



Improving the Budget Process: Alaska Critical Access Hospital Builds New Future of Financial Efficiency With OiHealth

*Getting the Right Data to the Right People: South
Peninsula Hospital Sees Tangible Improvements in
Data Quality and Time Efficiency*

Key Points/Benefits

- South Peninsula Hospital was navigating an inefficient and cumbersome budget process.
- The hospital improved their data by making it more accessible to the right people, reducing the burden on finance staff.
- The hospital had the optimal solution in place for the finance department and other staff to support real-time collaboration during the budget process.
- The Oi Health solution was intuitive and easy to use, making for quick adoption.
- The solution also allowed the correct level of granularity for all managers and directors to work efficiently with little or no help from finance.

SPH Organization at a Glance

- Founded in 1956 to deliver healthcare to the Kenai Peninsula population
- Critical access hospital providing a full range of inpatient and outpatient care services
- Surgical center, long-term care, ancillary clinics, and medical offices
- IT Profile: CPSI Patient Accounting (EMR and general financials), athenahealth, PointClickCare, and UKG Payroll

South Peninsula Hospital (SPH) stands out as a state-of-the-art critical access hospital in Homer, Alaska — a result of the unique partnership between the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the city of Homer. SPH's status as a pillar of their local community rests on efficient financial processes and effective communication.

These values are the foundation of SPH's decision-making and were a key driver in making a significant upgrade in their approach to healthcare financial decision support.

Challenge: Inefficient and Unmanageable Budget Process

While SPH's financial reporting processes had served the hospital in the past, the approach couldn't keep up with the organization's fast-changing needs. Their finance team was managing dozens and, in some cases, even hundreds of spreadsheets to keep up. They were performing manual imports into CPSI to consolidate files for journal entries and had to download data just to produce financial statements.

The team was getting by, but it became obvious to SPH leadership that the way they were working wasn't ideal — and that their status quo tools were quickly becoming a liability in their increasingly complex budget environment.

“Our reporting process was very manual. We were dealing with dozens, and in some cases even hundreds, of spreadsheets.”

– Anna Hermanson, Interim Chief Finance Officer



Anna Hermanson, Interim CFO, had been meeting with each manager individually — reviewing every spreadsheet by hand to adjust numbers, lock items down, and follow up on abnormalities. The SPH budgeting process involved countless emails back and forth — a 10-hour commitment for sending reports alone. The SPH budget season consumed a full month of potential productivity — time that could have been used on higher-value activities like planning and budgeting for the hospital's future.

SPH leadership determined they would need:

- A **cost-effective, standardized, and efficient system** of financial reporting to support process improvement
- Improved **budget preparation and budget cycle efficiency**
- Increased **budget reporting transparency**
- Better **business intelligence (BI) access for non-financial clinicians** to support informed decision-making
- An intuitive and easy-to-use financial BI solution for **access and drill down into budgetary variance and financial performance details**

Get to Know Oi Health Operational Budgeting

- Improved strategic budgeting results
- Superior transparency and increased accountability
- A streamlined, spreadsheet-free budget process for both management and finance users
- Improved communication and collaboration features
- Low-impact implementation

Solution: A Stellar Referral From a Satisfied Customer

SPH's search for a solution was brief. They considered a few vendors, but the CFO at Central Peninsula Hospital had in-depth experience with a budget tool that could achieve the hospital's goals and more — [Oi Health Strategic Budgeting](#). Thanks to this referral, SPH leadership knew it would be easy to implement, easy to learn, and that the vendor had the institutional and industry specialization that would complement their goals perfectly.



Favorite Oi Health Features

- Drill-down capabilities
- Manager communications
- Self-training options

Implementation: A Refreshed Budget Solution in Under 80 Days

SPH implemented Oi Health Budgeting (financials, labor, and metrics) in just 78 days — they were able to quickly begin budget modeling and finalize their budget by late April. OiHealth launched their new budget module across about 40 users — SPH's CFO, accounting director, all department managers, and some administrative staff.

The team progressed easily through the rollout, loving the new granular access to financial information. Training, which SPH scheduled just in time for budget season, was simple — all that was needed was a conference room and Zoom capabilities.

The learning curve for the budget process was a slight speed bump, but minor. The team had to adjust to budgeting that could be performed at a significantly more detailed level they were used to. Ultimately, they chose to budget at higher levels, grouping pay codes. Things smoothed out significantly once the team had the context of real-life data.

Results: A Fresh Approach to Budgeting and Managing Labor Issues

Today, SPH has a process where they can kick off their budget season with an extract to load into Oi, launching them into a new level of collaboration and communication. Their most recent budget season was a success, fueled by a refreshed budget cycle and a more agile approach to budgeting.

The SPH team has incorporated stats and metrics into their budget process. OiHealth also set up productivity on an ongoing basis so that it can be performed on an operating basis on a relevant range. Their senior leadership drives usage and can now ask detailed questions, including:

- Is this particular item budgeted?
- What are your financials looking like?
- What trends are you seeing?

Managers have expressed their love for the ability to drill down into data. For example, they can pull what their maintenance expense was from last month and easily see who a check was written to. Before, this level of insight required a call to accounting and a wait period. They also now catch miscoded expenses before they hit audit or budget season. Managers also have self-service access to critical information, bypassing the task of forcing the conversation with staff.



Thanks to Oi Health, finance staff members across the board are now able to self-train and are excited that reporting now takes up a fraction of their day, freeing them up to analyze information instead of burning hours finding and formatting data. The finance team also uses Oi to prepare detailed reporting packages for the SPH board.

HR and management are also using Oi Health to stave off full-time employee creep — staffing requests for new hires and replacements are now managed through the platform.

Building a Future With Oi Health

SPH is in position to take the next step and expand into [variance analysis with Oi Health](#). This will start them on the path of monitoring results and effecting change to develop in-depth insight into current operations.

Now that their [Operating Budget](#) is complete, SPH has deployed the [Oi Health Capital Planning and Tracking](#) solution enterprise-wide.

*For hospitals that want to make change a reality, OiHealth is the healthcare data analytics solution that marries financial and clinical departments. That's because we know your journey is bigger than software. Oi stays by your side to guarantee efficient financial management processes, clinical engagement, and honest data. To get started accelerating your journey to financial health, set up your demo today: **800.750.0201** or info@oihealth.com*