

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NewView Oklahoma receives esteemed program accreditation from American Association of Diabetes Educators

Oklahoma City, OK (March 15, 2019) – Diabetes is now considered a pandemic, expected to affect 1 in 4 people by the year 2030. For those with low vision, diabetes management comes with a different and complex set of challenges. For this reason, NewView Oklahoma is pleased to announce their recent accreditation from the American Association of Diabetes Educators (AADE) for their diabetes education program. This program is the only one in the state and one of only 4 in the nation that caters its curriculum toward those who experience low vision.

Marlene Snow, who is a licensed occupational therapist for NewView, spearheaded the yearlong program development process as well as the application for accreditation. She will continue to serve as the program's quality coordinator, routinely checking in on 10 program requirements. These requirements include developing a well-trained team and standardized curriculum, setting individual goals with participants, and incorporating stakeholder input.

"This accreditation raises the bar of our diabetes education program," said Snow. "Being one of three low vision rehabilitation centers in the U.S. to have accreditation sets us apart. This is one more way that we provided comprehensive services to our clients."

The program also fills a major gap in the diabetic community. Diabetic patients are at a higher risk for eye diseases like diabetic retinopathy, macular edema and glaucoma. Much of what prevents patients—especially those with low or no vision—from adhering to a care and maintenance plan is the lack of education.

"If our patients can't cook healthy meals or read their meter, then they're much more likely to experience a lapse in maintenance," Snow said.

Another major benefit of the AADE accreditation is that it allows NewView to bill Medicare for classes. Since many people with low vision also experience moderate to low income levels, this distinction is a major step forward for the visually impaired community. Patients should know, however, that Medicare will cover only one diabetes education class after vision loss.

The program includes a series of 4 sessions with a maximum of 10 clients per class. Classes incorporate individualized goal-setting and valuable skills training, including hands-on skills like marking an insulin meter

with high-contrast tape so it's more visible and creating a diabetes kit so patients can easily find supplies. Classes are open to anyone at risk of vision loss, and the first accredited class sessions began in March 2019. Snow hopes that, with enough participation, classes will eventually run continuously through every month of the year.

To learn more about our clinical services and education resources, visit NVOklahoma.org/rehabilitation or email Marlene Snow at msnow@newviewoklahoma.org.

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About NewView Oklahoma:

NewView Oklahoma is a private, not-for-profit organization founded in 1949 with a mission to empower people who are blind and visually impaired to achieve their maximum level of independence through employment, low vision rehabilitation, and community outreach. NewView Oklahoma is the leading employer of the blind and visually impaired individuals in Oklahoma and offers the only comprehensive Low Vision clinics in the state. Visit online at www.newviewoklahoma.org or follow on [Facebook](#) and on [Twitter](#).