

December 21, 2023

Welcome South Dakota Palliative Care Network (SDPN) Members!

First, I want to take this opportunity to thank Mari Perrenoud, RN, MSA, CHPN, Charlene Berke, BS, RT, R(T), ARRT, and Sarah Mollman, PhD, RN, CHPN, CNE for their development, oversight, and passion for the mission of the SDPN. They brought palliative care education to healthcare professionals, healthcare students, and communities across the state. I hope that you find LifeCircle has parallel goals.

As your December 12, 2023 email indicates, SDPN and LifeCircle South Dakota will be merged into one statewide advocacy group. Both groups have professional and public education as part of their mission. LifeCircle also has a policy perspective to ensure that policies, both at the federal and state levels, provides a positive impact on care delivered by palliative care and hospice providers.

As a result of this merger, you will start to see:

1. Calendar invites in your in-box. They will be for:
  - a. **Monthly LifeCircle meetings** on the Fourth Monday of every month at 0900 where we discuss happenings around the state and national level that impact palliative care and hospice. It is a place to reach out to others who share your commitment to improving the quality of care and access to these two specialty medical care options.
  - b. **Quarterly LifeCircle Education** on the second Wednesday every three months at 1200 (March, June, Sept, Dec). Education topics are suggested by LifeCircle members and are made available to members through the SDAHO education platform.
2. Weekly SDAHO newsletter, Unified Voice, in lieu of the quarterly SDPN newsletter. It contains information for all healthcare professionals, often including hospice and/or palliative care news stories. **Please notify me if you wish to OPT OUT of receiving the newsletter.**
3. Emails promoting hospice and/or palliative care education that are free to SDAHO members or a small charge to non-members through SDAHO's education portal. Not all LifeCircle members are SDAHO members.
4. Promotion of the SDAHO Hospice and Palliative Care [website](#) that includes:
  - a. [LifeCircle Link](#)
  - b. [Advance Care Planning Link](#)
  - c. [State Hospice Agency Map Link](#)
  - d. Multiple resources for healthcare professionals including:
    - i. Legislative
    - ii. Clinical

- iii. Professional Development
- iv. Patient Resources
- v. Education
- e. Statewide Initiatives Link for:
  - i. [SD MOST](#)
  - ii. [Marijuana Legalization](#)
  - iii. [SD Crisis Standard of Care](#)
  - iv. [Guardianship](#)

Current happening through LifeCircle include:

1. Updates on the HRSA Planning Grant with the South Dakota Coalition for the Advancement of Serious Illness Care (SD CASIC) whose purpose is to assess the feasibility of a statewide coalition for coordinating and advancing palliative care and hospice services in South Dakota.
2. Input into proposed statewide definition of palliative care legislation
3. Guardianship education development.
4. March 13, 2024 education: Medical Aid In Dying (M.A.I.D.): How to respond to patient and family questions presented by Jennifer Ballentine, MA-CEO for Compassionate Care of California; Dr. Gregg VandeKieft, Palliative Care Physician, Clinical Ethicist- Providence St. Peter Hospital and Providence Sound Hospice in Olympia Washington; and Dr. David Nowels, Hospice and Palliative Medicine at UC Health Palliative Care in Colorado.

Please reach out to me if you have questions. My hope is that you become involved in LifeCircle SD and bring your expertise and passion. Together, we can do great things for those in South Dakota living with serious illness and those who care for and about them.

In Gratitude-

Michele Snyders, MSW, CSW-PIP, APHSW-C

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