

Reception Room

- **Good evening!** The meeting will start shortly.
- **Participants are muted** on entry.
- **Check your audio:** Music is currently playing.
- **Check the chat box:** Information about the hearing, including information about how to access captions and view the slides, is available there.
- **To view captions for this event:** You can view captions in Teams by clicking the More (...) button in the Teams window, then “Language and Speech,” and choose "Turn on live captions." You can also view the captions on the web at: <https://www.streamtext.net/player?event=MNDOH&start=0>.
- **If you have any technical issues,** please visit the [Microsoft support page for Teams](#) or email Health.HRDCommunications@state.mn.us.





Sanford Bemidji Medical Center Public Hearing

Closure of Inpatient Rehabilitation Services
January 17, 2024

PROTECTING, MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF ALL MINNESOTANS

Your moderator for today's hearing:



Stacy Sjogren (Show-gren)
Management Analysis
and Development
Senior Consultant

Tennessean Warning

- **The Minnesota Department of Health is hosting this public hearing to inform the public as required by law.**
- **Your comments, questions, and image, which may be private data, may be visible during this event.** You are not required to provide this data, and there are no consequences for declining to do so.
- **The virtual presentation may be accessible to anyone** who has a business or legal right to access it. By participating, you are authorizing the data collected during this presentation to be maintained by MDH. MDH will be posting a transcript of this meeting to the website.
- **To opt out of the presentation, please exit now.**

6:05 p.m. – Introductions

6:10 p.m. – Welcome from MDH Health Regulation Division Director

6:15 p.m. – Overview

6:20 p.m. – Bemidji Medical Center Presentation

6:50 p.m. – Public Comments and Questions

7:20 p.m. – Bemidji Medical Center Closing Remarks

7:25 p.m. – Conclusion

7:30 p.m. – Public Hearing ends

Introductions



Maria King,
MDH Health Regulation
Director



Karla Eischens, RPh
President & CEO
Sanford Bemidji



Dan Hoody, MD, MSc
Vice President, Medical
Officer and Clinic,
Hospitalist



Brad Neis, MPT
Executive Director

Public Hearing Overview

- **The Minnesota Department of Health serves as a facilitator** to ensure there is public discussion and engagement for any proposed closure, reduction of services or relocation of services for a hospital or hospital campus as outlined in ([Minnesota Statutes Sec. 144.555](#)).
- **This statute gives MDH the authority to hold the meeting and to inform the public** but not to change, delay or prevent the proposed changes, closures or relocations.



Bemidji Medical Center Presentation

Bemidji Medical Center will provide information on the closure of its inpatient rehabilitation unit.

- **An explanation by the hospital's representatives of the reasons for transitioning** their 5-bed inpatient acute rehabilitation services to other regional units or nearby facilities.
- **A description of the actions that Bemidji Medical Center will take** to ensure that residents in the hospital's service area have continued access to the health services being modified.

Welcome Bemidji Medical Center Representatives



Karla Eischens, RPh
President & CEO
Sanford Bemidji



Dan Hoody, MD, MSc
Vice President, Medical
Officer and Clinic,
Hospitalist



Brad Neis, MPT
Executive Director

Sanford Bemidji Medical Center Acute Rehabilitation Unit (ARU) Closure



Sanford Bemidji Representatives



Karla Eischens, RPh
President & CEO



Dan Hoody, MD, MSc
*Vice President, Medical
Officer & Clinic, Hospitalist*

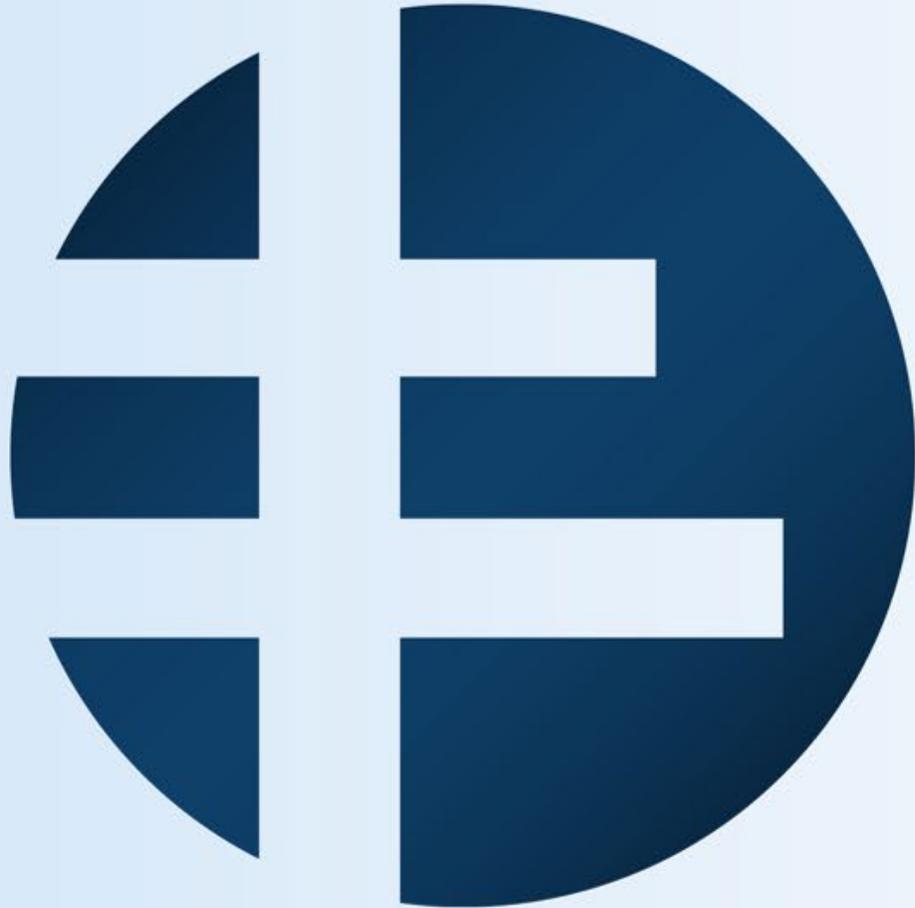


Brad Neis, MPT
Executive Director

Today's Agenda

- Sanford Health
 - Mission & vision
 - Who we are
 - Bemidji region

- Acute Rehab Unit (ARU)
 - Background
 - Why
 - Next steps
 - Appreciation



MISSION

**DEDICATED TO SHARING
GOD'S LOVE THROUGH THE WORK OF
HEALTH, HEALING AND COMFORT.**

VISION

**IMPROVING THE HUMAN CONDITION
AT EVERY STAGE OF LIFE
THROUGH EXCEPTIONAL CARE,
SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT,
INNOVATION AND DISCOVERY.**

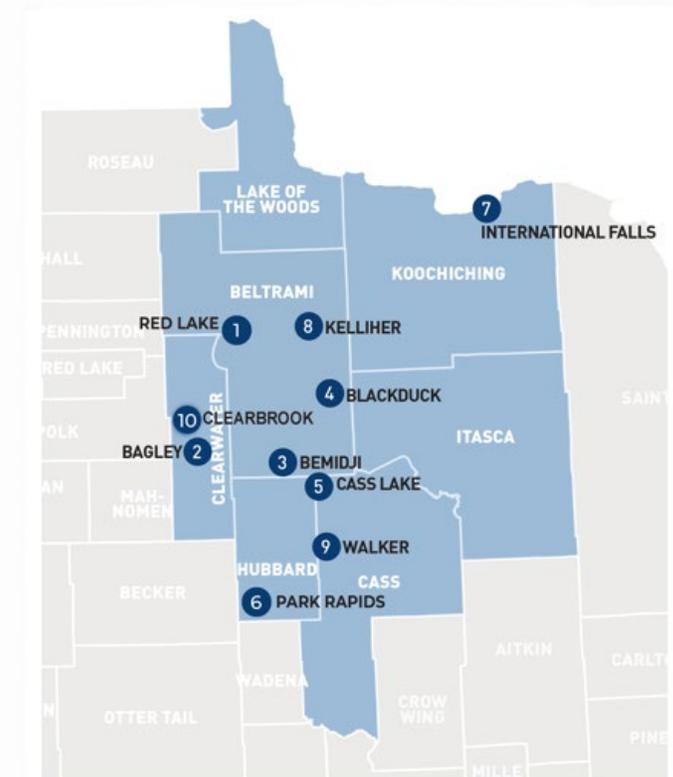


Sanford Health - Bemidji Region

- 14,430 sq. miles service area
- Over 176,000 service population
- 190 clinicians
- 480 nurses
- 2,200 total employees
- Hospitals: 118 beds (Bemidji) & 25 beds (Bagley)

Annually:

- 5,800 annual hospital admissions
- Over 800 births
- 6,800 surgeries
- 29,500 ER visits
- 1,700 cardiac CATH lab cases
- 296,000 outpatient visits



Acute Rehabilitation Unit (ARU)

- Located within, Sanford Bemidji Medical Center (118 patient beds).
- Five-bed unit, average daily census 2.64.
- Provides inpatient rehabilitative services for patients with significant functional disabilities associated with stroke, spinal cord injuries, acquired brain injuries and major trauma.
- Services include medical management and physical, occupational and speech therapy.
- Care team: a physician, admissions coordinator and nursing and therapy staff.



Background

- Over the years, the number of licensed beds on the unit have fluctuated based on the need for the service in our region.
- The unit originally opened in 1999 with 11 beds and quickly expanded to 14.
- In the spring of 2017, the unit decreased from 14 beds to 12.
- In spring of 2020, the ARU closed for 14 months and was used as the hospital's COVID-19 unit.
- At that time, many of the patients who would have previously been admitted to the ARU were admitted to swing beds at the Sanford Bagley Medical Center where they could receive 24/7 nursing care and direct access to rehabilitative services or cared for at a different facility.
- Swing bed is a service that critical access hospitals (CAHs), with a Medicare provider agreement, provide that allows a patient to transition from acute care to post acute care for nursing and therapy services.
- In the fall of 2022, the ARU reopened, reducing the number of beds from 14 to 7.
- In summer 2023, the number of beds were decreased again from 7 to 5, due to decreased census and volumes on our Medical/Surgical/Orthopedics unit.



Why

- As a non-profit and rural healthcare organization, we are responsible for not only providing care for our community but also for ensuring this care remains financially sustainable.
- For the past 25 years, we have taken steps to resize and restructure the ARU with the goal to make it sustainable. All while fully staffing the unit.
- Over the last decade, advancements in healthcare and changes to CMS and payer qualifications have led to a steady decrease in ARU admissions.
- Today with an average census of 2.64 patients per day, it is no longer sustainable to provide the service.
- Closing the ARU will allow us to reallocate scarce resources (staff and beds) to other high-need areas within the hospital.



Next Steps

- The ARU will be accepting patients until early March and will officially close April 1.
- Following the closure, patients in need of inpatient rehabilitation services will be transitioned to other regional units, as well as swing beds at nearby critical access hospitals and skilled nursing facilities, including two Sanford facilities located in the region.
- The five ARU beds will be converted to inpatient care beds within the hospital's Medical/Surgical/Orthopedics unit.
- Additional beds on this unit will allow us to care for more patients in the community.
- The Medical/Surgical/Orthopedics unit serves the general patient population hospitalized for various causes, such as disease/illness, testing, surgery and/or observation.
- Our Sanford family affected by this closure (a physician and admissions coordinator) have been presented with opportunities at Sanford to continue their work.

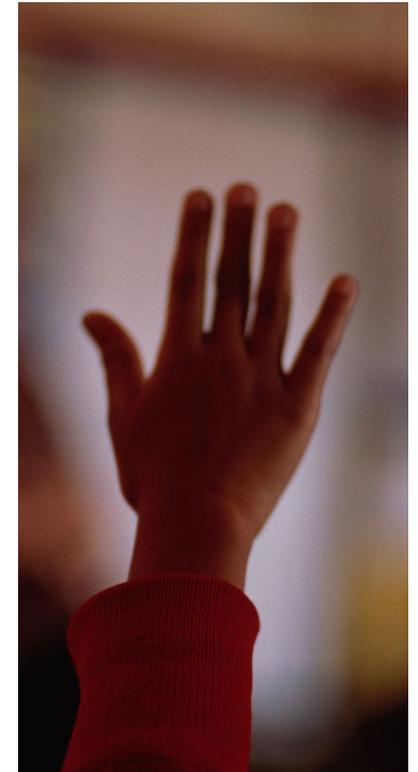
Appreciation

Please, know the decision to close the unit is very difficult and not something we take lightly.

We remain committed to our patients who require inpatient rehabilitation care. Our team will work closely with care providers in our region to coordinate care close to home.

We appreciate everyone who has helped facilitate excellent care for patients and families in the ARU.

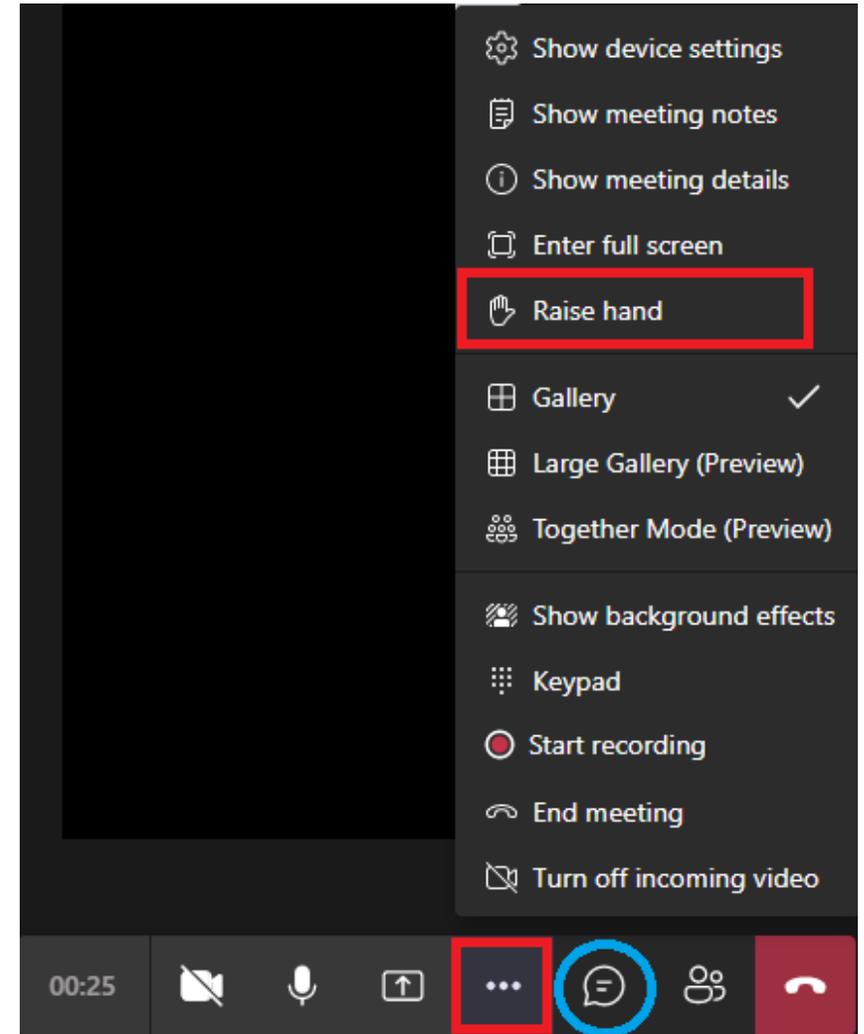
- **We welcome your comments and questions.**
- **Each person will have up to three minutes** to ask a question or provide public comment.
- **Please remember that the information you are sharing is being shared virtually for a public forum.**
- **Bemidji Medical Center will have up to three minutes to respond** to each of the questions and/or comments.



How to Comment

Two ways to ask a question or provide a comment:

1. Raise your hand (outlined in red).
 2. Click the Chat bubble (circled in blue) to open the chat.
- For phone attendees, press ***5** to raise your hand, and ***6** to unmute/mute yourself.
 - **We will select speakers** in order and add questions from the chat throughout the public comment period.
 - **Please be respectful. Abusive, slanderous** (comments meant to discredit or malign someone) and vulgar language will not be tolerated.



Last question with 5 minutes remaining



Bemidji Medical Center Closing Remarks



Karla Eischens, RPh
President & CEO
Sanford Bemidji



Dan Hoody, MD, MSc
Vice President, Medical
Officer and Clinic,
Hospitalist



Brad Neis, MPT
Executive Director

- Thank you for participating in the Bemidji Medical Center public hearing.
- The statute ([Minnesota Statutes Sec. 144.55](#)) gives MDH the authority to hold the meeting and to inform the public but not to change, delay or prevent the proposed changes, closures or relocations.
- You may provide comments or feedback on the [hearing website](#).
 - Comments for Bemidji Medical Center will be accepted until January 18, 2024.
- A transcript of the meeting will be available on the hearing website in 7-10 business days.



Maria King,
MDH Health Regulation Director

Thank you!

Health Regulation Division Federal Licensing Team

Health.HRD-FedLCR@state.mn.us