Construction Underway for New Inpatient Building
Anticipated Opening Early 2025

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Mental Health Services Expand at BCHC
Page 6

The Area’s Leader in Healthcare Services
Page 2
As we progress further into 2024, we reflect on the past year and the strides we've made at Buchanan County Health Center that have propelled us toward the future of healthcare. Undoubtedly, the highlight of the year has been the initiation of the Inpatient Expansion and Renovation Project—a monumental $18.9 million undertaking set to replace the aging inpatient unit that has dutifully served our community since the 1960s.

In tandem with infrastructure advancements, BCHC has engaged with community members throughout the year to conduct a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment. This invaluable process has identified the strengths and weaknesses in the overall health of our communities. Armed with this knowledge, BCHC has prioritized weaknesses and developed initiatives to address them. Starting in 2024 and extending into the future, BCHC’s focus will be on enhancing chronic disease management for diabetes, addressing behavioral health and substance abuse, combating obesity, and expanding daycare services. The complete needs assessment detailing the information utilized and the initiative determination process, is available on BCHC’s website, serving as a transparent resource for all.

As we step into the new year, our commitment to fortifying our organization to serve patients for years to come remains unwavered. We acknowledge the challenges in healthcare recruitment and retention and yet, with our community-focused and family-oriented philosophy, we are determined to attract and retain exceptional individuals. Our pursuit of excellence extends to the continuous enhancement of high-quality services, with a keen eye on introducing new offerings, and ensuring healthcare accessibility close to home. Embracing the future, we invest in newer technologies, systems, and equipment to stay at the forefront of healthcare innovation.

Finally, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for entrusting us with your healthcare needs. Serving our patients and their families brings us immense joy. We are dedicated to an ongoing journey of improving the health of our community. Thank you for your steadfast support.

Join our Growing Team!

Join our growing team and find out why over 350 professionals call BCHC an Employer of Choice! With full and part-time positions available in clinical and non-clinical roles, you'll enjoy playing a role in the betterment of others in our family-like environment. At BCHC, you're much more than a number.

To view all open positions and apply online, visit BCHealth.org/careers.

Benefits Include:
- Competitive Wages
- Sign-On Bonus*
- IPERS, 403(b), and Roth IRA
- Family Health, Vision, & Dental Insurance
- Paid Time Off
- New Nurse Residency Program
- Free Wellness Membership
- Tuition Assistance

*Up to $5,000 sign-on bonus for most clinical positions
Can I Have it at BCHC? Wondering if you can have it at BCHC? Just ask! BCHC offers outpatient and inpatient services close to home. **Choose local! Choose BCHC.**

- Specialty Clinics
- Primary Care in Independence, Jesup, & Oelwein
- Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, & Occupational Therapy
- Laboratory Testing
- Diagnostic Imaging-Radiology
- Infusion Services
- Surgical Services
- Wound Care & Hyperbaric Medicine
- Urgent Care
- Emergency Care
- Nutrition Therapy
- Cardiac & Respiratory Rehab
- Behavioral Health
- Sleep Studies
- Nuclear Medicine
- Long-Term Care & Retirement Living
- Inpatient Services & Skilled Care
- Wellness Center

*What our patients are saying:*

The BCHC staff is so friendly and kind. I always feel comfortable in the hospital regardless of whatever I'm there for. They put me at ease and I appreciate that!
New Inpatient Building Coming Early 2025

BCHC has started construction on a new, two-story building for inpatient services, infusion services, and future growth! This new, 37,000 square foot expansion heralds the dawn of cutting-edge equipment and technology, reinforcing our commitment to delivering exceptional care to the communities of Buchanan County and surrounding areas amidst growing healthcare needs. Beyond its immediate impact, this project not only provides expanded space but also holds the promise of accommodating additional services. Already, the old building is yielding progress, with sections demolished, and the foundation and elevator shaft taking shape.

With a projected completion date of January 2025, the project has been broken into three major phases which include:

1. **PARTIAL DEMOLITION**
   
   Partial demolition of existing facilities on the west side of BCHC’s campus, which includes the former dialysis center. BCHC remains committed to bringing dialysis services back to the community in a new location with updated technology and infrastructure. BCHC is actively seeking a new service provider and location.

2. **CONSTRUCTION**
   
   Construction of a two-story building, which will include inpatient rooms on the second floor allowing for a more private and comfortable stay for patients. Infusion services will be expanded on the first floor.

3. **PARTIAL RENOVATION**

   Partial renovation of the existing facility will allow for continued service growth and expansion.
“The existing inpatient unit, dating back to the 1960s, has faithfully served our community for decades; however, as medical technology rapidly advances, it has become imperative to modernize our facilities to meet these changing requirements,” commented Wade Weis, Chief Executive Officer.

“By renovating and replacing the outdated unit, we aim to ensure that our patients receive the highest quality of care in an environment that is equipped with the latest advancements designed to foster healing and well-being close to home.”

This project has been in development for several years. It was delayed as BCHC combated COVID-19 and its obstacles. Although the project was initially delayed, it allowed leadership and staff more time to design the building as they saw fit.

“We have spent a lot of time immersing ourselves within the design and logistics of this project with our staff to make sure we provide the best patient experience with room aesthetics and workflow. We believe that this addition is going to make the community proud to call BCHC its home for healthcare and be a very comfortable place for patients and families utilizing our inpatient services,” commented Chief Nursing Officer, Tara McEnany.

BCHC has worked with INVISION Architecture, based out of Waterloo, to develop a comprehensive plan to begin construction. Contracted through Larson Construction, based out of Independence, this project will be funded by 50% of cash reserves that have been set aside for this project over the past several years of planning, in addition to local loans.
BCHC is pleased to offer local occupational therapy services to patients of all ages. Occupational therapy is an area of rehabilitative medicine that focuses on helping people regain or maintain their ability to perform their usual daily activities easily and independently across a person’s lifespan. Whether you have a child that struggles with sensory processing or social difficulties or are an adult recovering from hand trauma or brain injury, and everything in between, occupational therapy can be an incredible resource for you and your family.

Spotlight on Services: Occupational Therapy

Meet Our Occupational Therapists

BCHC Welcomes Pet Therapy

BCHC is pleased to welcome Rosie Feckers and Kronk VanEe as our new pet therapists! Pet therapy can help reduce blood pressure and improve overall cardiovascular health. It can also release endorphins that produce a calming effect. This can help alleviate pain, reduce stress, and improve your overall psychological state. Pet therapy is a free service available to patients, guests, and employees upon request!
Mental Health Services Expand at BCHC & Clinics

The brain is a complex organ that controls every process that regulates our body. Our brain controls our movements, perception of sensations, speech and language, automatic behavior, such as breathing, heart rate, sleep, and temperature control, and is responsible for controlling our memories, decisions, and emotions. The brain is the powerhouse to our body and it deserves attention just like a broken bone, a bad cold, or a chronic, debilitating condition such as heart disease, cancer, or diabetes does. However, of those living with a mental health condition, which is 1 out of every 5 US adults, only 21.6% are receiving mental health treatment according to the CDC.

Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood. Although there is no single cause for mental illness, a number of factors can contribute to risk for mental illness, including trauma, life events, and stressors, biological factors, or chemical imbalances in the brain, the use of alcohol or drugs, or having feelings of loneliness or isolation.

BCHC recognizes the importance of mental well-being and the need for increased access to support. With two psychiatric nurse practitioners and two licensed independent social workers, BCHC offers psychiatric evaluations and diagnosis, medication management, and therapy services for patients as young as six years old. To make an appointment, please contact Medical Associates at 319-334-2541, or BCHC Family Medicine – Oelwein at 319-283-1565. You do not need to be an established patient at a BCHC primary care clinic to receive mental health therapy services.

If you’re thinking about suicide or are worried about a friend or a loved one, please call the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988.

NOMINATE THEM FOR THE DAISY AWARD!

Please say thank you by sharing your story of how a nurse made a difference you will never forget by scanning the QR code from your smart phone camera or visit BCHHealth.org/thedaisyaward. You may also submit your nomination via mail or drop it off at one of our locations! Learn more about The DAISY Award by visiting DAISYFoundation.org.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIALTY PROVIDER AFFILIATE SCHEDULE TO SCHEDULE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AEROGY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUDIODG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BREAST CARE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CARDIOLOGY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ENT/FACIALPLASTICS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MENTALHEALTH</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NEPHROLOGY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OB/GYN</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ONCODGY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ORTHOPEDICS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PAIN CLINIC</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Griffin Kopp, ARNP, CRNA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PALLIATIVE MEMORY CLINIC</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PHYMED. &amp; REHAB</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PODIATRY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PULMONODGY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RHEUMATODGY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SKIN CANCER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GENERAL SURGERY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UROLOGY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WOMENS HEALTH</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WOUND CENTER</strong></td>
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Learn more about your provider online at BCHealth.org/provider

LOCAL SURGICAL SERVICES ARE OFFERED BY:

- Dr. Charles Cibula - Podiatry
- Dr. David Hemmes - Podiatry
- Dr. Benjamin Torres - Orthopedics
- Dr. Kevin Carpenter - ENT/Facial Plastic Surgery
- Dr. Kenny D. Rodriguez - ENT/Facial Plastic Surgery
- Dr. Kyle Morrissey - Pain Clinic
- Scott Chastek, ARNP, CRNA - Pain Clinic
- Anne Meyer-McCright, ARNP, CRNA - Pain Clinic
- Griffin Kopp, ARNP, CRNA - Pain Clinic
- Dr. Daniel Miller - Ophthalmology
- Dr. Brian Gerrels - General Surgery/GI
- Dr. William Schmitt - GI
- Dr. Tom Richardson - Urology
- Dr. Steven Mindrup - Urology
- Dr. Jon Rippentrop - Urology