

2020-2023 Rural Health Network Development (RHND) Grant Program Sourcebook for South Dakota Palliative Care Network

Part I:

Organizational Information

Grant Number	D06RH37523
Grantee Organization	Sacred Heart Health Services
Organization Type	Nonprofit Organization
Address	501 Summit St, Yankton, SD 57078-3855
Grantee Organization Website	Avera.org
Project Title	Upper Midwest Palliative Care Education
Primary Focus Area	Palliative Care
Secondary Focus Area	Education
Name of Network	Upper Midwest Palliative Care Education Network
Contact Information of the Network Director (Primary contact person for grant)	Name: Charlene Berke
	Title: Project Director
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Part II:

Network Members and History

A. Members

Member Organization	Location	Organizational Type
South Dakota State University	Brookings, Brookings County, South Dakota	University
Mount Marty University	Yankton, Yankton County, South Dakota	University
Presentation College	Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota	University

In addition to these founding members, the network has grown to more than 400 individuals representing 38 organizations.

B. History of Network

The Network's purpose is to [increase knowledge](#) of palliative care by collaborating with area academies to develop a comprehensive, replicable curriculum model to educate students in health care-related programs, support continuing education for healthcare professionals, and raise awareness among patients, families, and others located in rural communities.

Part III:

Community Characteristics

A. Area

Through the education, over 2,000 persons have received education on palliative care. Participants of the continuing education program were from nine states in the U.S. For those within South Dakota, they represented the 3 urban, 14 of the 25 rural, and 2 of the 38 frontier counties. Community education events were held in 17 locations in South Dakota: 3 urban, 9 rural and 5 frontier counties. Over 1400 nursing students received palliative care education representing multiple states and numerous counties.

B. Target Population

The Network identified three target populations for the palliative care education: undergraduate and graduate nursing students, interdisciplinary healthcare professionals, and community members. An emphasis was placed on these populations who practice or live in a rural or frontier area.

C. Need

The Network conducted several [needs assessments](#) during a planning period which identified education on palliative care as a priority as other needs relied on a clear understanding of palliative care.

Part IV:

Program Services

A. Description

Education activities focused on the three target populations with palliative care education being incorporated into nursing coursework, 11 online on-demand education modules, and a 1 day in-person symposium. All the education aligned with the 8 domains within the

[Clinical Practice Guideline for Quality Palliative Care](#). For community education, 17 presentations on palliative care were offered in various locations across the state.

B. Role of Network Partners

Each network member had two representatives serving on the Network Governing Board which oversaw all grant activities and decisions, including the planning, development, and implementation of the educational aims. Representatives served as the content experts for the education or invited content experts based on their connections to other palliative care experts.

Part V:

Outcomes

A. Outcomes

A total of **2,106** individuals in the Upper Midwest know about palliative care: 256 community members, 1,473 nursing students, 158 healthcare professionals, and 219 attendees at the symposium. Now the Network can further palliative care efforts in the region since more people understand what palliative care is and how it can benefit their patients or themselves.

B. Network Collaboration

The success of the education activities relied heavily on the Network's partners and members for connections to content experts, funding and a venue for the symposium, and awarding of continuing education credits. Additional partners and members were added through deliberate engagement with the community and key sectors through the newsletter, emails, and presentations.

Part VI:

Sustainability

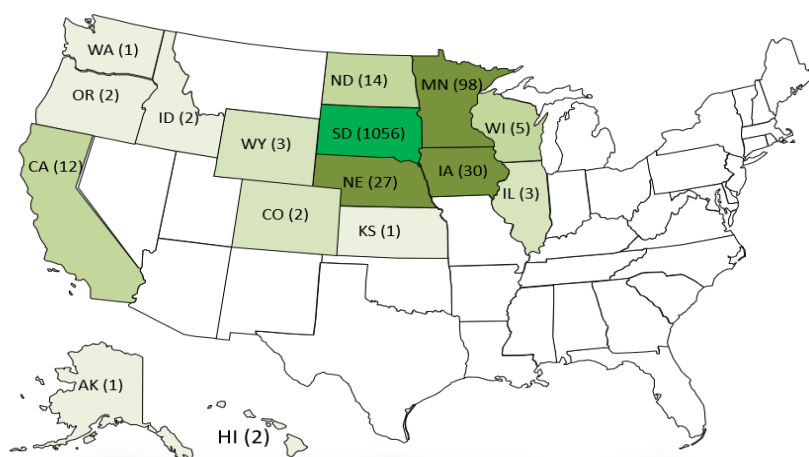
A. Sustained Impact

After taking the [continuing education session\(s\)](#), healthcare professionals reported enhanced knowledge, performance, competence, and teamwork skills. Healthcare professionals also reported being able to improve patient outcomes and practice habits. Preliminary data indicates that nursing students are increasing their knowledge of palliative care by partaking in the palliative care coursework, see Table 1. Students self-reported preparedness to provide palliative care services upon graduation demonstrates a significant increase in preparedness which will positively impact their nursing care of patients with serious illness and their families. The community education, participants demonstrated a statistically significant ($p < .001$) improvement in knowledge of palliative care and confidence in finding palliative care services.

Table 1: Nursing Student Knowledge and Preparedness

	Knowledge of Palliative Care Mean (SD)	Preparedness to Provide Palliative Care Mean (SD)
Before education	197.4 (18.8)	56.0 (18.1) [^]
After education	208.6 (21.3)	68.3 (17.7) [^]
	Highest possible score: 235	Highest possible score: 90

N=20; [^] improvement from pre to post survey, $p < 0.05$



★ Canada (1) and Vietnam (1)

Providing palliative care education to the healthcare professionals and nursing students will have a long-term impact as the knowledge and skills gained through the education will impact their practice and likely patient outcomes. Enhancing the public's knowledge of palliative care may foster discussions and use of palliative care services. Together, these educational efforts have reached 16 states and 2 countries so far, demonstrating a geographically broad impact. The [Continuing education](#) will remain available the end of 2023 and the palliative care education will remain integrated into the nursing student programs; thus, furthering the impact of the network.