

**Bemidji Area
Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee
FY2022 4th Quarter Report
April-June 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"> • Member of the Sanford Native American Advisory Council. • Working with Northwest Technical College in Bemidji on recruitment of dental assistants. • Board Certified Emergency Room Physician started on July 18th. • Orthodontics Pilot Project update: Rate Quote Agreement with local vendors being negotiated. • Drive Thru Pharmacy course of action analysis (briefed to Tribal Chair and DSTAC Rep in June). • Ongoing Purchased and Referred Care restructuring and customer service initiatives. • Weekly meeting w/Leech Lake Band Health Division Director and Cass Lake IHS CEO. <p>White Earth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The White Earth Service Unit received full accreditation from AAAHC. The accreditation period is now from 6/19/2022 to 6/18/2025. • WESU ELT/Tribal meetings occur every Friday with the Tribal Health Administrator and staff. • Dental department completed a significant upgrade of the Dentrix Dental software. • Completed 2 collaborative agreements with Sanford Health and Essentia Health for White Earth Service Unit clinical staff and clinic support to retrieve the electronic health records of patients for the purpose of treatment, payment, and certain health care operations. <p>Red Lake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing for Joint Commission survey for Critical Access Hospital accreditation – Survey expected by the end of September 2022. • Supervisory Dentist has been hired, starts 08/12/2022. • 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. • Completed rehabilitation services expansion to include Occupational Therapy and Speech therapy for inpatient skilled nursing capacity and expanded integrated pain management in outpatient physical therapy. Workflows and documentation requirements updated. 	

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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 LLBO, the design of the Phase 2.2 expansion is complete, 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. This design started in 2019, but was put on hold during much of 2020 in response to Covid-19.
- COVID response funds in the amounts of \$286,331 for M&I and \$432,442 equipment have been obligated and spent providing for much needed facility modifications and medical equipment. The largest of these items were the dental department remodel, inpatient waiting room, and OmniCell replacements.
- Concurrence to obligate \$8m of 3rd party & COVID funds for phase 2.2 of construction project.

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 continues to progress with a tentative/partial move-in date around set now for September 8, 2022 for dental, pharmacy and PT/OT – this is far beyond this initial move in date of August 17, 2021. Severe delays have been experienced by the construction contractor.
- Construction on the NTW Joint Venture is well underway. The Joint Venture project offers additional services from the current NTW 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 January of 2023.

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.

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Goal 3: To strengthen IHS program management and operations

Cass Lake:

- Accreditation Preparedness – expecting CMS Survey by 10/31/22.
- Requesting new HHS Rural Emergency Hosp (REH) designation / CMS establishing Conditions of Participation for REH by 1/1/23.
- Obtain The Joint Commission (TJC) certification as an acute care REH once TJC establishes new standards
- Selected federal hire for Clinical Director with tentative start date of 10/11/22.
- Optometry - continuing to conduct outreach at tribal clinics, obtained new auto-refractor (allows for more efficient ability to estimate patient’s prescription).

White Earth:

- Vacancies for physicians and dentists are long-standing.
- The PRC Program continues to be severely short-staffed. Working on a WESU Staffing Contract or an Area Contract.
- Laboratory and Radiology remain short-staffed due to inability to fill positions – a contract for lab technician services is in place.
- Expanding clinical services utilizing the internal medicine telehealth provider--meetings with tribal programs have been established to discuss the collaboration between WE and the tribe surrounding these new clinical services. Services include weight loss management and transgender care.
- 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:

- New members of the Red Lake IHS Executive Leadership Team were added in May 2022.
- Convened Revenue Generation Meetings starting on June 23, 2022 to look at maximizing 3rd party revenues for the hospital.
- IHS and Tribal Healthcare Leadership meetings weekly.
- Initial facility strategic planning meeting completed in June 2022
- PATH meetings occur every two weeks with Stratis Health.