

Healthy Minds, Stronger Communities



HEAD FORWARD
SOUTH DAKOTA

BROOKINGS REGIONAL BRAIN HEALTH EVENT

FREE Community Event

Saturday, October 17, 2026 | 9 a.m. – noon CT

Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center, Indoor Archery Range

CHOOSE WHAT INTERESTS YOU

Explore local resources, participate in free health screenings, and attend educational presentations throughout the morning. Choose what interests you most and enjoy the event at your own pace.

Community Resources	Connect with local organizations and explore resources for brain health, healthy aging, dementia, caregiving, and community support.
Free Health Screenings	Take a few minutes for your health! Free screening opportunities may include blood pressure, blood glucose, and hearing, along with information to help you stay informed about your health.
Educational Presentations	Hear from local and statewide experts on brain health, dementia, caregiver support, and community resources.

PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

Time	Presentation
9:00-9:10 a.m.	Welcome & Healthy Brain Initiative Overview Kari Senger
9:10-9:40 a.m.	Supporting Brain Health in Our Community Michelle Kutner
9:45-10:15 a.m.	10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's Disease Michelle Kutner
10:25-10:55 a.m.	Finding Joy and Dignity in Alzheimer's Disease Lisa Groon
11:00-11:20 a.m.	Caregiver Support: Reach Out Before You Burn Out Carmen Spurling
11:20-11:30 a.m.	VA Caregiver Support Program Overview Erika Jacobson
11:35-11:55 a.m.	From Awareness to Action: Introducing the Healthy Brain Community Toolkit Renee Robbins
11:55 a.m.-noon	Closing Remarks

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PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Kari Senger, BS

Program Coordinator, Healthy Brain Initiative-Head Forward SD, Black Hills Special Services

Kari Senger works for Black Hills Special Services Cooperative, where she serves as the Coordinator for the SD Department of Health - Healthy Brain Initiative. She leads the South Dakota Healthy Brain Coalition and works with partners across the state to promote brain health, dementia risk reduction, early detection, and support for those impacted by dementia, including families and caregivers.

Michelle Kutner, MSW, CSW

State Program Director, Alzheimer's Association – South Dakota Chapter

Michelle Kutner is a licensed social worker and State Program Director for the Alzheimer's Association – South Dakota Chapter. She provides education and support for individuals and families affected by dementia, partners with volunteers across the state, and promotes lifelong brain health through education and community engagement.

Lisa Groon, BS, CPXP

Manager of Quality and Patient Experience, Sanford Health

Lisa Groon serves as Manager of Quality and Patient Experience at Sanford Health. She is dedicated to advancing person-centered care and has collaborated with health system leaders nationwide to implement evidence-informed improvements that promote dignity, connection, and compassionate care.

Carmen Spurling

Caregiver Services Manager, Active Generations

Carmen Spurling serves as Caregiver Services Manager at Active Generations. She is passionate about connecting caregivers with resources, promoting self-care, and helping caregivers recognize burnout while reminding them they are not alone.

Erika Jacobson, CSW-PIP, CAC

VA Caregiver Support Program Manager, Sioux Falls VA Health Care System

Erika Jacobson is the VA Caregiver Support Program Manager for the Sioux Falls VA Health Care System. She connects Veterans and their caregivers with education, resources, and support services and is committed to helping caregivers access the assistance they need.

Renee Robbins, BS, RRT, RPFT, CDP, CDES

Program Manager, South Dakota Foundation for Medical Care

Renee Robbins is a Program Manager at the South Dakota Foundation for Medical Care, serving as a project lead and key partner in South Dakota's Healthy Brain Initiative. In this role, she oversees the development of the Healthy Brain Community Toolkit and collaborates on statewide efforts focused on brain health promotion, dementia education, and caregiver support.