

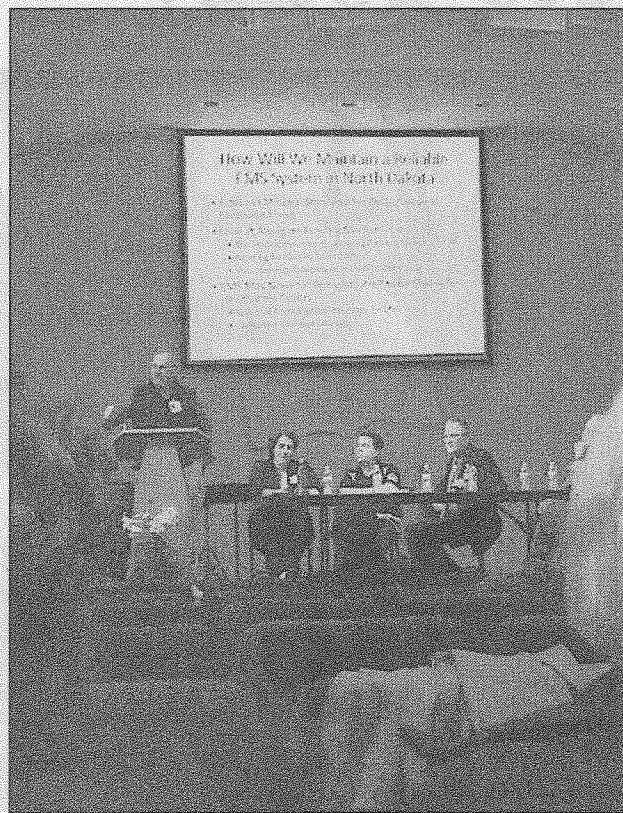
LET'S TALK ABOUT HEALTHCARE

A Life is Why

On Tuesday evening at Calvary Evangelical Free Church in Rugby, the North Dakota EMS Association, in partnership with ND Department of Health Division of EMS Trauma and The American Heart Association held a meeting to discuss the future of rural ambulance services in North Dakota. A panel of speakers consisting of District 14 Representative, Jon Nelson; Curt Halmrast, President of the North Dakota Emergency Medical Service Association (NDEMSA); Dr. Jeff Sather, ND State EMS Medical Director; Kelly Sears, EMS Trauma and Education Coordinator; and Ken Reed, Director of EMS at Heart of America Medical Center.

"The purpose of the meeting was to hold real discussions about the challenges that EMS is currently facing in rural North Dakota, to look at building an EMS System and to define what a tangible model really looks like," States Halmrast.

"The current EMS model has been in existence for over 40 years," Adds Sears. The backbone has always been the volunteers. With dramatically declining volunteerism, shrinking rosters or rosters filled with people who cannot



respond; are just a few the challenges we're facing. Volunteerism is no longer a sustainable solution for EMS."

"With the dramatic changes in healthcare, we need to think differently about how we are going to care for our patients. We need to have the dialogue between

one another, work together and form partnerships so we can provide our patients with the best care possible," States Reed.

To learn more, join the Rural Health Community Interest Group, text: RURAEMS to: 52886 or log onto www.heart.org/NDEMS.

Dakota College Offering Appli

Bottineau — The Allied Health Department at Dakota College at Bottineau currently offers two Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees, and two Diploma programs. Students can either choose a diploma track or AAS track in Medical Assisting. Medical Assistants can be a tremendous asset to medical clinics and specialty clinics by performing such tasks as rooming patients, taking vital signs, giving injections, and assisting with procedures. Medical assistant students are also trained in front office skills such as coding and office management so they are of particular value in rural clinics where they can truly function as a jack-of-all-trades. Our Medical Assistant graduates are eligible to sit for exams through either the National Center for Competency Testing, or American Medical Technologists to become Nationally recognized.

Dakota College at Bottineau (DCB) recently partnered with Sakakawea Medical Center (SMC) in Hazen. A clinical instructor from SMC provided DCB students with hands-on learning in an otherwise fully online program. Two students who have taken advantage of the partnership are scheduled to receive their diplomas at the end of the summer term. One of them had this to say,

"My name is Amber and I currently live in Beulah, ND. I am taking the Medical Assistant Program through DCB to get a diploma in Medical Assisting. Through this program, I was still able to work a full-time shift-work job and a part-



I never had to drive more than 10 minutes, even for class. All of the instructors were great to work with, and I was glad they provided my opportunity. DCB provided on-site instruction through the Sakakawea Medical Center in Hazen, which helped ease the completely "online" feeling. DCB also handled figuring out where to do my internship that eased stress as well. Graduating with my diploma gave me hope to acquire a job at one of the clinics in town. The program was less than a year of schooling and also helped me prepare for any future schooling I might decide to do. I encourage anyone interested in this program to look into it. It was well worth it for me. It pays off! Thank you again for this opportunity!"

DCB also offers an AAS in Medical Administrative Assistant. Graduates of this program are eligible to sit for an exam to become nationally certified. This program can be completed on-campus, at our

Bite Into A Health Lifestyle

By Carolee Kaylor

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