

News from the South Dakota Department of Human Services

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Community Champions Week – March 18 - 22, 2019

On March 22, 1972, an amendment to the Older Americans Act of 1965 established a national nutrition program for people 60 years and older. Meal programs, commonly referred to as Meals on Wheels, during the week celebrate the network of community organizations, businesses, government and dedicated individuals who come together to ensure older adults who need nutritious meals are never forgotten.

From Monday, March 18th to Friday, March 22nd, meal programs invite community, state and federal officials, local celebrities and other prominent community individuals to deliver meals, speak out for seniors to raise awareness on the importance of the work these programs accomplish. Each day, staff and volunteers deliver a meal is also a day that provides a vital lifeline and community connection, which is sometimes all it takes to keep older individuals living at home where they want to remain.

State Community of Practice Team Holding Trainings

The South Dakota Community of Practice for Supporting Families (CoP) is hosting a pair of free training sessions in February for professionals and family members who want to assure that individuals with disabilities, special healthcare needs and/or who are aging sustain a good quality of life.

These training presentations will be held on the following dates and locations:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>City</u>
Mon. Feb. 25	Black Hills Works	3650 Range Road	Rapid City
Tues. Feb. 26	Northern Hills Training Center	615 Harvard St.	Spearfish

The morning sessions will be held from 9a.m. – 11:30a.m. MDT and serve as an introduction to Charting the LifeCourse Framework.

Afternoon sessions will be from 12:30p.m. – 4:30p.m. MDT and will provide more in-depth training with instruction and practice on the framework.

There is no cost to attend the trainings, but registration is required. Morning and afternoon sessions are scheduled in both locations.

To register, please contact Brenda Smith at 605-770-6098 or at mbsmit@msn.com. When registering, please indicate the location and session you plan to attend.

The South Dakota CoP's mission is to ensure state policies, practices and systems support family networks, provide family-centered case management, expand service available in the home and strengthen the role of families in all models of services.

March for Meals

During National Nutrition Month, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics goal is to encourage people to make informed food choices and develop sound eating and physical activity habits on most days of each week. The Academy recommends balancing nutritious meals by selecting a mix of lean protein foods, vegetables, whole grains and fruits. During March, Dietitians and Nutritionists will educate the public on the benefits of healthy eating and promote healthy life-style choices. To learn more visit the Academy's website at: <https://www.eatright.org/>

Business Specialist Column (Service Animals)

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of service animals? Maybe you immediately think of a cat, dog, or another animal that you may see when you are out and about in public, or shopping at a local retail store, or attending a work-related training in your community. The Rocky Mountain ADA Center defines service animals as dogs (or even miniature horses, as a modification) that are trained to do work or perform tasks for individuals with disabilities. Furthermore, service animals are individually trained to provide support that's relevant to the person's disability.

Examples of service animals include:

- Guide/seeing dogs - guiding individuals who are blind,
- Hearing/signal dogs - trained to alert individuals with significant hearing loss or who are deaf when sounds arise,
- Psychiatric service dogs - trained to complete tasks supporting individuals with mental health diagnoses by alerting them of onsets of psychiatric episodes in efforts to lessen the effects,
- Sensory/social signal dogs - trained to assist individuals with autism, such as alerting him/her to distract them from repetitive movements, and
- Seizure response dogs - trained to assist individuals with seizure disorders, such as assisting him/her during a seizure episode or may even go retrieve help from others.

It is important to note that dogs providing emotional support or comfort do not qualify as service animals under regardless of whether they've been trained. Titles II and III of the ADA provide protection of service animals or dogs; more specifically, Titles II and III pertain to businesses or nonprofit organizations serving the public must typically allow service animals in all areas of the facility where the public is allowed.

Businesses and/or its staff are limited to asking the two following questions if there is a concern about the service an animal can provide :

- Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?
- What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?

If you have additional questions, please contact the Division of Rehabilitation Services' business specialist Kimberly Ludwig at (605) 668-9598 or by email at kimberly.ludwig@state.sd.us.

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