STATE-TRIBAL OPIOID AND METHAMPHETAMINE PREVENTION SUMMIT

Continuing the Conversation, Igniting the Change

September 10 & 11 2026

Law Enforcement Training Center

1302 E. Highway 14, Pierre, SD

MEET OUR SPEAKERS

DAY 1

"From Chains to Change", Andrew Brown, I. Am. Legacy

Andrew Brown has been formerly incarcerated and now has 11 years in recovery. Andrew works as a Peer Support Specialist with I. Am. Legacy, helping system impacted individuals find positive pathways towards change.

“Recovery Journey”, Debbie S., I. Am. Legacy

Debbie joins us from I. Am. Legacy, sharing a powerful journey of recovery that inspires hope and strength.

“South Dakota Fusion Center Supporting the State of South Dakota”, Paul Niedringhaus, Fusion Center

Paul Niedringhaus joined the South Dakota Department of Public Safety in January of 2019 when he was hired as the Director of the Fusion Center. Prior to this he spent 26 years with the Minnehaha County Sheriff’s Office in Sioux Falls where he spent his 18 years as the Commander of the Investigation Division and SWAT team. After his retirement from the Sheriff’s Office, he was the Director of Metro Communication’s for two years leading the largest 911 center in the State. Paul is a lifelong South Dakota native and is a graduate of Augustana University with a BA in Criminal Justice.

“Implementing and Evaluating Evidence-Based, Evidence-Informed, and Community-Defined Practices in Great Plains Tribal Communities”, Favian Kennedy, Oglala Lakota Division of Behavioral Health

Favian Kennedy is the Executive Director of the Oglala Lakota Division of Behavioral Health and has dedicated more than 22 years to strengthening public health and behavioral health systems, programs, and outcomes for Tribal communities across the Great Plains region. His work emphasizes the integration of core public health functions, including health surveillance, monitoring, evaluation, and data-driven planning, to improve community health and wellness. He is a strong advocate for culturally responsive, community-driven approaches that incorporate evidence-based, evidence-informed, and community-defined practices. Mr. Kennedy is committed to cultivating Indigenous public health and behavioral health professionals while advancing data-informed decision-making to enhance the well-being and sovereignty of Tribal Nations.

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“South Dakota Opioid Settlement Fund: Putting Settlement Dollars to Work”, Molly Brown, South Dakota Department of Social Services
Molly is the Strategic Initiatives Program Specialist at the Department of Social Services, Division of Behavioral Health. In this role she supports the administration of the Opioid Settlement Fund, the Division’s Rural Health Transformation Initiatives, and other strategic initiatives. Molly received her doctoral degree in criminal justice from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

“No Judgment, No Barriers, Every Step Counts: Contingency Management for Our Relatives in Methamphetamine Recovery”, Dawn Marie Johnson, Midwest Street Medicine
Dawn Marie Johnson, MSW, is the Program Coordinator of the Contingency Management Program at Midwest Street Medicine in Sioux Falls — a voluntary, positive-reinforcement recovery program serving people in methamphetamine recovery, nearly all of them justice-involved. She also serves as a member of the Governor's Rehabilitation Task Force, the Sioux Falls School District School Board, and the Southeast Technical College Board, bringing recovery, reentry, and education into the same conversation across South Dakota. Her session shares ten months of program data — a 97.6% negative UA rate, zero punitive discharges, under $700 a month in incentives — and why "No Judgment, No Barriers, Every Step Counts" isn't just the motto; it's the treatment.

“Expanding Emily's Hope Post-Overdose Response and Low-Barrier Naloxone Access Across Native Communities in South Dakota”, Diana Leal, MPH, Emily's Hope
Diana Leal, MPH is the Post Overdose Response Team Program Manager at Emily’s Hope. She brings valuable insight to advancing post overdose response efforts across South Dakota. Diana first connected with Emily’s Hope during graduate school while working on substance use disorder and maternal health research grants in addition to her individual studies, where she analyzed active South Dakota policies surrounding substance exposure testing in newborns and the implications involved with punitive action versus evidence-based support. Following both personal loss and her studies, the mission of Emily's Hope became deeply meaningful to her and shaped her passion for supporting families affected by substance use disorder and improving the stigma landscape. Diana is also actively involved with the South Dakota Rural Substance Use Disorder Advisory Board and the South Dakota Public Health Association Legislative Committee.

South Dakota
DEPARTMENT OF TRIBAL RELATIONS