

## 2023 Division of Nursing Services Nurse of the Month: February

WRSU is proud to present Ms. Anna Lennox, RN, WRSU SANE Coordinator for Whiteriver Service Unit in the IHS Phoenix Area as Nurse of the Month. Ms. Lennox is a highly motivated and energetic nurse who has worked tirelessly to pull together the nursing staff, law enforcement and the White Mountain Apache Tribal Community to provide comprehensive care and promote justice for victims of violence.

Among her accomplishments for 2022 are:

- Development of SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) program that provides around the clock coverage for patients presenting to the Whiteriver ED as victims of sexual assault.
- During calendar year 2022, evaluated more than 53 sexual assaults, and completed 21 forensic exams. Exams not completed were either declined by the victim, or presented outside the evidence collection window. All patients were provided care on site, and it was not necessary to send any patients to a sexual assault referral clinic.
- Anna collected and analyzed data for intimate partner violence and assault to assess the scope of this problem for the community.
- She oversees five trained examiners, three of which are also trained in pediatric examinations.
- Developed a mentorship program. She has trained most of the current staff, and 3 more RNs are in training. Trainees receive didactic training, shadow an examiner for a period, and are coached through examination competency.
- She has coordinated with local and federal resources to develop a fully functional and active SART (Sexual Assault Response Team). The immediate response team consists of law enforcement and nurse examiners.
- Expanded this SART team so that it consistently meets quarterly to review cases and update progress as they move through the system. Ms. Lennox chairs this multidisciplinary team that consists of FBI victim advocates, a US Attorney, a paralegal, Tribal Child Protective Services, Apache Behavioral Health Services (ABHS), social workers from IHS and the Tribe, the Tribal prosecutor and all examiners. Communication between disciplines is enhanced, and there is little likelihood that an individual will “slip through the cracks.”
- Organized hospital and community awareness activities in the month of October for Domestic Violence Awareness. Two walks were held, one in Cibecue and one in Whiteriver. All Hospital staff were given the opportunity to create a paper butterfly with bright colors and inspirational phrases, which were displayed in the hospital atrium windows.
- Ms. Lennox is also planning for future improvement and expansion of the program:
  - Certification in pediatric forensic interviews to cut the delay between event and interview from a month or more to less than a week.
  - Seeking a dedicated examination space away from the busy and stressful ED environment.
  - Consistent training for the entire SART group
  - Advocating for a local Safe House for victims with ABHS
  - Seeking to implement a full time Patient Advocate for victims

Ms. Lennox should be widely recognized for her success at WRSU. As it stands, the program could be a model for any Service Unit nationwide. We have confidence that the best is yet to come, and that her program could be a model for future programs throughout IHS.