Seven State Partnership
Responding To The Mental Health Needs
Of Farm Families

North Dakota
Minnesota
South Dakota
Wisconsin
Iowa
Nebraska
Kansas

NORTH DAKOTA
SOWING
THE
SEEDS OF
HOPE

Funded by:

US Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Rural Health Policy

Bureau of Primary Health Care
Program Features

Four projects have been developed or expanded in response to the mental health needs of farm families.

**Carrington Health Center’s Parish/Outreach Nurse Program** is working in a five county area (Foster, Eddy, Griggs, Stutsman, and Wells) to educate clergy and others regarding the work of parish nurses. The Churches and Congregations may contract for parish/outreach nurse services. Either through telephone call or through a home visit, the nurse contacts farm families, linking them with health services and providing information or referral sources, according to need.

Carrington Health Center provides nurses for an annual health screening event in eight of the towns it serves. These events bring the farm community together and promotes personal monitoring of one’s health, as well as important contacts and opportunities for imparting information.

**Lutheran Rural Response (LRR)** is a statewide program of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota. LRR helps farmers, ranchers and rural communities by bringing healing, help, and hope through:

- The support of local food pantries and small town grocery stores.
- The **Powerhouse of Potential** is a community workshop that helps assess strengths, challenges, and resources. Participants are empowered to develop an action plan that focuses on redefining and re-energizing community.
- Transition services, which provide support, encouragement and resources to rural people as they face changes in their family life regarding farming and ranching.
- Resource connections, a toll-free number that connects the needs of ND farm and ranch families with potential resources.

**Medcenter One Health Systems** also has programs to address the farm crisis. A voucher system is available to provide mental health counseling for farmers, ranchers and family members.

**Mental Health Association in North Dakota** utilizes a troupe of nearly life-sized puppets, “Kids On The Block”, operated by teen and adult volunteers to perform scripts dealing with mental illness including depression and ADHD, scripts focusing on bullying and safety issues and a new script “Troubling Times” resulting from the terrorists’ attacks and threats currently facing our citizens. The program allows the children to have a “safe” atmosphere to explore their feelings and concerns through listening and talking directly to the puppets.

For More Information…Contact

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