

## Press Release from the Lac qui Parle Health Network

### MENTOR Health IT Program has a Successful Start!

On June 5, 2014, partners of the MENTOR Health Information Technology Training Program met at Johnson Memorial Health Services in Dawson to celebrate the successful kickoff of the program.

The MENTOR Health IT program was created from a federal grant through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to connect health networks with the surrounding community and provide individuals with health information technology (HIT) training to meet the needs of rural Minnesota.

Federal policies and mandates require electronic medical record (EMR) systems, quality reporting and information exchange which has created the need for employees with advanced skills and knowledge to effectively use HIT.

Currently there are 33 students enrolled in the 6-month course, followed by a 2 month apprenticeship. After completion, this newly trained workforce will be able to support the planning, implementation, usage and optimization of HIT to support better care, greater access to care and lower costs to the patients, healthcare facilities and providers.

Thanks to the \$900,000 dollar grant awarded to the Lac qui Parle Health Network from HHS there is no cost to students to attend the training.

Partners of the MENTOR Health IT training program include the Lac qui Parle Health Network (LqPHN), Normandale Community College, Medi-Sota, Minnesota West Community and Technical College (MnWest), South West Minnesota Private Industry Council (SW MN PIC) and Healthland.

The MENTOR Health IT training will be offered again in January and September of 2015. For more information please contact Bernice Robinson, LqPHN Executive Director or Lisa DuFrane, LqPHN Program Manager at 320-698-7199 or visit [www.lphhnmn.org](http://www.lphhnmn.org).



Pictured from left to right: (front row) Carol Gerlach, Jennifer Gearman, Deb Ranallo, Sunny Ainley, Kathy Johnson, Tracy Mastel, Carol Dombek, Dawn Regnier; (back row) Steve Moburg, Catherine Liemohn, Kami Norland, Allen Anderson, Bernice Robinson, Lisa DuFrane