

Connections

Connecting students to careers,
Professionals to communities,
Communities to better health.

2012 Summer Report

Volume 2 Number 3

“Each year millions of American adults become sick from illnesses that could have been prevented by vaccination, and thousands die as a result.”

RAND Corporation Research
“A Shot in the Arm for Adult Vaccination” 2012



See “Research PAVEing way to health” on page 2 .

Avera recognizes CNA Institute with Quality Award

The Yankton Rural Area Health Education Center joined Avera Education & Staffing Solutions along with a special team of collaborators in accepting an Avera Quality Award on August 22 for its Certified Nursing Institute. Since 2009, 26 high school students ages 16 to 19 have completed the course in Yankton. The 10-day program meets the South Dakota Board of Nursing requirements for CNAs. In addition to the 75-hour classroom and clinical course, students learn the importance of human touch in caring for patients.



2012 CNA Institute: Ten graduates completed the course.

In 2012, 31 students applied for 10 available slots. Several graduates already work as CNAs.

Other CNA Institute collaborators include: staff of Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Avera Sister James Care Center, Regional Technical Education Center,

Mount Marty College, Southeast Job Link and the Benedictine Sisters.

Look for the CNA Institute to grow in June of 2013. This program exposes high school students to health professions encouraging healthcare employment.

2013 will mark the 5th Annual Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Institute in Yankton, SD, June 3-14. Typically, CNA training of this type costs nearly \$1,200. Yankton Rural AHEC and its collaborators offer this to students for \$25 per person.

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Yankton Rural AHEC joins forces with SD Army National Guard see page 2.

- 44% - Percentage of post-9/11 veterans who feel their transition to civilian life has been difficult, according to a PEW Research Center study -- War and Sacrifice in the Post-9/11 Era (October 2011).



The South Dakota Area Health Education Center (SD AHEC) has a mission to “connect students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health.” Established in 2009 through a HRSA grant awarded to the Sanford School of Medicine, the statewide program currently has two centers, the Yankton Rural AHEC and the Northeast AHEC.

Research PAVEing way to health

In 2012, the Yankton Rural Area Health Education Center (YRAHEC) received a grant from the Partnership for Adult Vaccination and Education (PAVE) to collaboratively assist healthcare professionals improve immunization rates for adolescents and adults in South Dakota (SD).

The project's comprehensive educational activities enable healthcare professionals to close the gaps of immunizations promoted by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The most common vaccine preventable diseases striking Americans most often are influenza, shingles, human papilloma virus (HPV), hepatitis A and B, invasive pneumococcal disease and pertussis ("A Shot..." RAND Corporation, 2012).

Many factors contribute to adult immunization gaps, including provider knowledge and patient education. Studies indicate most healthcare providers do not conduct an evaluation, such as chart reviews, of their adult immunization performance. In addition, more than half of the providers indicate they do not always inform patients about the consequences of missing vaccinations. This is in contrast to national surveys which indicate almost half of adults not intending to be vaccinated for influenza indicated a willingness to be vaccinated if given a strong recommendation from a healthcare provider ("A Shot..." RAND Corporation, 2012).

To raise awareness and improve practice, the YRAHEC is collaborating with providers and staff from two project sites: Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C. and Wagner Community Clinic Avera. Medical students from the University of SD (USD), Sanford School of Medicine (SSOM) have been included in the project to conduct the onsite chart review portion of the project. Students will review randomly chosen non-patient identifying charts looking for the nine adult vaccinations recommended by the CDC. Upon completion of the project, the students will have reviewed approximately 360 charts.

The PAVE project components include self-assessments, retrospective and current chart reviews, education, evaluation, and tracking for changes in practice. The project began in January with an anticipated completion date of November 30th. Overall, the project's goal is to heighten awareness and promote change in practice for improvements in patient healthcare.



Medical students Kelly Delaney, right and Brandy Aman review charts and compile data.

Yankton Rural AHEC joins forces with SD Army National Guard

More than 100 healthcare providers took part in a two-day continuing education conference focused on improving the care for service members and veterans. Holly O'Reilly, Ph.D., Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Trainer of the Center for Deployment Psychology, provided attendees with information concerning sleep problems related to deployment (insomnia), military culture/deployment cycle and etiology, assessment and treatment of PTSD.

- 4% - Percentage of the Pentagon's \$53 billion annual medical bill allocated to mental health.
 - 18% - Percentage increase in suicides among US active-duty troops in 2012, compared with 2011, through June 3.
- (As published in Time July 23, 2012)

The conference was organized by the Yankton Rural Area Health Education Center in cooperation with the South Dakota Army National Guard. Interest in this conference was very high, with requests for registration beyond the deadline. Registration for the one and one-half day conference was only \$15 per attendee with the opportunity to earn up to 10.75 continuing education credits for psychologists, counselors, marriage and family therapists, social workers, and alcohol and drug professionals.

In an effort to retain rural healthcare providers, Yankton Rural AHEC offers healthcare professionals opportunities for continuing education. Look to www.yrahec.org for future conferences.





REHPS launches new website



Online: Visit www.rehps.org to stay up-to-date on this growing program placing healthcare students in rural South Dakota.



Yankton to host Scrubs Camp

The 2012 Yankton Scrubs Camp will be held in Yankton, SD on Wednesday, October 3, 2012. Scrubs Camps are one day events aimed at high school students that may have an interest in healthcare careers. The students spend the day going to sessions on various healthcare careers and also have the opportunity to visit with area colleges, technical schools and local community programs that offer healthcare educational opportunities. This year's Yankton Camp will offer sessions on orthopedic and sports medicine, CPR training, SDSU Pharmacy program, Sanford Research, SDSU Doctor of Nursing Practice program, the SIM SD (Simulation In Motion - South Dakota) project, and a session hosted by SD MyLife. Lunch is provided and upon completion of the Camp students receive a scrubs top to commemorate their experience. For more information contact Bart Hallberg at bart.hallberg@yrahec.org or call 605-655-1400.

Back to school: YRAHEC ready to visit your classroom

For most kids, this is week #7 of being back in school. For teachers, it is always the right time to look down the road and see if there are additional things you can do with the kids to provide them with the best, well rounded educational experience you can. The Yankton Rural Area Health Education Center (YRAHEC), has several presentations in the area of healthcare careers and healthcare educational opportunities.

We present to students K-12 and tailor our sessions to the various age groups. We have The Great Hospital Adventure (K-3rd) video starring an array of puppets playing the parts of the kids and the healthcare professionals that help them while they are in the hospital following an injury. We have another video created by Avera Rural Health Institute in partnership with the South Dakota Healthcare Workforce Center that shows middle school and high school students the varied and numerous healthcare careers and the many educational programs being offered by schools, facilities, and programs throughout South Dakota.

For you, the instructors, we have an In-A Box curricula tool suitable for grades 4-8 offering complete lesson plans and hands-



on activities in the following areas (Ear In A Box, Eye In A Box, Guts In A Box, Brain In A Box, and Bones & Muscles In A Box). These are available for two week rental periods throughout the school year. When shipped a nominal fee applies.

The YRAHEC is available to come to your school to present the programs at your convenience. Call 605-655-1400 or email bart.hallberg@yrahec.org for more information.



Connections

Upcoming Events -- Save the Date

- Oct. 2 - 5** SD Municipal League, Pierre
- Oct. 3** Yankton Scrubs Camp
- Oct. 4** Avera Rural Health Conf., Sioux Falls
- Oct. 9-12** Native American Seminar, Rapid City
- Oct. 16** Women in Science, Yankton
- Oct. 31 - Nov. 2** NAO Fall Conference, Crystal City, VA
- Nov.15** Science Discovery Day, Sioux Falls

Fair goers snatched thousands of fly swatters at the Turner County Fair and the State Fair, where YRAHEC teamed up with Northeast SD AHEC to promote public awareness of the AHEC centers. Pictured at the State Fair are YRAHEC Executive Director Sandy Viau-Williams, left and NESD AHEC Executive Director Rachel Haigh-Blume.



Coming to Your Town - Service area communities will learn more about the needs of rural healthcare in South Dakota with a new Yankton Rural AHEC display.

