



NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE

12:00 A.M.

Monday, November 24, 2014

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Southern Prairie Community Care Launches New Workgroups - Enhances Communication Tools to Support Community Collaboration

Marshall, Minn. – Southern Prairie Community Care (SPCC) and the SPCC Center for Community Health Improvement (CHI) have launched five workgroups to collaborate and further the mission of Southern Prairie Community Care:

Our Mission: "to enhance the quality of life for our citizens by facilitating the integration of services and supports provided within our community."

These workgroups bring together a broad range of stakeholders to guide continued development of Southern Prairie Community Care, and implementation of SPCC initiatives.

Southern Prairie Community Care 2014-2015 workgroups include:

- **12-County Regional Health Improvement Workgroup** – Focused on understanding regional health status, establishing a baseline of strengths and weaknesses in the region, prioritizing improvement goals for our regional plan, developing strategies to address gaps, and measuring and communicating on progress.
- **Health Model Care and Support Workgroup** – Focused on providing recommendations on the development of integrated, evidence-based, locally driven model of care and support, and developing a responsive plan to address barriers.
- **Population Health Record / HIE Workgroup** – Focused on guiding the development of the Southern Prairie Community HIE to inform care and service delivery to citizens in our region through integration of clinical data into a comprehensive health record.
- **Stakeholder Engagement & Communications Workgroup** – Focused on recommending policy considerations for SPCC's approach to stakeholder engagement and communications; and the development and implementation of short and long term strategies to improve the effectiveness of stakeholder engagement and communications.
- **Health Equity and Access Workgroup** – Focused on providing recommendations on activities to support health equity and access for all in the SPCC region; developing and implementing a work plan to make additional connections with diverse communities; and working with the 12-County Regional Health

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Improvement Workgroup on improvement goals to address health disparities across multiple cultural communities.

“The involvement of our citizens in this redesign project is critical. Our ability to shape or change the way health care services and supports are delivered in southwest Minnesota depends largely upon an understanding of the needs of those who live and work in our communities,” said Norm Holmen, chairman of the SPCC Board of Directors, *“We view these work groups and ongoing citizen participation as valuable tools in assuring all voices are heard in this reform effort.”*

SPCC has also launched a new website (www.southernprairie.org) with new tools to support stakeholder engagement and collaboration within the Southern Prairie Region to advance the triple aim –to lower the total cost of care, improve clinical quality, and enhance patient experience. Along with the new website, Southern Prairie Community Care will begin producing a monthly newsletter to keep the community informed of SPCC activities, and provide information on how the community can get engaged. The newsletter will also highlight statewide news and opportunities that are relevant in advancing the mission.

“The future health of our communities depends upon our ability to collectively identify what works,” explained Mary Fischer, Executive Director of SPCC. *“With the assistance of our citizens, the business sector and the community at large, we will focus our efforts on achieving high quality care and services that result in the best possible outcomes for those living and working in our region.”*

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Southern Prairie Community Care (SPCC) works to enhance the quality of life for citizens in Southwest Minnesota through integration of clinical care, social services and community health provided across the region’s 12 counties. The unprecedented partnership brings together local governments, health care providers and nonprofits, facilitates information-sharing to create smooth and easy experiences for those receiving care and services in our community, to address disparities for diverse and vulnerable populations, and improve the lives and health of all individuals living and working in the region.