

May 22, 2019

Cole out/jco

Ken Cole has resigned as Administrator at the Human Services Center in Yankton.

Governor Kristi Noem's office confirmed Cole's resignation as head of South Dakota's only public psychiatric hospital.

Cole has been on the job about a year.

The effective date of Cole's resignation wasn't immediately clear. In addition, state officials have not released the name of an interim administrator or an expected timeline for filling the HSC vacancy.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

June 28, 2019

Hunhoff/HSC nursing home study/jco

Most summer study committees of the South Dakota legislature will start their work next month.

A large study of mental health will be broken down into several subcommittees.

Representative Jean Hunhoff of Yankton will chair one of those study groups.....(NEWS6)(resources)(:23)

Hunhoff says they need to look at alternative care models.....(NEWS7)(look at)(:16)

Hunhoff says staffing levels at the Human Services Center is driving the need for the study.....(NEWS8)(unit)(:28)

Her committee will hold their first meeting on July seventeenth.

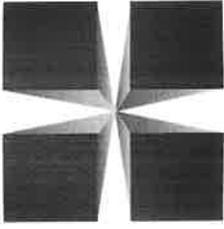
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WNAX AM & FM News

June 20, 2019

Jensen/health care workers/jco

Health care workers are in especially high demand in South Dakota.

Avera Health Director of Human Services Kim Jensen says they need nurses at all levels.....(NEWS6)(gamut)(:23)

Jensen says they also have openings for technical and medical specialists.....(NEWS7)(board)(:24)

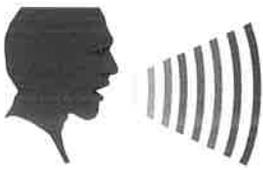
Jensen says physicians are also another high priority.....(NEWS8)(opportunities)(:23)

Avera has over nine thousand employees in the state.

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## 570 WNAX News

Yankton, SD

June 18, 2019

Ekeren/nursing homes/jco (eck-urn)

The South Dakota legislature this year decided on a ten percent boost to the Medicaid reimbursement rate for nursing homes following the closure and threatened closure of several facilities across the state.

Doug Ekeren, President of Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, says it was a good small step.....(NEWS21)(residents)(:14)

Ekeren says nursing homes are in danger across the state.....(NEWS22)(the staff)(:19)

Ekeren says most residents in nursing homes need more intensive medical care.....(NEWS23)(the challenge)(:33)

Ekeren says those costs continue to rise faster than the reimbursement rates, putting more pressure on private payers.

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WNAX AM & FM News

June 13, 2019

Jensen/Avera number one/jco

Avera Health, based in Sioux Falls, has been named the number one employer in the state in a poll done by Forbes magazine.

Avera Chief Human Resources Officer Kim Jensen says they didn't know the poll was going on.....(NEWS11)(Avera):(:21)

Jensen says they believe the standing stems back to their core values.....(NEWS12)(employees):(:25)

Jensen says even though they are a large company, they do listen to their employees.....(NEWS13)(employees):(:22)

Avera has about sixteen thousand employees, with over nine thousand in South Dakota.

The other top employers on Forbes list include: South Dakota State University, the Department of Veterans Affairs, Hy-Vee and Sanford.

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WNAX AM & FM News

June 10, 2019

Ekeren/medical staffing/jco (eck-urn)

Demand continues for health care workers, from beginning CNA's to specialized physicians.

Doug Ekeren, President of Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, says their vacancies vary a bit during the year.....(NEWS11)(we see)(:29)

Ekeren says the demand for doctors continues.....(NEWS12)(completions)(:25)

Ekeren says they are also looking for related professionals.....(NEWS13)(the time)(:13)

Avera Sacred Heart has over seven hundred employees.

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## **WNAX AM&FM NEWS**

**June 6, 2019**

**Kennecke/drugs + hope/jco (KEN-uh-key)**

**Offering hope in the midst of grief is the mission of Angela Kennecke of Sioux Falls. Her 21 year old daughter, Emily died of a fentanyl-heroin overdose in May of 2018.**

**Kennecke, who spoke at the Yankton Area Mental Wellness Conference, says she hopes young people hear her and will step in when a friend is in trouble with drugs.....(NEWS26)(to kids)(:23)**

**Kennecke says she shares her experiences with parents.....(NEWS27)(they are)(:29)**

**Kennecke says she tries to offer a positive message too.....(NEWS28)(my self)(:24)**

**Kennecke, a KELO-TV anchor, has taken her message nationwide and has set up a non-profit foundation called "Emily's Hope" to provide resources for addiction treatment.**

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

June 5, 2019

Noem/HSC changes/jco

The search is on for another Administrator at the Human Services Center in Yankton after Ken Cole announced he was resigning after about a year on the job.

Governor Kristi Noem says she is involved in the process.....(NEWS6)(consistant)(:20)

Noem says there are other challenges they need to address.....(NEWS7)(people)(:24)

The legislature will have an extensive study of mental health issues this summer. Noem says adding HSC to the study would be a good idea.....(NEWS8)(absolutely)(:06)

The Department of Social Services has not set a time line to find a new Administrator yet.

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