**PRESS RELEASE**

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Contact: Melissa Eberts

Melissa@VermillionChamber.com

605-624-5571

**FEBRUARY RED TALK PANALISTS WILL DISCUSS EMOTIONAL CHALLENGES IN THE COVID ERA**

The Vermillion Area Chamber and Development Company (VCDC) is happy to announce the first RED Talk of 2022 will be held onFebruary 17th at Valiant Vineyards Winery from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. Doors will be open early to allow attendees to come select their seat. This is the first RED Talk of six throughout 2022 and this event series provides a great opportunity for attendees to meet and network with other Vermillion community members.

“We are excited to present the opportunity for the Vermillion community to have an educated discussion with this panel of professionals in our area,” says Nate Welch, President and CEO of the VCDC. “It is important to learn about topics such as these to not only care for yourself, but to also understand how to care for those in our community as well. We have all been impacted by COVID-19 and this topic will help shed light on how we can support each other emotionally in a more effective way.”

The moderator and panelist, Dr. Thomas Stanage, will present the topic at hand: *“Emotional Challenges During the COVID-19 Era.”* Dr. Thomas Stanage will be joined by panelists Robin Svendsen, Kelley Ashby, Chabli Hodge and Luke Hayes.

Dr. Thomas Stanage, Executive Director Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health, focuses on at-risk and vulnerable populations, the recent increase in substance abuse-related admissions, and abuse behaviors. Robin Svendsen from Lotus Counseling Services will discuss her advocacy for increased access to mental health providers, her team approach to community needs and treatment for community members through compassionate, ethical services.

Kelley Ashby, another presenting panelist and founder of Kelley Ashby Consulting, possesses an area of expertise in coaching resilience, proactive self-care and preventative steps. Also joining the stage is Chabli Hodge, a former elementary school counselor, and USD Field Education Coordinator who will discuss the emotional challenges from a social work perspective. Finally, Luke Hayes, Counselor from the Vermillion School District, will discuss the current challenges for the adolescent/youth population due to the ongoing pandemic.

Tickets (which cover the meal) are priced as follows: $20 for chamber members, $25 for non-members, $15 for Vermillion NEXT members, and $10 for a ticket excluding lunch. Ticket bundles are also being offered at a discounted price for a limited time – purchase six tickets for the price of four. Chamber members can purchase all six sessions for $80 ($40 discount), non-members can purchase all six sessions for $100 ($50 discount), and Vermillion NEXT can purchase the entire series for $60 ($30 discount).

For more information on the February RED Talk or tickets, please contact Brittany DeJong, at the VCDC offices at 605-624-5571 or via email at [Brittany@VermillionChamber.com](mailto:Brittany@VermillionChamber.com).