

## **Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital Mitigation Plan for Inpatient and Swing-Bed Closure**

Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital (IDMH) was opened in 1960, after combining the Bath Hospital and the Ira Davenport Home for Girls. It continues today in Bath, NY as a part of Elmira-based Arnot Health.

Mission Statement – Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life within our rural community by providing local high-quality primary care, acute care, and restorative and residential health services.

Vision Statement – Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital is a recognized provider of high-quality health and wellness services to our community. Excellence is achieved by ongoing performance improvement, effective management of resources and continued development of strategic alliances.

The providers and staff of IDMH are dedicated to providing access to a full range of acute and ambulatory services to the people who depend on the facility for appropriate and timely care when illness or injury occur. To achieve this mission, Ira Davenport has continually upgraded and expanded its services over its 63-year history. It has also established formal or informal affiliations with other area providers – such as medical specialists, trauma centers, and helicopter and ambulance patient transport organizations – to ensure that its patients have access to specialty services that are available only in larger institutions.

Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital is the only hospital in rural central Steuben County, and as such is the primary provider of acute, outpatient, and long-term care services to a population of 29,210 people in the municipalities of Bath, Hammondsport, Campbell, Prattsburg, Avoca, Savona, Bradford, Cameron Mills, Cameron, Wayne and Pulteney.

Overall, Steuben County has a population of approximately 92,600 – 21% of whom are 65 and older. The population has a number of challenges that IDMH, as the healthcare safety net for the region, works with its community partners to address. This includes 16% of residents living with a disability, and a Socioeconomic Status (SES) score of 1 – the lowest rating on the SES scale – for central and southern Steuben County. Steuben County also has high rates of food insecurity, COPD, depression, and transportation needs as compared to other counties in the Finger Lakes region. Obesity, smoking, hypertension, lack of access to broadband, and a low ratio of primary care and mental health providers make the services provided by IDMH more important than ever.

Located near the southern end of Keuka Lake, IDMH also serves a seasonal population of cottage owners or renters along Keuka Lake and provides emergency and trauma care for travelers on busy I-86 or secondary roads in the area who may be injured or become seriously ill. The 120-bed Fred & Harriet Taylor Health Center, a skilled nursing facility located on the Ira Davenport campus, is owned and managed by the Hospital. Outpatient rehabilitation services within the IDMH system are provided at the Joseph F. Meade Jr. Outpatient Rehabilitation Center, also located on the Ira Davenport campus.

The hospital serves an ever-increasing number of low-income or uninsured residents who have no doctor of their own and come to the IDMH Emergency Department seeking primary medical care. These patients include members of the Amish and Mennonite communities, generally farmers or craftspeople who tend to present themselves at IDMH only when illnesses or injuries are particularly acute. Each year, the hospital also cares for a significant number of Medicaid patients. Since the beginning of the pandemic, there has also been a substantial increase in behavioral and mental health conditions presenting to the Emergency Department.

IDMH is committed to promoting wellness in its service area to address some of the aforementioned social determinants of health. In the course of delivering primary and ambulatory care, physicians and nurses in the Emergency Department are often the first to diagnose a chronic condition such as diabetes or heart disease, as well as mental and behavioral health issues, and connect patients to needed resources and services to address their conditions.

IDMH is seeking a Rural Emergency Hospital (REH) designation from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). With that designation comes the requirement to eliminate acute care and swing bed care for patients, measure length of stay for outpatient and observation visits, and maintain critical outpatient services to the community such as radiology and laboratory. These requirements will not materially affect the patient experience or access to services. Pharmacy, social work, and care management are well established at the IDMH campus and will be maintained.

A Certificate of Need will be submitted to New York State Department of Health for the closure of inpatient and swing beds, as required to meet the REH status criteria. To mitigate the impact on the community, IDMH has long standing transfer agreements with Arnot Ogden Medical Center and St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira, NY, both part of the Arnot Health System to which IDMH also belongs. In addition, a formal transfer agreement has been enacted with University of Rochester Medical Center in Rochester, NY, which is a Level One Trauma Center, for higher risk, critically ill or injured patients.

Notification to regional hospitals will be made alerting the discontinuation of swing bed availability upon the establishment of REH status. Any referrals for swing bed patients will be declined.

The closure of inpatient beds at IDMH will result in approximately 100 additional transports on an annual basis. Because Emergency Medical Services transportation challenges have been ongoing for many years, IDMH administrators are continuing their monthly meetings with the commercial ambulance service that have taken place for over two years to help improve and streamline transfer processes. Preliminary talks of creating an ambulance base at the hospital to facilitate additional timely transfer will begin in December 2023. LifeNet and Mercy Flight are currently valued partners for transport of critically ill and injured patients, and these relationships will continue.

The Emergency Department is established with core healthcare team members. The Emergency Department is well connected to community services such as Steuben County Alcohol and

Substance Abuse Services, County Mental Health Services, and County Department of Social Services. Long-standing supportive relationships with local primary care providers, and Arnot Medical Services will also continue.

Attaining REH designation by CMS will allow for the continuation of vital emergency and outpatient services to be delivered to the community of Steuben County, with, as previously noted, no material impact on access to care. Protocols are currently in place for the transfer of patients requiring acute inpatient care, and patients requiring short term observation of medical status will continue to be cared for at IDMH. Only swing bed patient requests will be deferred.