

**Bemidji Area
Direct Service Tribes Advisory
Committee FY2023 3rd Quarter Report
January – March 2023**

<p>Area Tribal Representatives: Mr. Leroy Staples Fairbanks III District III Representative Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Council</p>	<p>Federal Liaison: CAPT Joanna Ferraro, Acting 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"> • 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. • 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"> • Awarded \$196K grant from the Helmsley Foundation. Equipment received an in operation. Grant also awarded for the new Clinic in Naytahwaush. • WESU ELT/Tribal meetings occur every other Friday with the Tribal Health Administrator and staff. • Hired an additional dentist and two dental assistants in past quarter. • 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. Plans for services to start by July. <p>Red Lake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing for Joint Commission survey for Acute Care Hospital accreditation – Survey window April 1 through October 1, 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. Will begin collaboration with the Oshkiimaajitahdah program in Redby to assist with the hiring program. • Mobile Medical Unit deployed for Harm Reduction Services in the Red Lake community. • Preparing for certification as a Primary Care Medical Home (PCMH) through the Joint Commission. 	
<p>Goal 2: To promote excellence and quality through innovation of the Indian health system into an optimally performing organization</p>	

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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 May/June of 2023.
- Staffing plan for Naytahwaush and advertisement of additional FTE in progress.

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.
- Construction continues. The lower level is complete and occupied by Business Office, Health Information Management (HIM), Computer Applications Coordinator (CAC), BioMed, and new conference room. Next phase is renovation of the administration area.

Goal 3: To strengthen IHS program management and operations

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Cass Lake:

- Accreditation Preparedness – expecting CMS Survey at any time.
- Maintain Critical Access Hospital (CAH) status. Developing a plan to re-staff hospital beds.
- Follow-up meeting with LLBO Human Services regarding Behavioral Health support.
- Participate in collaborative meetings with Sanford Emergency Department and Inpatient leadership to address concerns to improve quality of care, communication, and transfers.
- Patients seeking Medication Assisted Treatment in the Emergency Department are referred to the Tribal Opiate Treatment Program.
- Participate in community-wide Fentanyl Response with Tribal Partners. Received Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment funds to support community navigators.

White Earth:

- Collaborating with Cass Lake, Red Lake, and the Area Office to improve Telehealth Services. This includes addressing any changes that will occur as a result of the Public Health Emergency Ending.
- Continue to expand services through our Telemedicine provider including weight management services.
- Established a process for patients to walk-in for STI testing.
- Pharmacy Primary Care Clinic (PPCC) is receiving positive feedback from the medical staff and community. Through this clinic, clinical pharmacists provide care to patients with a variety of chronic diseases, which are largely managed by medications, and coordinate with the patients' primary care providers to ensure the patients are receiving quality, comprehensive care.

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.
- Construction continues. The lower level is complete and occupied by Business Office, Health Information Management (HIM), Computer Applications Coordinator (CAC), BioMed, and new conference room. Next phase is renovation of the administration area.
- RLSU opened a weekly cardiology clinic on April 26, 2023.
- Fast track services are offered in the emergency department from 10am to 8pm Monday through Thursday. Services will be expanded with new providers.