

**Bemidji Area
Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee
FY2023 2nd Quarter Report
October - December 2022**

<p>Area Tribal Representatives: Mr. Leroy Staples Fairbanks III District III Representative Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Council</p>	<p>Federal Liaison: Larry Patnaude, Deputy Director – Field Operations, Bemidji Area Indian Health Services</p>
<p>Goal 1: To ensure that comprehensive, culturally appropriate personal and public health services are available and accessible to American Indian and Alaska Native people</p>	
<p>Cass Lake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cass Lake Indian Health Services (CLIHS) was surveyed and certified as a Minnesota Department of Health Level 3 Health Care Home. • Member of the Sanford Native American Advisory Council. • Working with Northwest Technical College in Bemidji on recruitment of dental assistants. • Pediatric dentist has been able to procure more OR time at Sanford Health to help address backlog of pediatric OR cases. • Identified funds for Drive Thru Pharmacy project & held initial planning meeting with Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe & City of Cass Lake. • Awarded \$196k grant from Helmsley Foundation for general & portable ultrasound equipment. • Pharmacy department implemented a Harm Reduction Program which provides education, resources, STI testing, syringes, sharps containers, safer injection kits, and naloxone. • Weekly meeting w/Leech Lake Band Health Division Director and Cass Lake IHS CEO. <p>White Earth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occupational Therapy now offering pediatric and dry needling services. • Transgender Care offered with collaboration with Essentia Health medical staff. • WESU ELT/Tribal meetings occur every Friday with the Tribal Health Administrator and staff. • Hired an additional 2 dentists and in past quarter. • MOU with Sanford Health in Fargo, ND to begin/implement the OR pediatric dentistry program with OR privileges for IHS Pediatric Dentist. • Collaboration with the University of Minnesota and other healthcare organizations to establish Intergovernmental personnel act (IPA) agreements. First IPA approved during this Quarter to provide pediatrician services at the service unit. Credential and Backgrounds started for this provider. Anticipate more IPAs coming through in the upcoming months for pediatrician and internal medicine services. <p>Red Lake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing for Joint Commission survey for Acute Care Hospital accreditation – Survey expected in the fall of 2023. • National shortage of dental assistants – evaluating the potential for starting a street-to-office hiring program that will train and certify new hires into the dental assistant role. The new Supervisory Dentist will evaluate how to initiate that program. • Mobile Medical Unit deployed for Harm Reduction Services in the Red Lake community. • RLSU has incorporated a traditional healing clinic monthly that will further encourage the incorporation of traditional cultural practices into existing health and wellness programs. 	

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Goal 2: To promote excellence and quality through innovation of the Indian health system into an optimally performing organization

Cass Lake:

- The CLSU, in partnership with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, phase 2.2 expansion is ongoing, which includes a new building allowing for expansion of the Dental, Clinic, PT / OT, Optometry, Audiology, and Radiology Departments.
- This project is currently funded in excess of \$30M in NEF funding and other sources for the construction of the Phase 2 Building Plan and is incorporated into the Public Law 638 Construction Contract as well. Excavation of the site is ongoing.
- Concrete and foundation work began and is progressing throughout the winter months with structural steel erection planned to begin in February.

White Earth:

- Initiated a 38,000 sq. ft. expansion project to provide further access to care, including but not limited to a drive through pharmacy refill lane, larger physical and occupational therapy department, a dental suite and larger primary care departments. Included in this expansion project are five areas of the existing facility slated for renovation. The 38,000 sq. ft. expansion project had a move-in date on September 8, 2022 for dental, pharmacy and PT/OT, primary care. The second phase of the clinic renovation is ongoing and should be completed in the summer of 2023.
- Construction on the Naytahwaush Joint Venture is well underway. The Joint Venture project offers additional services from the current Naytahwaush Health Center. These services include Pharmacy drive thru services, Physical and Occupational Therapy, and Radiology. As a result of increased services, the third party revenue acquired from it will not only further support self-sustaining health care programs but also lower health care costs overall. The estimated completion of new facility is April/May of 2023.
- Staffing plan for Naytahwaush and advertisement of additional FTEE in planning when additional funding received.

Red Lake:

- Secured \$290,000 in additional FCC COVID funding to expand telehealth services. Funding will be used to purchase a tele-health cart to improve tele-ED consultation for trauma, nephrology, cardiology, and behavioral health crisis services.
- Secured \$20.4 million in construction funding to expand outpatient services, revise Property and Supply, and build a helipad. Planning discussions are complete; construction has begun and expected to continue during most of FY23.
- Nearing completion of the first phase of construction. This will include areas for Information Technology, Health Information Management, and Purchased and Referred Care areas.
- New construction of the area for pharmacy to include drive through pharmacy has begun.

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Goal 3: To strengthen IHS program management and operations

Cass Lake:

- Accreditation Preparedness – expecting CMS Survey at any time.
- Requesting new HHS Rural Emergency Hosp (REH) designation / CMS establishing Conditions of Participation for REH.
- Follow-up meeting with LLBO Human Services regarding Behavioral Health support.
- Obtain The Joint Commission (TJC) certification as an acute care REH once TJC establishes new standards
- Participated in collaborative meetings with Sanford Emergency Department and Inpatient leadership to address concerns to improve quality of care, communication, and transfers.
- Implemented Medication Assisted Treatment in the Emergency Department with subsequent referral to the Tribal Opiate Treatment Program.

White Earth:

- Collaboration with Tribal Health continues with training on covid therapeutics and emergency training with EMS.
- Working with the Helmsley Charitable Trust Foundation on a grant for new Ultrasound Equipment for the White Earth Health Center. The grant application was approved, with the funds expected to be released in January of 2023. Ultrasound Equipment will be capable of performing all general ultrasound imaging, as well as Elastography, Echocardiograms, and 4D Obstetrics Imaging. The acquisition of this equipment will increase access to high quality healthcare services, offering state of the art equipment.
- Laboratory and Radiology remain short-staffed due to inability to fill positions – a contract for lab technician services is in place.
- Pharmacy Primary Care Clinic (PPCC) is receiving positive feedback from the medical staff.
 - Started scheduling a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist as teams would like increased access to the pharmacist (PPCC pharmacists' schedules are now mostly full with patient visits).

Red Lake:

- Plans to move forward with AO telebehavioral health services with nurse case manager who can coordinate telebehavioral health and case manage behavioral health psychiatric services
- IHS and Tribal Healthcare Leadership meetings weekly.
- PATH meetings occur every two weeks with Stratis Health with focus on accreditation preparedness.
- Nursing educator hired and working to facilitate a new training schedule to include monthly skills fairs.