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 upcoming! As always, we welcome your feedback regarding these and other workforce development issues.
The South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations: Thinking Outside of the Box for Healthcare Workforce Needs

Contributed by South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations

The past three years has brought many stresses to the healthcare system, but the impending workforce crisis has escalated challenges. Today's healthcare workers are stretched thin with administration, community and state leaders all looking at solutions to assist with workforce challenges in healthcare communities. SDAHO is committed to assisting with those efforts, recently launching a video series, called Hometown Healthcare Heroes. SDAHO is collaborating with member healthcare facilities, and residents to help promote job openings by also promoting the community and lifestyle where those jobs are available. Those interviewed share information on the school system, activities, outdoor recreation, amenities, in addition to the housing situation and the overall workforce environment. Also included are the career opportunities currently available at each facility.
Communities and facilities that have been highlighted in the Hometown Healthcare Hero campaign include:

**Webster** – Sanford Webster Hospital [https://youtu.be/FSU3LCyRxhl](https://youtu.be/FSU3LCyRxhl)

**Pierre** – Avera St. Mary's Hospital [https://youtu.be/fw1kdE9PPWo](https://youtu.be/fw1kdE9PPWo)

**Winner** - Winner Regional Health [https://youtu.be/T8Z6B-i1IY0](https://youtu.be/T8Z6B-i1IY0)

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**Post-Acute Partners in Care and Rural Health Leaders Conferences**

Contributed by South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations

Providing professional development and growth is essential, especially during times of workforce challenges. SDAHO is moving forward with in-person conferences this year. Our Post-Acute Partners in Care Conference is April 13th & 14th in Sioux Falls at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. Our theme is “Staying Power” how to stay engaged, stay connected and stay in long-term care. Participants can pick from several sessions in: Long-Term Care, Assisted Living, Home Health & Hospice, and Nurse Leadership.

SDAHO's annual Rural Health Leaders in-person conference is scheduled for July 12th & 13th in Pierre, with the focus on workforce needs. Interested participants are invited to join SDAHO and rural health leaders from across the state to explore new models, innovative solutions, and programs specifically available for South Dakota health care entities.

For more information and to register: [SDAHO's In-Person Conferences](#)
Avel eCare is Recruiting Facilities and Organizations to Participate in an Educational Program Opportunity

**Challenge**

Long Term Care and EMT workers have often been frustrated and overwhelmed by the feeling that they are not providing the type of care that is consistent with the dignity due at the end of life.

**Registration:**

*Each Individual attending the live webinar needs to register. Register by clicking a session below or contacting Jori.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 1 (March 3, 2022)</th>
<th>Session 2 (March 24, 2022)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session 3 (April 21, 2022)</td>
<td>Session 4 (May 19, 2022)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact: Jori Adler  
Phone: 605-606-0302  
Email: Jori.Bartlett@avelecare.com

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- Know the purpose and limitations of the following tools: Power of Attorney, Living Will, Comfort One, & MOST  
- Review current use of tools and identify an improvement opportunity  
- Create a strategy to implement and track improvement with colleagues  
- Recognize manifestations of grief in self and others  
- Identify supportive interventions for managing grief

**Solution**

Avel eCare Senior Care team members trained and well versed in long-term care, geriatrics, and MOST will utilize an electronic platform for learning to connect with social workers, medical directors, administrators, directors of nursing of long-term care facilities and emergency responders/EMT workers.

**Program Offered**

- Education and pragmatic implementation support in an environmental of "all teach-all learn"  
- Educational sessions will be built around de-identified case studies  
- 30-90 minute coaching sessions will be available for up to 5 organizations weekly

To learn more about our Senior Care Program visit:  
https://www.avelecare.com/services/senior-care/
Digitization of Health Information
Contributed by Dakota State University

Renae Spohn, PhD, RHIA, Director of Dakota State University’s Health Information Management Programs, is the featured guest on Dakota State University's January Cyberology Podcast. The topic discussed during the interview with Dr. Gabe Mydland and Jen Burris is “Digitization of Health Information”. The podcast is thirty-three minutes long and contains a transcript on DSU's website. The podcast is available at this link. Questions can be directed to Dr. Spohn at renae.spohn@dsu.edu.

Sanford Partners with Flexwise to Improve Workforce Staffing
Contributed by Sanford Health

Sanford Health will soon be partnering with Flexwise, a health care technology provider based in Nashville, Tennessee, to implement data analytics and artificial intelligence designed to optimize the scheduling of its more than 10,000 nurses. The partnership aligns with Sanford’s goal of improving clinical staffing by scheduling workforce activities through a system-wide application of patient demand forecasting.

“Sanford’s Nursing Leadership, Enterprise Data Analytics, Innovation and Commercialization teams have collaborated with Flexwise to incorporate predictive analytics into our clinical workforce governance model,” said Erica DeBoer, chief nursing officer at Sanford Health. “We are fully committed to harnessing the power of predictive modeling and analytics to provide new insights into our clinical workforce needs and optimize our staffing and scheduling decisions in the future.”

Maintaining a balance between meeting patient care needs and controlling labor costs continues to become more complex, especially given staffing challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Flexwise helps health care systems and other businesses adopt a data-driven approach to clinical workforce scheduling and staffing.

“Now more than ever, hospitals need innovative solutions to help them control labor costs without compromising patient care and staff satisfaction,” said Kevin Godsey, co-founder and CEO, Flexwise Health. “Predictive staffing will help Sanford Health achieve those objectives.”

By working with a hospital’s existing electronic medical record, staff scheduling and time and attendance applications, the Flexwise platform brings all data together in one place to optimize clinical workforce staffing decisions.

Early childhood and related professionals are invited to join us for Project SCOPE: Supporting Children of the Opioid Epidemic, a national training initiative intended to build provider capacity and confidence in applying evidence-based practices in screening, monitoring, and interdisciplinary support for children and families diagnosed with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS), Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS), or who are suspected of being impacted by substance use, trauma, or related exposure.

Register via the link [https://usd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjYsd-mqrzspEtKjBXyCmckgSEIibwctKyL](https://usd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjYsd-mqrzspEtKjBXyCmckgSEIibwctKyL)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the sessions. Register once and you can attend any of the sessions. Join each session via Zoom from your internet-enabled device.

Continuing education credits are available through the South Dakota Board of Examiners for Counselors & Marriage and Family Therapists, South Dakota Board of Addiction and Prevention Professionals, and the South Dakota Board of Social Work Examiners.

For more information visit [https://www.usd.edu/echo](https://www.usd.edu/echo) or email ProjectECHO@usd.edu

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### Join us for sessions weekly on Wednesdays 12:00-1:00pm CT May 4 to June 29

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/4</td>
<td>Prenatal Substance Exposure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/11</td>
<td>Trauma, Substance Exposure, &amp; Speech/Language, Motor, and Sensory Concerns in Children with NAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/18</td>
<td>Addiction and Treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/25</td>
<td>Supporting Mothers/Families Impacted by Substance Use Disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/1</td>
<td>Trauma, ACEs, and Trauma-Informed Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/8</td>
<td>Monitoring Child Development and Linking to Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/15</td>
<td>Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/22</td>
<td>Dealing with Difficult Behaviors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/29</td>
<td>Networking</td>
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*Contributed by University of South Dakota*
2022 NHSC Scholarship Program

Apply through May 5, 2022 at 7:30 PM ET

Apply Here!

The 2022 National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program (NHSC SP) is now accepting applications from health professional students studying to become physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives or physician assistants.

The NHSC Scholarship Program participants agree to provide a one year service commitment in an underserved community for each year of scholarship support received. There is a two-year minimum service commitment and participants can receive a maximum of four years of support.

What Can Your NHSC Scholarship Cover?

- Payment of tuition and eligible fees;
- An annual other reasonable educational costs (PDF - 310 KB) payment for items including books, health insurance, and equipment;
- Monthly stipends to assist with living expenses while pursuing your health professions degree educational training program.

Questions?
Visit the NHSC Scholarship Program website for information on the Application Webinar and Online Q&A Sessions.

More Information
For additional information, including Application and Program Guidance, eligibility and program fact sheet, visit the NHSC Scholarship Program website.
National Health Service Corps New Site Application Open
Contributed by Office of Rural Health

Eligible health care facilities can now apply for approval as a National Health Service Corps (NHSC) site. NHSC-approved sites with an inactive status may also apply to recertify their approved status during the open cycle. Eligibility includes health care sites that provide outpatient, ambulatory, and primary health care services (medical, dental, and behavioral health) to populations residing in high-need urban, tribal, and rural areas. Additional, eligible site types include facilities providing general substance use disorder (SUD) treatment, a medication-assisted treatment (MAT) program, or an opioid treatment program (OTP).

Due Date: Tuesday, May 10, 11:59 p.m. ET.

Get help with your application

March 31, 1-2:30 pm ET: NHSC New Site Application Webinar
April 14, 2-4 pm ET: NHSC New Site Application Q&A Session #1
April 27, 12-2 pm ET: NHSC New Site Application Q&A Session #2

For more information

State Primary Care Office (PCO) staff and NHSC State Leads are available for questions about applying and other site-specific information.

GpTRAC Annual Conference
Contributed by Office of Rural Health

The Great Plains Telehealth Resource & Assistance Center (gpTRAC) will again be hosting their annual in-person conference, Telehealth Everywhere, May 24-25 at the Radisson Blu-Mall of America. This conference will feature excellent keynote presenters and breakout sessions. The opening keynote speaker, George Demiris, PhD, from UPenn, will discuss the need for inclusive design in telehealth, RPM, and other digital health tools. He will also present various case studies that highlight ways to facilitate ongoing and effective patient engagement. Attendees will again have the opportunity to discuss emerging telehealth information with their peers and colleagues. For more information and to register, visit: https://web.cvent.com/event/51c10ff1-fa20-48a0-899a-5ab1e6bda115/summary
Avera Offers Behavioral Health Career Opportunities

Interested in a career in Behavioral Health? Avera is currently accepting applications for various roles in our new Helmsley Behavioral Health Center in Sioux Falls, SD. To inquire, contact Avera’s Career Planning Service at avera.org/careers/career-planning-service

The Helmsley Behavioral Health Center adds 60,000 more square feet of space for treating psychiatric needs among children, youth and adults. This wing adds several new services including 24/7 Behavioral Health Urgent Care, observation care, youth addiction care services and partial hospitalization for youth.

The wing also will house Avera’s senior behavioral health unit, which is currently located on the Avera Prince of Peace campus. This will provide an opportunity to add to the continuity of mental health services while enhancing and expanding this program. In total, Avera Behavioral Health Hospital will have 146 inpatient behavioral health beds plus eight addiction residential beds for adolescents – all private rooms.

DOH Social Media
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.