

# Timeline for Inpatient Behavioral Health Project at CHI St. Alexius Health Williston

February 12, 2025

This memo is a summary of the work completed to date on the CHI Health Williston project to reopen our inpatient behavioral health unit. The memo's intended audience is North Dakota legislators. The memo is compiled by Garrick Hyde, president of CHI Health Williston.

## Brief Timeline

**Spring 2023** – The North Dakota legislature appropriates \$1.95 million in grant money for inpatient behavioral health in Williston, ND. This Williston appropriation is separate from a larger appropriation for inpatient behavioral health in Dickinson, ND.

**June 2023** – CHI Health Williston applies for the \$1.95 million in State grant money. CHI Health Dickinson does not move forward in their separate application.

**Fall 2023** – CHI Health Williston is awarded the grant by the State. The grant will reimburse \$1.95 million to CHI Williston after the hospital spends the amount on renovating a 9-bed inpatient behavioral health unit and an adjoining outpatient behavioral health area. The project was originally estimated to cost a total of \$3.7 million, with the balance of \$1.75 million coming from CHI Williston's local hospital foundation.

**January 2024** – The contract for the grant is ratified by the State and CHI on January 29, 2024. CHI begins the work of designing the renovation to the shuttered inpatient behavioral health unit. After several months of planning work and floorplan design with the architects, the hospital achieves a finalized design for the floorplan. See *Attachment 1* of this memo for the finalized design. Note that the floorplan includes renovations for a 9-bed inpatient unit as well as an adjoining outpatient treatment area.

**May 2024** – The architects inform CHI Health Williston that an earlier 2022 project budget, created by CHI, significantly understates the true cost of the renovation. The architects calculate that the \$3.7 million estimate will cover the inpatient renovation, but another \$2.5 million is needed to do the adjoining outpatient treatment area. Rather than allow the entire project to be derailed, CHI Williston approached the State's Health and Human Services leadership with a revised proposal to amend the existing grant contract to exclude outpatient renovations from the project scope.

**September 2024** – The State's Health and Human Services leadership agree to a revised grant scope that excludes outpatient renovations. The \$1.95 million in grant money and the \$1.75 million coming from CHI Williston's local foundation will be sufficient for the inpatient unit renovation. The revised contract for the grant is ratified by the State and CHI on September 26, 2024.

**November 2024** – CHI Health Williston moves forward in planning the construction. One concern from CHI is the project deadline, as stated in the contract: "This Grant runs from September 1, 2023, through

June 30, 2025. This Grant will not automatically renew." It's likely that CHI Williston won't complete the construction by the project deadline, so the hospital asked the State for guidance on the contract language. The HHS leadership responded, "We will be requesting carryover during legislative session for any of the \$1,950,000 that is not spent this biennium to have authority to spend next biennium. Once that carryover is approved/final at the end of session we can amend the contract end date." CHI Williston understands that approval to carry over the funding won't be known until the end of legislative session at the end of April. The hospital paused in beginning construction until we know if the 2023 grant money will carry over.

To date, no money has been spent by CHI Health Williston, nor reimbursed by the State.

#### Next Steps

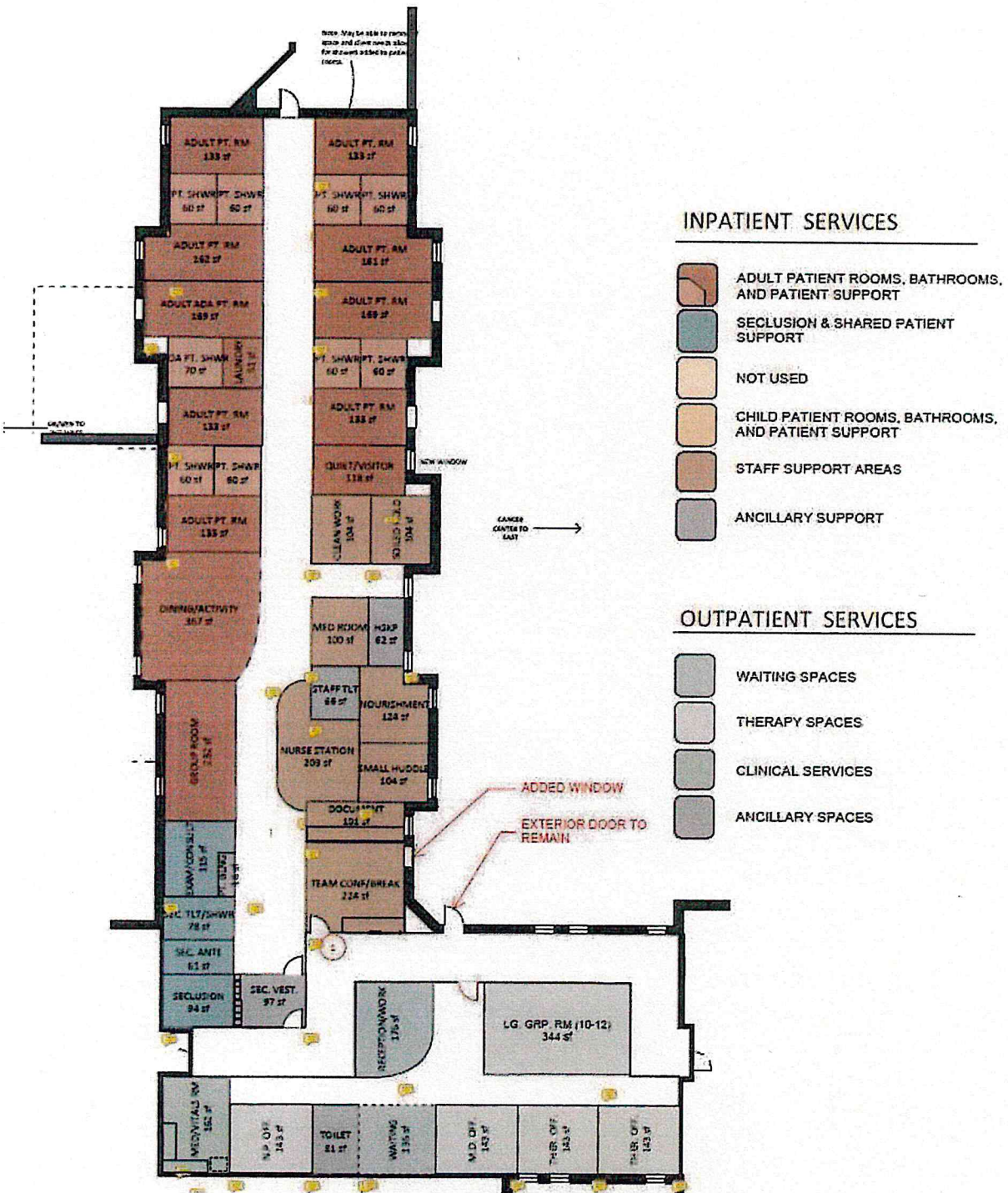
1. CHI Health Williston awaits confirmation from State HHS leadership that the 2023 grant for \$1.95 million will carry over to 2025, determined by the 2025 legislative session
2. CHI Health Williston would like to create the outpatient treatment areas as originally planned in the attached floorplan. We need an additional \$2.5 million for this renovation.
3. CHI Health Williston seeks support from the State legislature to appropriate \$2.5 million in additional grant funds in the 2025 session to create the outpatient behavioral health treatment area.

Thank you,

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Attachment 1 Finalized 2024 Floorplan Design – 9 adult inpatient rooms plus outpatient services at CHI St. Alexius Health Williston





# Williston CHI Language Request

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Sagness, Pamela

Nelson, Jon O.

Thu, Apr 3, 2025, 8:40 PM

## ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1012 FIRST ENGROSSMENT WITH SENATE AMENDMENTS (Senator Bekkedahl)

A line will need to be added to Section 2, One Time Funding, regarding the additional \$1,500,000 for the behavioral health facility grants. In the alternative, \$1,500,000 could be added to line 31, page 4 of .02000 version of Section 2.

### New Section to be added:

**SECTION XX. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FACILITY GRANT.** Section 1 of this Act includes the sum of \$1,500,000 appropriated from the general fund and Section 25 of this Act includes any unexpended appropriation up to \$1,950,000 appropriated from the general fund in chapter 44 of the 2023 Session Laws for a total of \$3,450,000 for the purpose of continuing to provide a one-time behavioral health facility grant to establish a behavioral health facility in the northwest human service center region with the grant recipient, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The department of health and human services shall provide a grant as follows:

1. The grant recipient must provide matching funds of \$1,750,000 to establish the facility.
2. The grant term must be for five years.
3. The requirements of chapter 54-44.4 do not apply to the selection of a grant recipient, the grant award, or payments made under this section.
4. To continue to receive the grant, the behavioral health facility grant recipient shall:
  - a. Enter a grant agreement or amendment, or both with the department;

- b. Use grant funds by December 31, 2025, to support the provision of behavioral health in the grant award service areas;
    - c. Provide and disclose information needed to comply with the department's data collection requirements; and
    - d. Operate in compliance with grant requirements.
  - 5. The department may recapture grant funds distributed to a grant recipient found by the department to be out of compliance with the requirements established by the grant program, including ending or reducing the operation of the behavioral health facility in the service area.
  - 6. The department may not collect property, equipment, or supplies purchased with grant funds from the grant recipient after successful completion of the terms of the grant.
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