

Mission

Trusted excellence
in rural health.

Family Medicine

Raymond G. Christensen, M.D.
Steven S. Tekippe, M.D.
Christopher N. Thiessen, M.D.
Dania S. Kamp, M.D.
Randy J. Rice, M.D.
Kathy H. Brandli, M.D.
Mark H. Petry, M.D.
Ryan M. Harden, M.D.
Maggie B. Neudecker, M.D.
Gary T. Anderson, D.N.P, F.N.P.-C
Sonja M. Roach, F.N.P.-C
Danielle M. Lentsch, F.N.P.-C
Nathan W. Gilbertson, P.A.-C
Naomi J. Koenig, F.N.P.-C
Sam Cheath, F.N.P.-C
Mary E. Jaegar, F.N.P.-C
Katherine A. Nathan, P.A.-C

Internal Medicine / Pediatrics

Paul R. Dewey, M.D.
Bridget M. Dewey, M.D.

General Surgery

Sharon E. Gossett, M.D.

Dermatology

Hilary C. Reich, M.D.

Administrator

Eric P. Nielsen, MBA, CMPE

Moose Lake

4570 County Highway 61
Moose Lake, MN 55767
218.485.4491

Sandstone

707 Lundorff Drive
Suite 1
Sandstone, MN 55072
320.245.2250

Hinckley

45 Lady Luck Drive
P.O. Box 309
Hinckley, MN 55037
320.384.6618



Dear Community Member,

Our local medical community has seen some changes this year. Change is not always bad, but it can be difficult and confusing, particularly in healthcare. The purpose of this letter is to help our community understand these changes as well as explain who is part of our local medical community.

It is often assumed that Gateway Family Health Clinic is part of the same organization as the hospital, but we are not owned or operated by a hospital. Gateway Family Health Clinic is an independent, locally owned and operated clinic. Gateway Family Health Clinic was established in Moose Lake over 47 years ago. We also operate a clinic in Sandstone for the last 23 years and a clinic in Hinckley for the last 19 years. In addition to our three clinic locations, we also care for patients at two local nursing homes and five assisted living facilities. At the Moose Lake hospital we provide all inpatient care and all obstetric care. We also provide some outpatient and inpatient surgical care at the Moose Lake hospital. At the Sandstone hospital we provide all general surgery services.

We strive to provide our patients and community a value – you will receive high quality personalized care at a lower cost than big system healthcare. As an independent clinic, we do not bill facility charges for a clinic visit, whereas most clinics within a hospital campus bill a physician fee and a facility fee. We also have the ability to refer our patients to wherever our physician and the patient determines is the best specialist or facility for specialized care, rather than having to keep a patient within a specific health system. Gateway Family Health Clinic provides local employment to almost 100 people, including a medical staff of 21 providers. At least one new family medicine physician will be added in 2021. We partner with an additional 20 medical sub-specialists that provide care in our clinics to minimize how often our patients have to leave the community. Recent additions include orthopedic specialists from Cloquet Community Memorial Hospital and a urologist, gynecologist and nephrologist from St. Luke's Hospital. You can see a full list of our Gateway Family Health Clinic medical staff and all of our outreach subspecialists on our website, gatewayclinic.com.

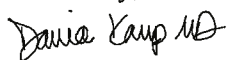
Our community has two critical access hospitals – one in Sandstone and one in Moose Lake. Since 1963 Mercy Hospital in Moose Lake had been an independent hospital that was locally operated and managed through a local hospital district. A hospital district is a governmental entity with a local board and has taxing authority. This changed on August 1, 2020 when Mercy Hospital transferred ownership of the Moose Lake hospital to Essentia Health. Since this summer, we have seen a reduction in some services and specialists at Essentia Health Moose Lake, but we are hopeful that some of these services will be reestablished. Essentia has stated their commitment to expand services and specialists in Moose Lake, so hopefully over time our community will benefit from Essentia's promise to expand services in Moose Lake.

Essentia also operates the hospital in Sandstone. This summer a change occurred at the Sandstone hospital when Essentia hired nurse practitioners and physicians assistants as their medical staff for inpatient care with remote telemedicine physicians providing back-up medical support. Prior to that change Gateway Clinic physicians had been the medical staff at the Sandstone Hospital for the past 19 years. Although we were disappointed with that change at the Sandstone hospital, Gateway physicians continue to be the medical staff at Essentia Health Moose Lake for all inpatient and obstetric services. It is our goal to continue those services at Essentia Health Moose Lake so we can provide our patients with full continuity of care and keep patients and services local.

Gateway Family Health Clinic was provided the opportunity to join Essentia and become an Essentia clinic, but at this time decided to remain an independent, locally owned and operated clinic. We have a long history with Essentia and we have a great amount of respect for the Essentia specialists we work with, but we feel that continuing Gateway Family Health Clinic as a local independent clinic is in the best interests of our patients and community at this time.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We hope you found it informative. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Eric Nielsen at 218-485-2000.

Sincerely,



Dania Kamp, M.D.
President



Eric Nielsen, MBA, CMPE
Administrator