Critical Access Hospital Profile
Spotlight on: Hazen, North Dakota

Sakakawea Medical Center

Quick Facts

Administrator: Darrold Bertsch
Chief of Medical Staff: Jacinta Klindworth, M.D.
Board Chair: Christie Obenauer

City Population: 2,450 (2014 Estimate)

County Population: 8,746 (2014 Estimate)

County Median Household 2009 Income: 66,712 (2014 Estimate)

County Median Age: 46.3 (2014 Estimate)

Owned by: Nonprofit

Hospital Beds: 25

Trauma Level: V

Critical Access Hospital Designation: 2001

Economic Impact on the County*

Jobs:
Primary – 130
Secondary – 65
Total – 195

Financial Impact:
Primary – $6.5 Million
Secondary – $3.25 Million
Total – $9.75 Million

Present

Caring for our community is a long-standing tradition at Sakakawea Medical Center (SMC). Ever since our founding more than 68 years ago, we have strived to care for all who need us and to bring health, healing and a better quality of life to our neighbors. SMC consists of a critical access hospital (licensed for 25 beds) and 34-bed licensed basic care facility. The medical center is a community-owned, not-for-profit organization with a charitable purpose; governed by a volunteer board of directors. Any money remaining after expenses have been paid is reinvested back into healthcare and stays in the community to purchase needed medical equipment and support health education and other community needs.

SMC serves the communities, residents and visitors of Dunn, Mercer and Oliver Counties, and is located in the heart of rural Mercer County and housed in the City of Hazen.

Vision and Mission

SMC strives to be a complete healthcare system dedicated to providing the best comprehensive care possible to the area that we serve. The vision of SMC is to: “Enhance the lives of our patients, families and area communities through High Quality Healthcare and Services.”

Our community commitment is reflected through the Sakakawea Medical Center’s mission goals to:
• Provide high quality care that is measured and continuously improved.
• Provide individualized care that exceeds expectations of those we serve.
• Strengthen partnerships with providers to enhance coordination of care and improve system performance.
• Be a steward of resources.
• Commit to service excellence.
• Be a vital contributor to our area communities.
• Recognize the value of each employee and provide opportunities for personal growth and development that complement the needs of the organization.

* The impact of jobs and expenditures generated by the hospital within the community was estimated using payroll information and an economic multiplier of 1.5.
Staffing

Physicians: 2
Nurse Practitioners: 1
PAs: 1
CRNAs: 1
RNs: 29
LPNs: 2
CNAs: 21
Support Staff: 50
Ancillary Personnel: 23
Total Employees: 130

History

Sakakawea Medical Center dates back to 1941. The original hospital consisted of about a dozen beds on the second floor of one of the original main street buildings. The hospital was a private undertaking by a Beulah woman who ran the facility for several years until Hazen’s plans for a new, modern hospital facility were well underway. Community effort continued to keep the hospital open for a time, but the hospital closed in 1946 due to difficulty finding competent personnel. Pursuant to an agreement with Lutheran Hospital and Homes Society for operation of a hospital, construction began on a new facility in 1946. The hospital, with 23 beds, opened in 1948. By the late 1960s, it was apparent that either major remodeling or a new facility was needed. With local donations and Hill-Burton federal funds, a 39-bed, 8-bassinet hospital was built at the east edge of Hazen, opening in 1970. The Hazen Memorial Hospital Association took over the hospital from Lutheran Hospitals Homes Society in 1969. In 1982, the hospital embarked on a $1.2 million expansion and renovation. The hospital changed its name to Sakakawea Medical Center in 1988. Senior Suites at Sakakawea (licensed basic care facility) was added to the hospital campus in 1997.

At the end of 2016, a new facility will open that will replace the existing medical center. The new medical center will house a health clinic attached within the hospital, an expanded emergency room and surgical area, handicapped-accessible patient rooms, a centralized registration area and centralized nurse’s station; and a myriad of other needed changes and technology updates. The new medical center will increase staff efficiency and accommodate changes underway in the delivery of healthcare as well as assisting healthcare providers to meet growing demands within the service area.

Recreation

Hazen is located in west central North Dakota. The area is primarily dependent on agriculture, mining and the energy industry. The school district provides educational services to K-12 with Hazen having a student/teacher ratio of 17:1. Nearby Lake Sakakawea and the Missouri River provide many recreational activities. The community itself has a swimming pool, skating rink, tennis courts, golf course, ball diamonds and city parks.

Local Sponsors and Grant Funding Sources

- Center for Rural Health
  - SHIP Grant (Small Hospital Improvement Program)
  - Flex Grant (Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant Program)
- Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Workforce Safety Insurance

Sources

1 US Census Bureau; American Factfinder; Community Facts

North Dakota Critical Access Hospitals

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