be through the Office of Rural Health's EMS Program. It is anticipated that over 500 first responders will be trained in the initial phase of this project by attending one of the

training sessions. Participants will be asked to return to their respective agencies and provide an overview of the training to remaining staff. Handouts and online resources will be available to assist in this process.

There are two main takeaways to this training. First, the safety of our first responders is our utmost concern. DSS and DOH encourage all first responders to be knowledgeable of the potential side effects of handling these drugs and the treatment of peers should a responder be inadvertently exposed. Secondly, DSS and DOH want to provide first responders with reversal medication for the treatment of peers and patients who present with the symptomatology of a suspected opioid overdose.

### **Fall Regional EMS Sessions**

During the fall of 2016, the EMS Program held seven Regional EMS Sessions across South Dakota. These sessions were so well received, the Program decided to host another round during the months of October, November, and December of 2017. The intent of the 2016 Regional EMS sessions was to share the recent needs assessment survey of ambulance services and to listen and learn from local EMS agencies regarding local challenges. This year, we will provide listening and learning sessions, however, we will also focus time on the Naloxone Project and the new ImageTrend ePCR platform.

The Office of Rural Health is making this required training for licensed ambulance services in South Dakota. We are asking each ambulance service to send one to two individuals to represent their agency and function as train the trainers. CME hours will be provided for those in attendance. If your service absolutely cannot attend the training for one reason or another, please contact our office for alternative solutions.

The regional EMS sessions will be held from 5:30 PM to approximately 10:00 PM Central Time with the exception of sessions held in Rapid City and Spearfish which will be Mountain Time.

## **Advance Care Planning Training for Undergraduates at USD Nursing**

*Contributed by University of South Dakota*

USD Nursing has trained and certified 40 interdisciplinary health sciences students during the Spring 2017 semester to become proficient in providing Advance Care Planning (ACP) education to patients. The training program is structured on the *First Steps*® ACP Facilitator model that is part of the *Gundersen Respecting Choices*® program.

The newly minted *First Steps*® Facilitators have in turn reached more than 200 community members in the Vermillion area by conducting local ACP workshops. ACP taught in these workshops promotes patient autonomy by honoring individual treatment preferences and respecting patient rights. A patient's identified and documented end-of-life goals also guide medical management and may prevent unwanted or unnecessary care.

The program was supported by a South Dakota Community Foundation *Community Innovations* award to USD Nursing. The training will provide useful skills to students once they enter clinical practice and we plan to expand this pilot to cover other USD Nursing campuses in Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Pierre in future years to educate all South Dakotans about the benefits of ACP.

### **DOH Social Media**

*Contributed by SD Office of Rural Health*



What's happening at the South Dakota Department of Health and the Office of Rural Health? Keep informed at these social media accounts.

DOH on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/SDHealthDepartment>

DOH on Twitter - <https://twitter.com/SDDOH>

SD Health Careers on Twitter - <https://twitter.com/SDHealthCareers>

HOTT on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/SDHealthCareers?ref=hl>

SIM-SD on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/Simulation-in-Motion-South-Dakota-131973850231573/timeline/>



### **More Information?**

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

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