




March 2023

**TO:** General Acute Hospitals  
Psychiatric Hospitals  
Critical Access Hospitals

**FROM:** Tony Green, Interim Director   
DHHS Division of Behavioral Health

RE: OpenBeds

The DHHS Division of Behavioral Health invites you to participate in a strategic initiative to provide hospitals with an additional tool to locate resources for patients with psychiatric needs. The tool, OpenBeds, allows for real-time treatment facility availability, two-way digital provider communication, data aggregation and analytics, and clinical decision support. Receiving hospitals retain control if any person is accepted based on their bed availability and staffing census at the time of the request. The tool will replace the need for calling each facility to find alternative services. OpenBeds has been used in seven Omaha area hospitals for the past two years and has been well received.

At this time, the software will be focused on behavioral health hospital beds. It has a greater capacity to allow for multiple services within your hospital system and through external providers to be included in the future. The inclusion of these other services and providers will likely occur in the next phase of the rollout.

Bamboo Health, the owner of the HIPAA-compliant, secure cloud-based solution, has included information on how to join this project. DHHS is paying the licensing fees for participating hospitals. As a participating hospital, you will need to allow staff time for training and subsequent use of the software. Once implemented, the software will allow for notifying up to three locations with one click to request alternative locations to serve a patient. This will decrease the time spent by staff making multiple phone calls.

On behalf of Bamboo Health and the DHHS Division of Behavioral Health, thank you in advance for your participation. We look forward to working with you on this beneficial project. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Bamboo Health or DHHS representative Stephanie Zier (Stephanie.Zier@nebraska.gov). Thank you.