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Avera Announces Plans to Build Addiction Care Center

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (March 8, 2018) - Avera announces plans to build the Avera Addiction Care Center as part of the new Avera on Louise Health Campus at 69th and Louise in Sioux Falls.

This \$8 million project will consist of two one-story buildings that together comprise 20,000 square feet of space. This includes a main building with space for day treatment, group dining space and a meditation room. A residential building will have 32 private rooms with separate areas for men and women.

The architectural design will cultivate an environment of peace, serenity and privacy. It will be a comfortable, home-like environment with an outdoor courtyard and walking trails. In planning for this facility, Avera assembled an advisory committee made up of experts in addiction, community members and neighbors of the Avera on Louise campus.

An estimated 10 to 15 percent of people in the general population deal with chemical dependency. Avera Behavioral Health Services has offered outpatient and intensive outpatient services for addiction care for many years.

Avera's 60-year history in behavioral health includes the state-of-the-art Avera Behavioral Health Center that is looked to as a model in the industry.

"Avera is the regional leader in behavioral health services, and this is an important addition to our continuum of care," said David Flicek, President and CEO of Avera McKennan Hospital & University Health Center. "We look forward to offering world class residential care to those individuals and families in our region who are struggling with addiction."

"Avera will be able to offer comprehensive care that's unmatched in our region. This includes our ability to treat dual behavioral health diagnoses, our high quality existing outpatient behavioral health program, and our use of genetics to identify the best psychiatric medications. Avera on Louise will also offer close proximity of internal medicine physicians should any medical intervention be necessary," said Matt Stanley, DO, Vice President of the Avera Behavioral Health Service Line and Avera Medical Group psychiatrist.

This will be an Avera center designed around the Avera philosophy of care and mission. Yet Avera is also proud to be the first member of The Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation's Patient Care Network – the first

of its kind in the addiction treatment industry. The Hazelden Patient Care Network offers access to tools, resources and collaborative consultation.

“Our programming will include components of behavioral health and standard addiction recovery. We’ll use grounded and proven methods, for example, peer-based recovery. As is true in everything Avera does, our programming will care for the whole person – body, mind and spirit. We clearly see addiction as a medical disease so we will engage in medical treatment of patients to help them in their recovery journey,” Stanley said.

Treatment at the center will typically be 28 days in length, and is a voluntary program for adults who are seeking help to deal with addiction to alcohol or other substances. The center will provide several levels of residential care following criteria recognized by the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM).

This center will employ 35 full-time equivalent employees – all of whom will be new jobs in the city of Sioux Falls.

The Avera McKennan Foundation has raised approximately \$1 million to help fund this new facility. “We have several large donors who see this as a significant community need, and want to help individuals and families return to health. We are extremely grateful, and welcome others to join in this partnership,” Flicek said.

“We are proud to be able to offer access to high quality addiction care in a beautiful, respectful and hopeful environment. We feel that families and individuals in our area whose lives are torn by addiction deserve no less,” Stanley said.

Construction is set to begin this summer, and the new Avera Addiction Care Center will open in mid-2019.