JMHCC named Top 100 hospital for second time

Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center (JMHCC) in Elgin has been named a 2022 Top 100 Critical Access Hospital. Compiled by The Chartis Center for Rural Health, this annual recognition program honors outstanding performance among the nation's rural hospitals based on the results of the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX™.

This places JMHCC among the top 100 out of more than 1,300 critical access hospitals nationwide. Only eight hospitals in North Dakota were named to the top 100 list. JMHCC was also named among the top 100 in 2020.

"This is a great accomplishment for JMHCC, and we are proud of this achievement. It is amazing to see what we can achieve as a team, when our main focus is on providing high-quality patient care. I would like to recognize our board of directors, the Jacobson Memorial Hospital Foundation board, leadership, staff and community for this award. It has been a team effort!" said JMHCC CEO Theo Stoller.

"Despite unprecedented adversity, rural providers continue to display resiliency and a steadfast commitment to their communities," said Michael Topchik, with The Chartis Center for Rural Health. "Honoring the Top 100 is one of the high points of our year. We are delighted to recognize the exceptional performance and innovation of this year's recipients, particularly in light of the extraordinary challenges facing America's rural health safety net."

Utilizing 50 independent indicators, the INDEX assesses performance across eight pillars that span market-, value- and finance-based categories. Hospitals recognized as a Top 100 facility had one of the 100 highest overall scores among all critical access hospitals nationally. Over the last 12 years, the INDEX has established itself as the industry's most comprehensive and objective assessment of rural hospital performance.

JMHCC's most recent accomplishments include beginning operations of the New Leipzig-Elgin ambulance service through its ability to enroll in a federal program allowing the hospital to receive cost-based reimbursement to operate an ambulance.

Effective July 1, JMHCC will also expand to 35 beds through that same federal program, the Frontier Community Health Integration Project.

JMHCC also hired a paramedic, expanding the advanced life support care both in and out of the hospital, particularly through the ambulance service. The paramedic is also offering training for first responders and others throughout the region.

The hospital has also recently transitioned to Epic for its electronic health record, effective Feb. 1.

At its 2021 annual meeting, JMHCC reported a continued eight-year trend of sustaining a positive operational bottom line.

The strong trend of community support continues in 2022, with more than $66,000 donated during the one-day Giving Hearts Day, to help in construction of a covered entrance leading directly into the emergency room.

JMHCC is a critical access hospital in Elgin, with a network of clinics in Elgin, Glen Ullin and Richardton.