SOUTH DAKOTA
RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION

Building a Stronger Rural

Stroke Care System



Rural Health Transformation through
connection, data, quality and local capability

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SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

What is Public Health?

Public health is the science of protecting and improving the health of families and communities through promotion of healthy lifestyles, research for disease and injury prevention, and detection and control of infectious diseases.

Public health is a system of entities and individuals working together to protect the health of entire populations – whether it's as small as a local neighborhood, or as big as the entire state.

- Federal Health Agencies
- State Health Departments
- Local Health Departments
- Tribal Health/ Government
- Healthcare Institutions/ Providers
- Schools & Universities
- Other State Agencies
- Emergency Responders
- Community Organizations/ Coalitions
- Elected Officials
- Faith-Based Institutions
- Philanthropy & Civic Groups

- Prevents epidemics and the spread of disease
- Protects against environmental hazards
- Prevents Injuries
- Promotes and encourages healthy behaviors
- Responds to disasters and assists communities in recovery
- Assures the quality and accessibility of health services

VISION
Every South Dakotan Healthy and Strong

MISSION
Working together to promote, protect, and improve health

Why are we here?

Because stroke systems are built around moments like these.

Randy



Sudden hand weakness was recognized quickly, and he reached the hospital within minutes.

Joe



A major stroke was recognized, treated at a critical access hospital, and rapidly transferred for higher-level care.

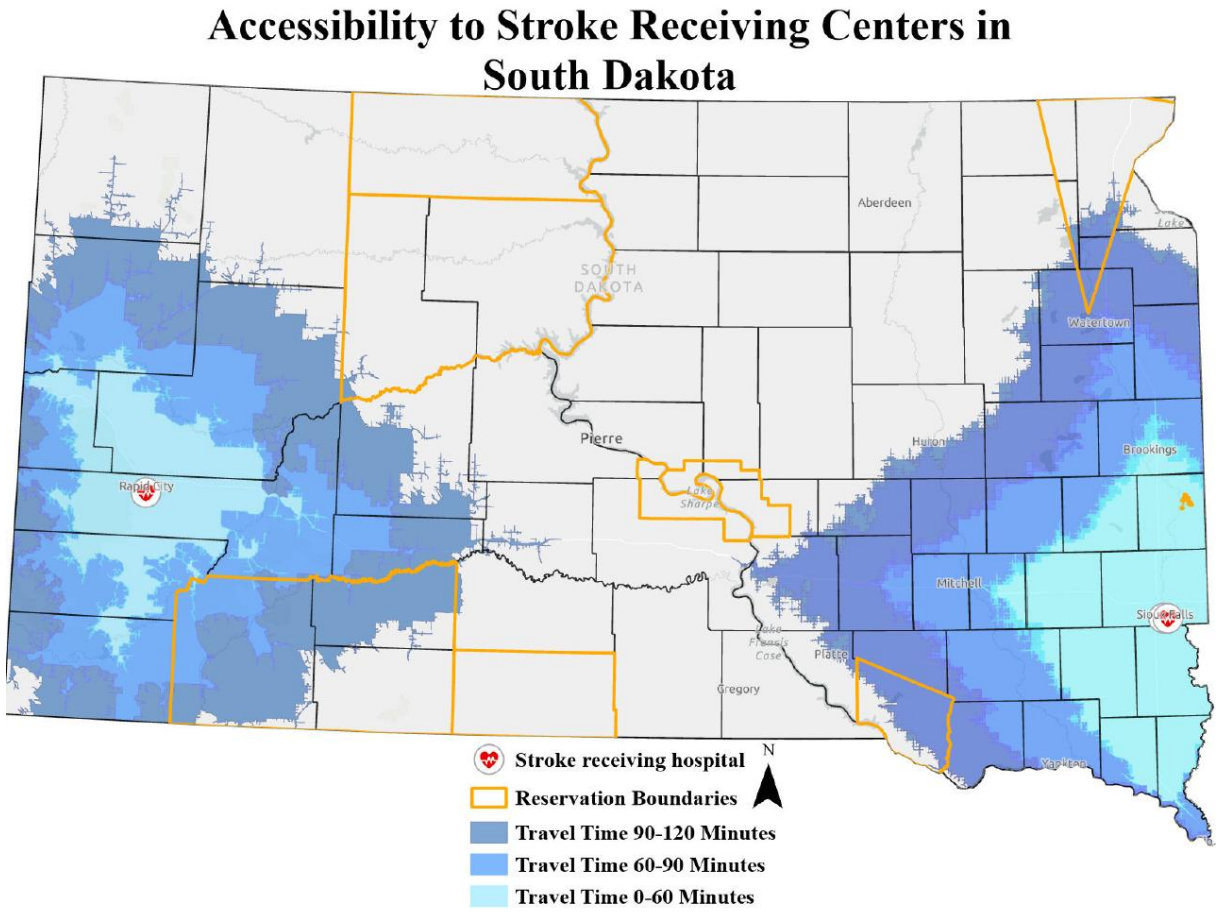
Marcella



Headache, dizziness and loss of hand function prompted her to suspect stroke and seek help.

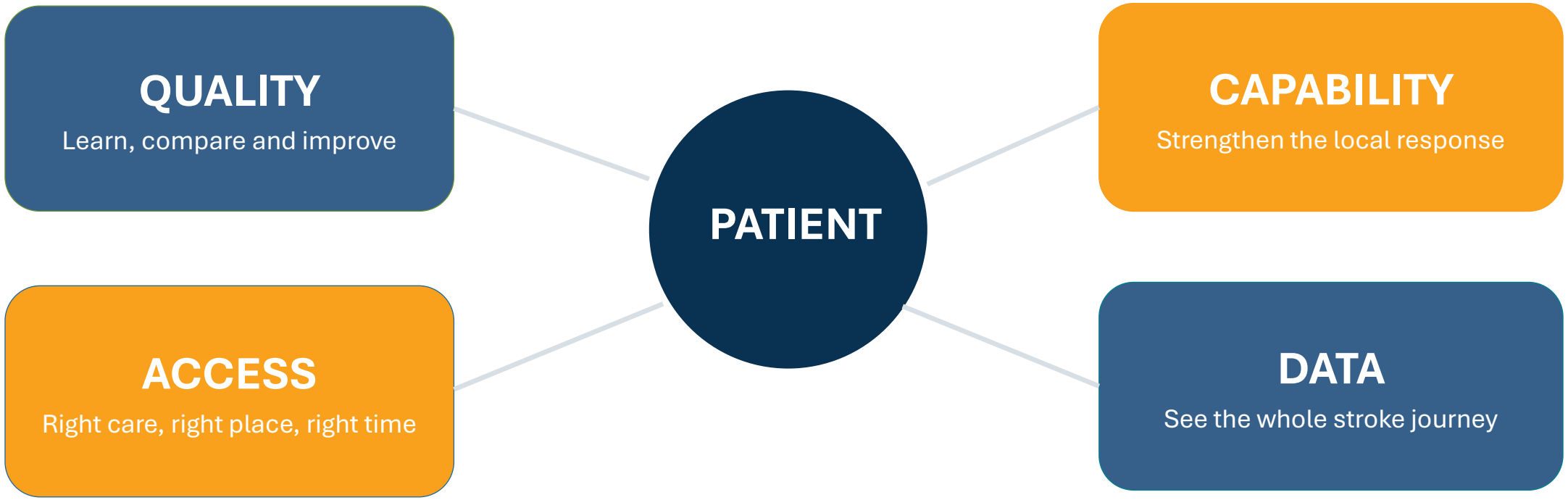
Why transformation matters in South Dakota

Stroke makes the rural healthcare challenge visible.



The transformation: a connected stroke system

RHT creates the opportunity to organize improvement around the patient, not around silos.



EMS • Hospitals • Stroke Centers • Rehabilitation • Public Health • Performance Improvement • Technology

South Dakota is already building a coordinated stroke system

The strongest progress is the structure that connects people, organizations and improvement work.

10+

combined leadership groups and workgroups

SYSTEM LEADERSHIP

The Stroke Executive Committee developed the SDSCCS Charter and statewide leadership structure.

STATEWIDE ENGAGEMENT

The Greater SD Stroke Task Force brings stakeholders together quarterly across the continuum of care.

FOCUSED WORKGROUPS

Teams are advancing EMS, public awareness, data, rehabilitation and legislation.

Sustainable systems are built through shared leadership, shared standards and shared accountability.

Data to action: see the system, then improve it

The goal is not more data. The goal is better decisions for stroke patients.



Every stroke case should help the system get better.

Strengthen rural capability and connect statewide

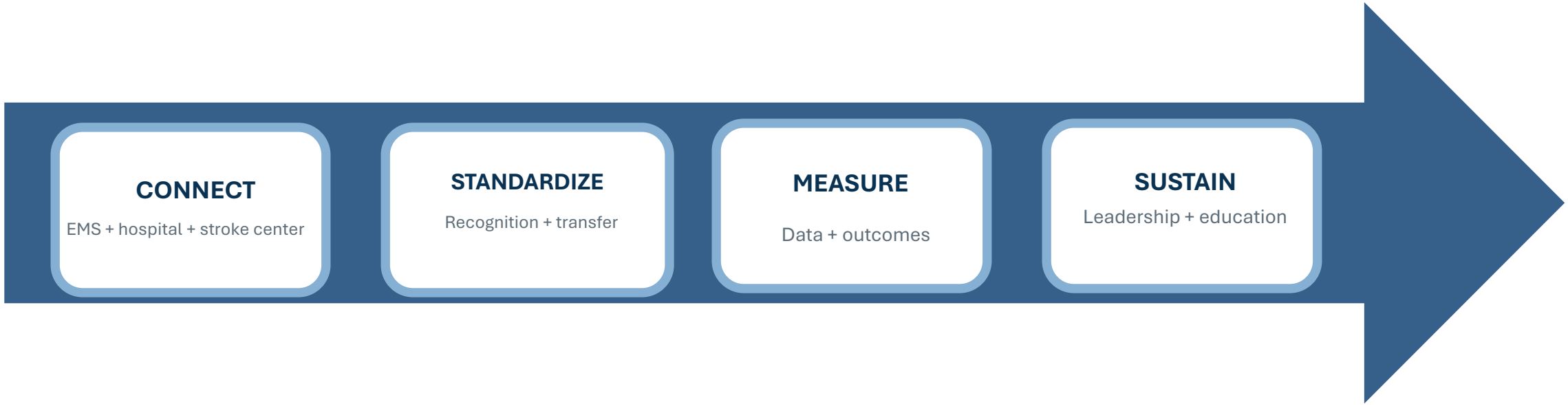
Education, standards, communication and performance improvement are infrastructure.

EMS & 9-1-1	Recognition, pre-notification and destination decisions.
Hospital Readiness	Support rapid assessment, treatment and transfer across different capability levels.
Data & Quality	Use shared measures and case review to identify variation and drive improvement.
Rehab & Recovery	Connect acute care to rehabilitation, follow-up, public awareness and recovery.

Rural capability is not about making every hospital the same. It is about making every hospital strong in its role.

What comes next

Continue the work with the American Heart Association through 2026 and turn momentum into a sustainable statewide system.



Where you live should not determine how well you recover from a stroke.

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Build it together.

South Dakota's stroke community has already built the relationships and structure needed to move forward.

Rural Health Transformation

Thank you.


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