

## calendar of events

### November Events

**November 7th** — PH/HS Directors Advisory Committee, MCIT, 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**November 18th** — County Supervisor Meeting, 9:00 a.m.–12 p.m., SHCA-Oak Main Conference Room and by ITV at Morrison County.

**November 28th** — Joint Powers Board, Holiday Inn, 9:00 a.m. to noon.

**November 30th** — Care Coordination Q&A. 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Conference Line 12.

### December Events

**December 8th** — South County Health Alliance will be offering Continued Education Units (CEU's) on Thursday December 8th. Topics will be Suicide Prevention, Childhood Obesity, and Diabetes.

**December 28th** — Care Coordination Q&A. 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Conference Line 12.

**December 29th** — Joint Powers Board, Holiday Inn, 9:00 a.m. to noon.

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South Country  
Connection

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## links:

SNBC Expansion

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American Diabetes Month

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Provider Newsletter



## Operation Community Connect

On October 20th, Barb Osby from South Country was privileged to attend Operation Community Connect in Mora, Mn. Event organizer was Christy Thomas, Employment Specialist from the Central Mn Jobs and Training Services.

Approximately 150 participants visited booths with a wealth of information and free gifts. Lunch was served. There was free fruit and vegetables, free give aways, prize drawings for participants and vendor drawings. You could even receive your annual flu shot at the KCPH booth, which Kanabec County Nurse Connector Jackie Voight provided.



Left to right Christy Thomas (organizer of event), Employment Specialist from Central Mn Jobs and Training Services; Barb Osby, PHN Clinical Facilitator SCHA; Krista Eye, SW Kanabec County SS. Care Coordinator for SCHA Seniors in Kanabec County.

## Brown County Event

On October 24th Brown County had a Senior Expo in Springfield. Deb Smith-Terrones and Stephanie Bartelt were present at the expo representing South Country Health Alliance in the Brown County area.

## Reminder to Care Coordinators!

**SCHA IMPORTANT  
PLAN INFORMATION**

In order to ensure that members on Senior Care Complete and AbilityCare can quickly and easily identify their mail from you is regarding South Country Health Alliance benefits, you need to stamp the envelope with the "SCHA IMPORTANT PLAN INFORMATION" stamp! This is a Medicare requirement.

If a new stamper is needed, contact us at [countyinfo@mnscha.org](mailto:countyinfo@mnscha.org).

## Coming Soon: Smiling Stork Wellness Program

DentaQuest and South Country are working on a new wellness program for pregnant members called the Smiling Stork Program. Research suggests a correlation between pre-term low-birth weight (PTLBW) babies and periodontal disease. Evidence suggests that pregnant women with periodontal disease are seven times more likely to have a PTLBW baby. When women with periodontal disease receive treatment, the increased likelihood of having a premature birth drops in half.

The goal of the program is to educate pregnant women and health providers on the importance of screening and treatment and establishing good oral health habits. The program includes educational outreach to members, dentists, and physicians through informative mailings that highlight the benefits of good oral health during pregnancy.

There will also be pre-printed informational brochures available for distribution in county offices. The program is free to members. South Country hopes to implement the program during the month of November.

## SNBC Expansion into AbilityCare

DHS has indicated that they will be doing an initial mailing to non-waiver adult recipients living in single SNBC plan counties the week of November 7th.

Single SNBC plan counties scheduled for the **January 1, 2012** enrollment include: Brown, Dodge, Freeborn, Goodhue, Kanabec, Sibley, Steele, Wabasha, and Waseca. The adults eligible from these counties will be auto enrolled, unless they have chosen to opt out.

**March 1, 2012** the eligible adults on the HCBS (CAC/CADI/TBI/DD) waivers will be enrolled from all counties, unless they have chosen to opt out.

**April 1, 2012** the eligible adults in the counties of Morrison, Todd and Wadena will be enrolled unless they have chosen to opt out.

DHS has stated that County staff is not responsible for enrollment and marketing, but may be consulted by potential members and may assist them if requested. As always a referral to the Disability Linkage Line is appropriate at 1-866-333-2466, for detailed questions or concerns a person may have.

South Country's AbilityCare program offers members the same MA benefits set by the State plus additional benefits listed in the chart below.

### AbilityCare offers more than Fee-For-Service MA for SNBC Expansion Enrollees

A Toll Free Member Services Call Center

- Answer questions related to your benefits
- Help with questions or issues with your prescription drug coverage
- Change primary care providers
- Order a replacement Member ID card
- Request additional copies of member materials
- File a grievance or appeal
- Available 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week
- Call: 1-866-567-7242 (toll free)
- Hearing Impaired call: 711

Ask Mayo Clinic™ 24 Hour Nurse Advice Line  
Mayo Clinic Tobacco Quitline

1-800-504-3451 or 1-877-728-3311 (TTY/TDD)

**Take Charge™** Rewards Programs

Be Fit Exercise Program  
Mammogram Rewards Program  
Community Ed Scholarships  
Prenatal & PostPartum Care Rewards  
Infant Checkups, Immunization & Testing Rewards  
Pregnancy, Childbirth and ECFE classes

Website with Features

- Complete listing of member materials
- Find a Pharmacy link
- Check the Drug List link

Coordination of Care

- A local person, familiar with local resources
- Help arrange services as appropriate
- Explain your AbilityCare benefits
- Help you make health care appointments
- Help arrange transportation to health appointments with the providers you need
- Assist you if you have been in the hospital

## November is American Diabetes Month!

With nearly 26 million children and adults in America living with diabetes, and another 79 million at high risk for developing type 2 diabetes, the disease is taking a devastating physical, emotional and financial toll on our country. Yet, most Americans don't consider diabetes a serious matter. They feel it is someone else's responsibility; someone else's problem (American Diabetes Association). The National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP) is promoting the theme, "Make a plan to prevent diabetes and its complications." This includes steps to help cope with stress and emotions, healthy eating, being active, and weight management.

**Minnesota Diabetes & Heart Health Collaborative Resources.** Heart disease and stroke are the leading causes of death for people with diabetes. Yet 2 out of 3 people with diabetes do not consider themselves at risk. South Country Health Alliance supports and participates in the Minnesota Diabetes & Heart Health Collaborative. "Make the Link" resources are available on the collaborative website at <http://www.mn-dc.org>.



There are three categories:

**"Make the Link" Patient Handouts** – 3 colorful one-page sheets with easy to read facts, tips and resource links:

- If you have diabetes, you are at risk for heart attack and stroke
- If you have diabetes, heart disease is more likely to strike you than someone without diabetes
- If you have diabetes, be an active partner with your doctor to reduce your risk of heart disease

**"Make the Link" – Diabetes and Heart Disease** – One-page resource sheets for Health Professionals

- Are your patients with diabetes aware of their cardiovascular disease risk? Key messages you can give your patients
- Help your patients with diabetes reduce their risk of CVD: Educate about the risk
- Does your clinic have the protocols to address diabetes and cardiovascular disease?
- Need patient education materials about diabetes and cardiovascular disease?

**"Make the Link" Awareness Campaign Tools** – Resources for media campaigns

- "Good News" poster, handout or ad
- Sample press release
- Make the Link and be Smart about Your Heart: logo
- Make the Link – Diabetes and Heart Disease heart logo

## REPORTING: Fraud, Waste and Abuse

SCHA believes it is the responsibility of everyone to report suspected fraud, waste or abuse. You can report anonymously through our REPORT-IT hot line by calling 1-877-778-5463. You can also make a report at [www.reportit.net](http://www.reportit.net). Username: SCHA, Password: Owatonna