

Rehabilitation Services

Sioux Falls District



Sioux Falls DRS Staff ~ over 200 years of experience!

Sioux Falls District Overview

The Sioux Falls District is made up of one office location:

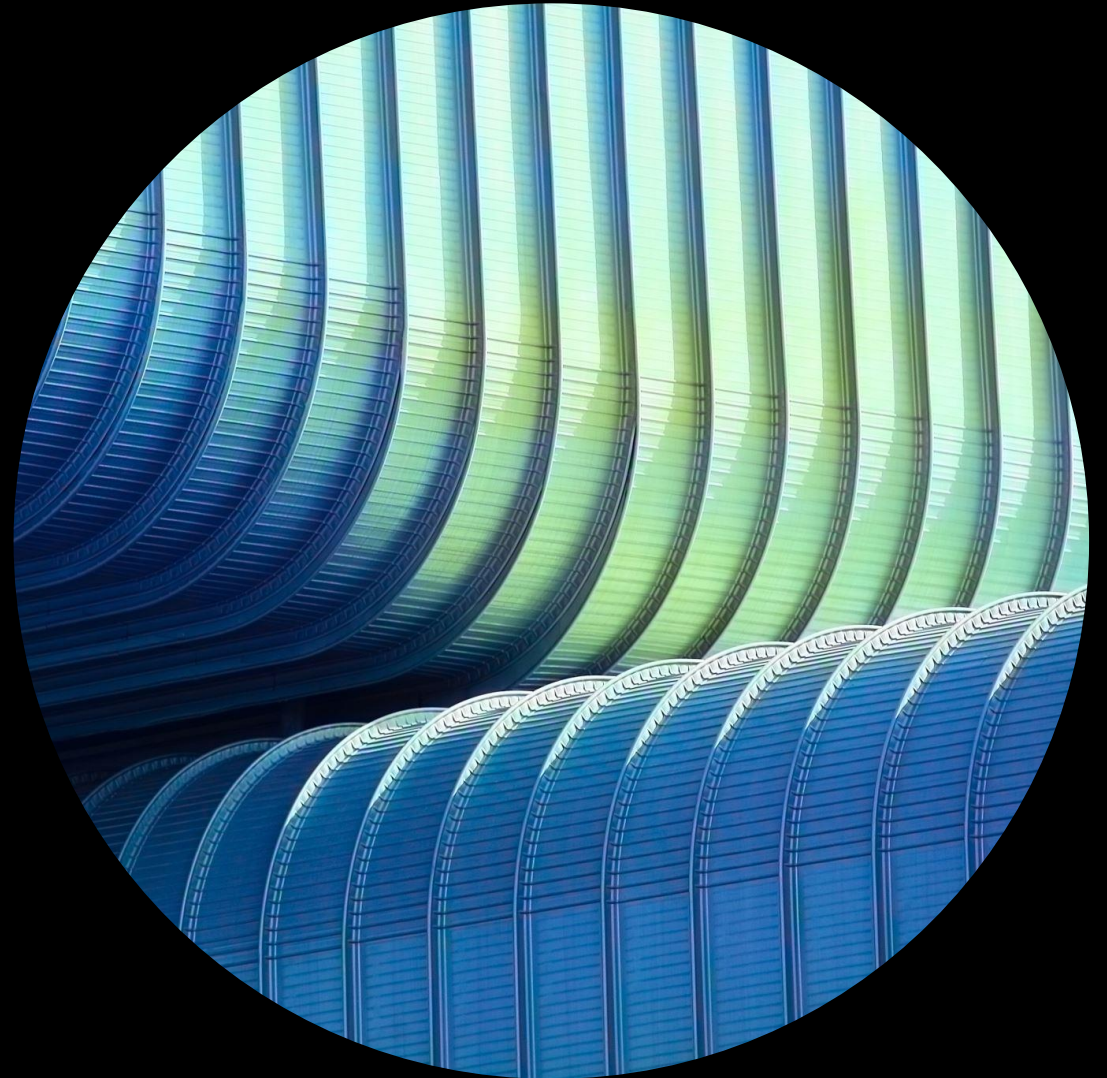
- Located near Downtown at 811 E. 10th St.
- 14 DRS Staff
- Housed with SBVI Counselors & Supervisor
- 3 Additional Program Staff

In total we serve:

- 3 Counties
- 15 School Districts

Accumulative 2021 Program Year:

- 44% Success Rate
- 1176 Total Served



Sioux Falls District Office



DRS Staff:

Sr. Rehabilitation Counselors (6): Deb Brinkman (32 years), Adam Anderson (13 Years), David Woodruff (9 Years), Maggie Carlson (2 years), Emily Short (5 years), Laura Schmit (1 year)

Rehabilitation Counselors (3): Julie Holland (30 years), Denise Heidebrink (6 years), Melissa Dahl (4 years)

Counselor Aid: Rachel Folkens (15 years)

Sr. Secretary: Linda Noonan (47.5 years)

Secretaries: Dawn Bain (38 years) & Lanette Schnepf (1 year)

District Supervisor: Vicki Nelson (25 Years)

Additional Staff In Our Building:

Benefits Specialist, BHSSC: Rhonda Erickson (10 years)

Transition Program Specialist, DHS: Katie Gran (13 years)

Transition Liaison, TSLP, BHSSC: Bev Petersen (20 years)

Sioux Falls Service Area & Partners

- **Counties Served:** Minnehaha, Lincoln, McCook
- **Location:** State Office Building; Co-located with SBVI, DLR, DSS @ 811 E. 10th Street
- **Schools Covered:** Baltic; Brandon Valley; Dell Rapids; Garretson; Harrisburg; Lennox; Sioux Falls Schools (Washington, Lincoln, Roosevelt & new high school - Jefferson); Sioux Falls O’Gorman; Sioux Falls Christian; Tea; Tri-Valley; & West Central
- **Partner Agencies:** Sioux Falls Business Resource Network; Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce; Department of Labor & Regulation; Teachwell Solutions; Southeastern Directors for Life; Volunteers of America; Lutheran Social Services Summit Oaks; LifeScape; Pathways; Dakotabilities; Black Hills Special Services Cooperative; Independent Living Choices; McCrossan Boys Ranch; SD Parent Connection; Communication Services for the Deaf



Emily Short (5 years)
Senior VR Counselor



Vicki Nelson (25 years)
District Supervisor



David Woodruff (8 years)
Senior VR Counselor



Adam Anderson (13)
Senior VR Counselor



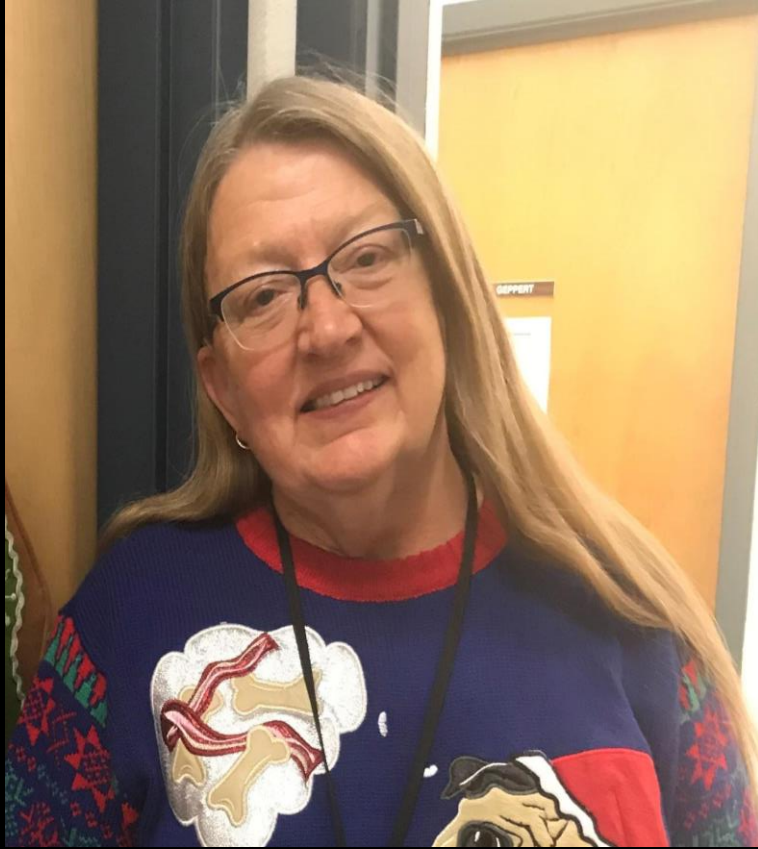
Deb Brinkman (31)
Senior VR Counselor



Maggie Carlson (2)
Senior VR Counselor



Laura Schmit (1)
Senior VR Counselor



Julie Holland (29 years)
VR Counselor



Melissa Dahl (3 years)
VR Counselor



Denise Heidebrink (6 years)
VR Counselor



Rachel Folkens
(15 years)
Counselor Aid



Lanette Schnepf
(1 year)
Secretary



Linda Noonan
(47.5 years)
Senior Secretary



Dawn Bain
(38 years)
Secretary

Clerical Staff

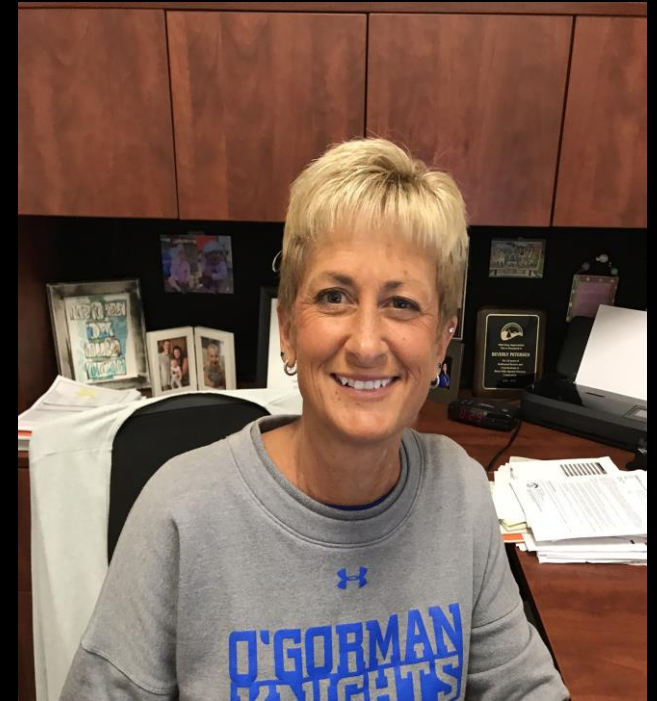
Additional Staff:



Katie Gran
Transition Specialist
DHS
13 years

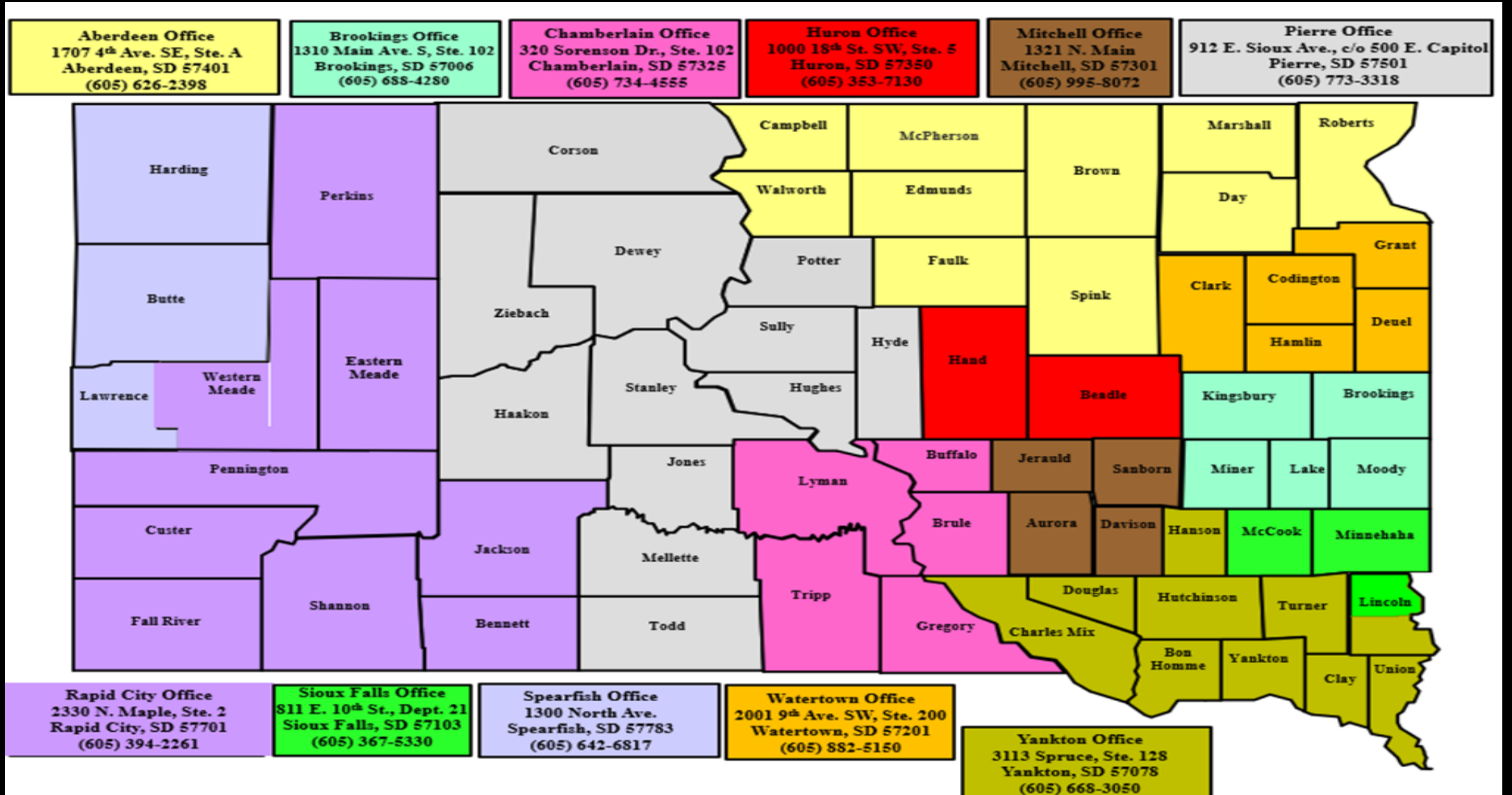


Rhonda Erickson
Benefit Specialist
BHSSC
10 years



Bev Petersen
Transition Liaison
Transition Services Liaison Project
BHSSC
20 years

Territory of 3 Counties with the LARGEST Populations!





Challenges

- Transportation
- Homelessness
- Cost of Affordable Housing
- Pandemic Uncertainties
- Ensuring Students Receive Pre-ETS

Returning to NORMAL post Pandemic

Flexibility with office location

Meet with clients:

- Zoom, Teams, conference call
- Google Voice & Work cell phones

Paperwork:

- Using DocuSign and mailing of forms to obtain signatures and permissions

Important considerations:

- How do we maintain contacts with schools and students
- Maintain engagement



Success!

Sioux Falls Project SEARCH Sites:

1st Project SEARCH site started in 2009

- Partnership with Teachwell Solutions & Avera Health

2nd Project SEARCH site started in 2020

- Partnership with Sioux Falls School District & Dow Rummel Village

Governor's Award Recipients (recent) from Sioux Falls

- 2019 Outstanding Employee, Carolee Bucholz
- 2019 Outstanding Employer (large), Five Star Call Centers

• Collaboration with Sioux Falls Business Resource Network

- National Disability Employment Awareness Month Events
- ADA Celebration Activities
- Refer for Disability Friendly Recognition Program

Thank You

