



Dentistry IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Allied Staff News

SDDA Endorses Avera Health Plans

The South Dakota Dental Association, through Professional Insurors, has endorsed Avera Health Plans as the first step in a goal of creating an SDDA association health plan.



“Avera received the endorsement because it has both competitive pricing and a state-wide network of providers. The Avera regional pricing methodology will allow for a variance in price from one area of the state to another, but overall that endorsement will provide an opportunity for most member to save money on health insurance.”

The SDDA’s long-range goal is to have its own association health plan and this is clearing the biggest hurdle towards that goal, according to Paul Knecht, the SDDA Executive Director. “Due to some requirements within the law and the current utilization rate of our members, an association health plan is not feasible for us at this time. We believe a partnership with Avera Health Plans through Professional Insurors will move us in that direction.”

“If enough of our members subscribe to the Avera plan, this endorsement will turn into the creation of a fully-insured SDDA association health plan,” Knecht continued. “At that point, all of our members will be able to realize a savings through the collective purchasing power of the association.”

Avera Health Plans Vice President of Sales, Jordan Anderson, was pleased with the announcement and endorsement. “I believe we all have the best interest and health of our members at the core of what we do,” he said. “This is another way that health care companies can work together to bring down the cost of health care for consumers utilizing our products and services.”

Members who would like more information on the endorsement or would like a quote for their family or office should contact Ken Asheim of Professional Insurors at 1-800-529-1451; 605-343-1111; or, email kenasheim@insurorpros.com.

South Dakota Dental Hygienist of the Year



Tia S. Meyer is a Registered Dental Hygienist in South Dakota with over 12 years of dental experience. She began her career in dental by obtaining her dental assisting degree at Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls, SD. As her passion began to grow, so did her desire to further herself in her career. She went on to complete her Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene at the University of South Dakota. After working clinically as a hygienist for a couple years, she was offered the opportunity to become the Dental Hygiene Coordinator for the Neighborhood Dental locations. Shortly after, she received another opportunity to become the Clinical Director for the company’s nine locations.

Tia has developed clinical protocols, training philosophies, and standard of care processes for these teams. In addition, she has developed a continuing education program that each team participates in biweekly as well as most recently a new CE platform that is open to dental professionals nationwide. She could not be prouder of the patient

service specialists, dental assistants, dental hygienists, managers, and doctors who are among the company’s teams. They are the reason she does what she does each and every day!

Tia has also had the opportunity to be a program educator at Southeast Technical Institute for the past couple years. She is the primary educator for the dental assisting apprenticeship program. The past two years she has worked with over 20 dedicated students to help them begin their careers as dental healthcare professionals!

Tia has served on the SDDHA Executive Board for the past two years. She was nominated for and served in her role as President Elect from 2018-2019 and most recently served as the board’s President from 2019-2020. She is currently preparing to take over the role as Past President for the 2020-2021 year.

Tia resides with her family (Andrew, Kya (13), and Kemry [8]) in Tea, SD. Her continued perseverance and past accomplishments would not have been possible without their unending support. Another integral support system over the years has been her current employer. They welcomed her in having no dental experience and gave her every opportunity to grow while supporting her every step of the way.

If you ask Tia for any professional advice, she will tell you this: **“Take every day one day at a time. Do everything you do with a good heart and never expect anything in return. Never forget those who were there to support you on your journey and most importantly, always have faith and be thankful to wake up to another day filled with endless opportunity!”**

Stressful Times Can Take A Toll

If you, or someone you know, needs help because of the added stress created by the COVID-19 crises, or if you are suffering from alcohol or drug abuse, help is available. Dentists and allied staff members in South Dakota have access to services from two sources.

Community Mental Health Centers in South Dakota

SDDA members can access counseling services through any of the Community Mental Health Centers in the state through a relationship between the SDDA and the South Dakota Council of Community Behavioral Health. Community mental health centers are located in communities throughout the state. These centers provide professional outpatient counseling and related services to the general public, as well as specific assistance for the business, legal and health care communities including dentists and allied dental staff. For a listing of Community Mental Health Centers in South Dakota go to the Member Center of the SDDA web site and click on Member Wellness. Under an agreement with the Council of Community Behavioral Health the SDDA will cover the cost of the initial consultation for any member dentist; non-member dentist; and, SDDA allied member who lacks the resources to pay for their care.

Health Professionals Assistance Program

All licensees of the South Dakota State Board of Dentistry may seek participation in the South Dakota Health Professionals Assistance Program (HPAP). Voluntary self-referrals are accepted. This confidential program is professionally staffed and designed to monitor the treatment and continuing care of regulated health professionals who may be unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety, if their illness of chemical dependency is not appropriately managed. The program provides a non-disciplinary option for participating health licensing boards to deal with impaired regulated health professionals who recognize their illness and the need for continuing care and/or practice limitations. Services include general outreach, crisis intervention, informal assessment, treatment monitoring, and support for providers who need our assistance.

The South Dakota HPAP is dedicated to enhancing public safety and support for regulated health care professionals by facilitating the early intervention, treatment, continued care, and monitoring the safe return to practice for regulated health professionals who may be unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety if their mental health or substance use illness symptoms are not adequately managed.

In addition to self-referrals, HPAP encourages referrals from families or peers, or referrals from medical or treatment agencies. Calls to HPAP about a colleague are held in the strictest confidence and HPAP can serve as a resource to help determine appropriate next steps.

For additional information contact:

South Dakota Health Professionals Assistance Program ~ Midwest Health Management Services
Tel: (605) 274-4711 Fax: (605) 275-4715 ~ <https://www.mwhms.com>

6th Annual Sioux Empire Smiles – October 3 (tentative)

The Southeastern District Dental Society (SEDDS) plans to once again host a free one-day dental clinic for children 21 and under. The clinic is tentatively set for beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 3, 2020 and will serve up to 150 patients with comprehensive dental care services, from cleanings and exams to surgical and restorative treatments.

Children's Dental Center has once again donated the use of their facility for the event. Funding for the clinic has been committed by the Sioux Empire United Way and in-kind donations of supplies and materials has been sought from dental vendors and Sioux Falls area retailers.

A clinic of this size needs the participation of many volunteers. Dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants are needed to make this clinic a success. Please contact Dr. Damon Thielen at damon.thielen@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer.

This clinic promises to be a rewarding experience for all volunteers coming together with a common goal of providing dental care to underserved populations of children and adults who cannot, for whatever reason, obtain care.

In addition to receiving needed dental treatment, patients will learn the importance of good daily oral hygiene practices, healthy diet and routine preventive dental care.



Classified Ads

Maher Dental Clinic in Pierre, SD is seeking a full time Dental Hygienist. Our family focused practice serves patients of all ages. The ideal candidate will have a calm, reassuring, friendly demeanor while multitasking in a small private practice environment. Our office mission statement is to treat patients and staff like family by sharing knowledge, talents, and using teamwork to promote the health and wellbeing of all. Salary will depend on experience. We are located in Pierre, SD. Pierre is known for its river recreation, great schools, and proximity to hunting and fishing opportunities. Please send any questions and resumes to Jamie@maherdentalclinic.com.

St. Francis Mission Dental Clinic Update

Marty Jones, RDH, St. Francis Mission Dental Clinic Program Director



The St. Francis Mission Dental Clinic closed our doors March 16th, 2020. Due to the extreme vulnerability of our community members we acted swiftly and prudently in cancelling our scheduled clinics through the Summer of 2020. Our thanks to all the dentists and hygienists (for understanding our shut down) who had planned on volunteering and set aside time in their schedules to provide services at our clinic.

Our goal is to plan and coordinate an emergency clinic by August of 2020. Our first tentative clinic will be with Remote Area Medical (RAM), August 14-16. Traditionally, RAM has set up portable dental chairs in another building on campus, but this year we are attempting to have our dental volunteers work out of our dental clinic. Prior to reopening we are working to obtain the necessary PPE and do some renovations to our clinic to accommodate a new screening and intake area.

If anyone is interested in volunteering for a day or two this Fall please contact Marty Jones through email marty.jones@sfmission.net or her business cell 605-319-1275 and we can discuss some options. We at SFMD want to express our thanks and gratitude to all our South Dakota volunteers and wish you all health and safety through these difficult times.

COVID-19 Impacts Dentistry in South Dakota

For a period of four to six weeks this spring most of the dental offices in South Dakota were treating only patients with urgent and emergent needs. During that same time of office staff were temporarily furloughed and many sought financial relief by going on unemployment and practice owners applied for relief from one, or more, Federal programs. Offices were closed as a result of both Federal and State directives aimed at slowing down the spread of the coronavirus in South Dakota. The lifting of the Governor's executive order, in early May, saw many offices returning to practice, but with a host of new protocols in place to protect patients and staff from spreading the virus. The scarcity of personal protective equipment (PPE) created a major obstacle as many offices could not get PPE through their normal suppliers.

Throughout the confusion and frustration of complying with Federal recommendations and State requirements the American Dental Association (ADA) and the South Dakota Dental Association (SDDA) used electronic communication to keep members abreast of the ever-changing situation and the most appropriate methods to function in a new and uncertain environment.

The full impact of several weeks of office closure, and untreated dental needs will not be fully known from sometime, if ever. However, what can be learned from a crisis that evolved as quickly as the COVID crisis did, is that access to timely and reliable information is critical to decision making for every dental practice. Members are encouraged to continue to watch for ongoing updates from both the ADA and the SDDA and to visit the websites of both organizations for reliable advice and guidance on dealing with COVID-19.

Don't miss it!

Dental care during pregnancy - WEBINAR

Many myths persist about dental treatment for the pregnant patient. Plan to attend an informative presentation on the topic during a webinar scheduled for Friday, July 10th. The speaker will also discuss eating disorders and oral health.

Oral Health for the Pregnant Patient: 9-11 a.m. (central) (2 clinical CE)
Eating Disorders: Oral Health Considerations: 11-noon (central) (1 clinical CE)

Register through the SDDA website

Dentistry in South Dakota
804 N Euclid; Ste 103
Pierre SD 57501

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Pierre, SD 57501

CONTINUING EDUCATION CALENDAR

The listing of these programs is provided as a service to SDDA Newsletter subscribers, and does not mean that these programs have been endorsed or approved by the SD Dental Association or the SD State Board of Dentistry. All members are cautioned to evaluate the programs on their own merit.

SDDA ANNUAL SESSION

Contact: Brenda Goeden 605-224-9133
www.sddental.org
May 13-15, 2021 Sioux Falls, SD

WESTERN DAKOTA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Contact: 605-718-2410

Dental Radiology 2-Day Course

July 18-19, 2020; Rapid City
August 1-2, 2020; Rapid City
August 22-23, 2020; Sioux Falls
September 12-13, 2020; Rapid City

Nitrous Oxide/Oxygen Sedation

September 19-20, 2020; Rapid City

Third Friday of the Month, mornings

➤ American Heart Association CPR Class for Healthcare Professionals

Third Friday of the Month, afternoons

➤ American Heart Association Healthcare Provider CPR Recertification

LAKE AREA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Contact: Nicole Pahl, 605-882-5284, ext. 362
Nicole.pahl@lakeareatech.edu
<https://www.lakeareatech.edu/corporate-education/corporate-education-registration/>

Expanded Functions Dental Assistant Program

June 1-5, 2020

Home Study Radiology Courses available:

- Radiology Safety
- Radiography Production

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Contact: Dept. of Dental Hygiene
605-677-5379

Nitrous Oxide/Oxygen Sedation Course

Offered two to three times per year

Home Study Radiology Courses available:

- Digital Radiography, Advantages & Disadvantages
- Exposure Errors of Periapicals & Bitewings
- Processing Errors
- Occlusal Exposures for Children
- Oral Effects of Head & Neck Radiation Therapy
- Panoramic Radiography
- Radiation Safety
- Vertical Bitewings
- Fluoride Varnish, Indication & Application

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