



# Circuit

*From the Desk of the Executive Director*  
*Carla Miller*

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[www.sdparent.org](http://www.sdparent.org)



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Paula Souhrada  
Tana Buresch  
Teresa Nold  
Trish Bowers  
Ken Randall  
Betsy Drew  
Lisa Merchen  
Tina Kenser

Welcome to this addition of the Circuit. The Circuit is a newsletter distributed by South Dakota Parent Connection highlighting news and information for parents and professionals about SD Parent Connection and the work we do helping families connect to important resources and supports.



As you may know, SD Parent Connection is the state of South Dakota's Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) and Family to Family Center (F2F). As the state's PTI and F2F, we provide consultation, information and training to families who care for individuals with disabilities or long-term health care needs – all at no cost to them. We also connect families to resources and supports within their communities, around the state, and if needed throughout the nation. We also work with professionals by providing training and information on how to strengthen their relationships with families and in understanding the unique needs of families caring for their child or young adult with a disability or health care need.

It has been our privilege to serve as the state's PTI and F2F for over 30 years. Our primary office is located in Sioux Falls. We also have an office in Rapid City that has been working with communities throughout the Black Hills for several years. We are very excited to have opened a new office in Aberdeen last year and the opportunities that has provided us in getting to know and support families in the north central part of the state better.

Each year the number of families we support and professionals with whom we engage grows. In the last year, we have worked with 1310 families and professionals and provided over 2700 consultations, plus we distributed 5794 materials and provided outreach to over 170 SD communities. SD Parent Connection continues to be responsive to the needs of families and is a valuable resource for families and professionals.

In this addition of the Circuit, you will meet our current Board of Directors, get to know our Staff, and learn about opportunities available to you through our organization in the next several months.

Sincerely,

*Carla Miller*

## SD Parent Connection Board of Directors

The SD Parent Connection's Board of Directors serve as the governing body for the organization. Fifty percent of Board members must be parents of individuals with a disability or health need. As a state-wide organization, the Board has made a commitment to seeking representation from across the state. The current Board consists of parents from the Sioux Falls area, Aberdeen area, Vermillion area and Pine Ridge.

Board Members serve a 3-year term. The Board recruits new members on an on-going basis. If you are interested in serving or know of someone you would like to recommend, please contact us at [www.sdparent.org](http://www.sdparent.org). **The Board is especially looking for a member from the Rapid City and Huron areas.**

Leadership positions on the Board will be voted for in September prior to the beginning of the next fiscal year (Oct. 2019).

## SD Parent Connection Staff

**Carla Miller**, Executive Director: Carla is beginning her 4th year as Executive Director of SD Parent Connection.

**Lisa Sanderson**, Grants Coordinator and Family to Family Health Information Center Project Director: Lisa works for SDPC as Grants and as the state's Act Early Ambassador.

**Paula Souhrada** Navigator Coordinator: The Navigator Program is a cooperative program between SDPC and the Dept. of Special Education.

**Teresa Nold** Outreach Specialist: Teresa focuses on transition supports and early childhood information.

**Tana Buresh** Outreach Specialist: Tana has been especially in Lighting the Way, Sibshops and the Lunch and Learn series.

**Tina Kinszer** Aberdeen Area Outreach Specialist: Tina has helped establish a strong working relationship between SDPC and Northern State University.

**Lisa Merchen** Rapid City Outreach Specialist: She recently helped SDPC move the Rapid City office to a new location and has established a new relationship with Ellsworth Airforce Base.

**Betsy Drew**, Outreach Specialist: She joined SDPC in January 2019 to assist with a literacy grant SDPC is working on with the Dept. of Education and Special Education.

**Ken Randall** Fiscal Specialist: Ken brings a strong background in business, accounting, and systems management to the position.

**Trish Bowers** Program Support Specialist: Not only will you meet Trish when you come to the Sioux Falls office, but you may visit with her on the phone when you call.

***The staff at SD Parent Connection welcomes the opportunity to visit with you and offer our support.***

## How You Can Help

As a statewide non-profit for a very rural state, SDPC is a small organization with a big reach. We rely on your support to maximize the services we provide and the communities we impact.

For example, SDPC hosts a monthly Lunch and Learn Series where parents and professionals hear information on pertinent topics of interest and need based on input received from parents around the state. Recently, a couple attended one of the Lunch and Learn Sessions and left with information on how to work with their school team in determining placement options for their child with a severe disability.

At a recent parent information fair co-sponsored by SDPC, a young couple who recently learned their child has Autism Spectrum Disorder, found timely information on the special education process, parent rights and school responsibility.

The parent of a young man with a developmental disability and co-occurring mental health concerns recently stopped in the Sioux Falls office. There she visited with SDPC staff who were able to help her find resources and connections that will assist her in making a plan of support for her young adult son.

Your gift to our organization helps us continue our mission of empowering families to be the best care coordinators for their child with a disability or health care need.

***Thank you for your ongoing support!***



### **You can support us a number of ways**

- Send us a donation in the enclosed envelope.
- Give online or set up a recurring gift using our secure Donate button at [www.sdparent.org](http://www.sdparent.org)
- Does your employer have an Employee Match Program? Use it to make your gift grow!
- Are you a Thrivent Financial member? Support SDPC with Thrivent Choice!
- Do you purchase from Amazon? Designate a donation using Amazon Smile Program!
- We would love to meet you so you could also stop by one of our 3 offices and meet our staff.

**Thank You for Supporting Families of Children and Youth with Special Needs!**

**Watch our website, WeConnect and Facebook pages for upcoming events.  
Sign up to receive our newsletter via email by emailing [sdpc@sdparent.org](mailto:sdpc@sdparent.org).**



**3701 West 49th Street, Suite 102**

**Sioux Falls, SD 57106-4206**

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## **SD Parent Connection Office Locations**



### **Sioux Falls**

**3701 W 49th Street  
Suite 102  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106  
605-361-3171  
800-640-4553**

### **Aberdeen**

**1707 4th Avenue  
Suite C  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
605-681-0709**

### **Rapid City**

**2310 N Maple Avenue  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
605-348-0305**