

**Bemidji Area
Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee
FY2023 2nd Quarter Report
April – July 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><i>Cass Lake (CLSU):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of the Sanford Native American Advisory Council. Service Unit staff providing volunteers to support 18th Annual Sanford Niimi’idiwin (Healing Powwow). • Working with Northwest Technical College in Bemidji on recruitment of dental assistants. • Pediatric dentist has secured more OR time at Sanford Health to help address backlog of pediatric dental OR cases. Cass Lake has prepared a staffing proposal to support pediatric dental services at Red Lake and White Earth IHS Service Units. • Identified funds for Drive Thru Pharmacy project. Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (LLBO) and City of Cass Lake are currently in discussions on the closure of 7th Street to allow the project to progress to the next phase. • Pharmacy department implemented a Harm Reduction Program, in collaboration with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, to provide 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><i>White Earth (WESU):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dental received a grant for mobile dental equipment allowing us to restart the community dental hygiene program at the schools as well as other locations. • WESU ELT/Tribal meetings occur every other Friday with the Tribal Health Administrator and staff. • Hired a new Family Nurse Practitioner with more than 20 years of experience. She will work in both White Earth and Pine Point. • Working with Cass Lake to share their pediatric dentist to accommodate our pediatric patient population. • Collaboration with the University of Minnesota and other healthcare organizations to establish Intergovernmental personnel act (IPA) agreements. First IPA approved this quarter to provide pediatrician services at the service unit. These providers started work in the clinic in July. Anticipate more IPAs in the future for pediatrician and internal medicine services. <p><i>Red Lake (RLSU):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing for Joint Commission survey– Survey window April 1 through October 1, 2023. • National shortage of dental assistants – Implemented a dental assistant training program to support the dental program. Currently have 3 dental assistants in training with Dr. Popescu. • Will begin collaboration with the Oshkiimaajitahdah program in Redby to assist with the hiring program. 	

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- 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.
- Pursuing certification from the Minnesota Department of Health’s Home Care Program in addition to continuing to pursue Patient Centered Medical Home through the Joint Commission.

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

Cass Lake:

- The hospital phase 2.2 expansion project, a collaboration between CLSU and the LLBO through a 638 construction contract, is on schedule for completion in December 2024. This project includes a new build to allow for expansion of the Dental Clinic, as well as PT / OT, Optometry, Audiology, and Radiology Departments.
- The contractor is scheduling roofing installation for August 2023. Expansion is expected to be enclosed prior to winter. This will allow for interior work to progress throughout the winter months.
- This hospital expansion construction project is currently funded in excess of \$50M in NEF funding and other sources. An additional \$18.6m in NEF funds were obtained to complete the entire 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 window, larger Physical and Occupational Therapy space, 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 first area of renovation was completed in June 2023. Peds, Overflow, and Optometry moved into this newly renovated space.
- The Naytahwaush Joint Venture Project opened its doors for patient care mid-July. The Joint Venture project offers additional services not available from the current Naytahwaush Health Center. These services include Pharmacy drive thru, Physical and Occupational Therapy, and Radiology. Third party revenue generated from increased access is expected to support the additional services and lower health care costs overall.
- Advertisement for additional FTE to support these services is 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.

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- New construction of the area for pharmacy to include drive through pharmacy has begun with a completion date of November 2023.
- Continue monthly renovation meetings with BAO and RL Facilities.

Goal 3: To strengthen IHS program management and operations

Cass Lake:

- Accreditation Preparedness – expecting CMS Survey at any time.
- Maintain Critical Access Hospital (CAH) status. Timeline to re-staff hospital beds pending decision brief to Area Director.
- Re-instituted Leech Lake Caring Partners monthly meeting with Leech Lake Behavioral Health Team.
- 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. Currently working through improvements for billing.
- Continue to expand services through our Telemedicine provider including weight management services.
- 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 Area Office tele behavioral health services with nurse case manager who can coordinate tele behavioral 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 and addressing the evidence of standards. Plan to revive/implement the "RED (Ready Every Day) Team" to support continuous readiness for Joint Commission.
- Meetings with PATH continue focusing on Just Culture.
- Nursing educator hired and working to facilitate a new training schedule to include monthly skills fairs.
- Cardiology clinic is a success with increased appointments and testing. Positive feedback from patients & staff for the much-needed service.

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- Fast track services are offered in the emergency department from 10am to 8pm Monday through Thursday. Onboarded another provider and hours of operation expanded to weekends.
- Continue collaboration with Sanford Health Care Team to address issues, concerns, and improve relationships.
- Plan to increase provider productivity by increasing appointment slots.