Sakakawea Medical Center

Quick Facts

Administrator:
Brian Williams

Chief of Medical Staff:
Jacinta Klindworth, M.D.

Board Chair:
Christie Obenauer

City Population:
2,543 (2019 Estimate)[1]

County Population:
8,187 (2019 Estimate)[1]

County Median Household Income:
64,894 (2019 Estimate)[1]

County Median Age:
38.1 (2019 Estimate)[1]

Owned by: Nonprofit

Hospital Beds: 13

Trauma Level: V

Critical Access Hospital Designation: 2001

Economic Impact on the County[2]

Jobs:
Primary – 106.5
Secondary – 40
Total – 147

Financial Impact:
Primary – $7.3 Million
Secondary – $1.17 Million
Total – $8.5 Million

County: Mercer

Address: 510 8th Avenue NE
Hazen, ND 58545-4637

Phone: 701.748.2225

Fax: 701.748.5757

Web: smcnd.org

Present

Caring for our community is a long-standing tradition at Sakakawea Medical Center (SMC). Since our founding more than 70 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 13 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 Beulah, Center, Dodge, Dunn Golden Valley, Halliday, Hazen, Killdeer, Pick City, Stanton, and Zap, and is located in the heart of rural Mercer County and housed in the city of Hazen.
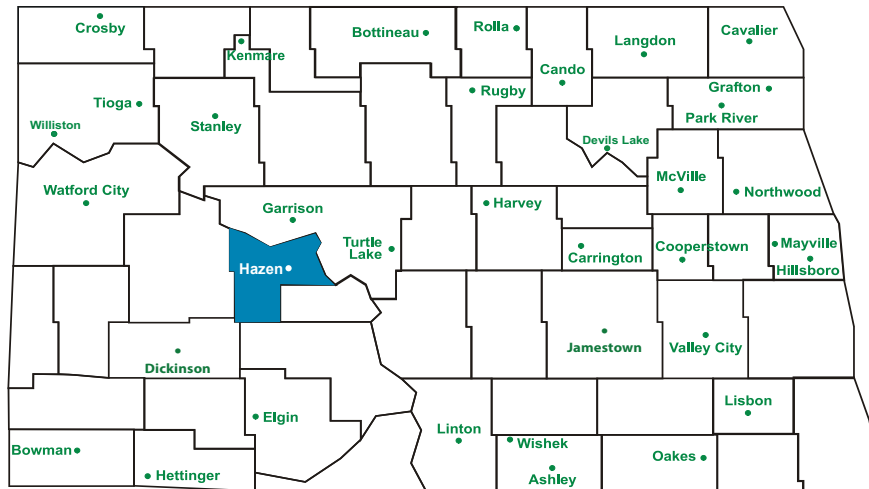
Vision

SMC strives to be a complete healthcare system dedicated to providing the best comprehensive care possible to the area that we serve. Our vision is "To be the preeminent providers of innovative and collaborative healthcare services."

Sakakawea Medical Center provides the following services directly through the hospital:

- Acute care
- Anesthesia
- Cardio-pulmonary services
- Cardiac stress testing
- Convenience clinic
- Emergency services (Level V Trauma)
- Hospice care
- Laboratory
- Observation care
- Palliative care
- Pharmacy
- Physician services
- Rehabilitation services (physical, occupational and speech therapy)
- Radiology services: CT, ultrasound, 3D mammography, bone densitometry, general X-ray
- Senior Suites (basic care facility)
- General surgery
- Swing bed program
- Social services
- Urgent care
- Volunteer services
- Respiratory therapy
- Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD) testing
- Worksite wellness screenings and educational programs

North Dakota Critical Access Hospitals

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 and 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.

In 2012, Local Health Providers completed a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) which took into account input from more than 640 community members and health care professionals from the three counties, as well as 22 community leaders. Additional information was also collected through key informant interviews and a focus group involving locally identified community leaders.

The top priority of services identified during this process included:
- Additional providers
- Additional mental health services
- More accessible clinic(s), more locations, longer hours
- Increased access to specialists
- Additional equipment/technology

In addition, upon completion of the CHNA, local health providers convened again to work on a strategic plan that would best serve the interests of all agencies involved and the community. Information obtained from the planning emphasized the need to address the physical environment in which we provide care to include space for additional services; need to expand and deliver efficient outpatient care; and the need to address the most efficient use of staff in a community where adequate staffing is an issue.

In the fall of 2015, directly south of the old hospital, the board of directors broke ground to begin the construction of a replacement facility. The retiring facility was closed, and a new $30.5 million replacement facility opened in April 2017.

The new medical center houses 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 facility was designed to 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.