

2023 Division of Nursing Services Nurse of the Month: April 2023

Kelly Colton-Emke, RN, has worked for the Seneca Nation Health System (SNHS), IHS Nashville Area, for more than 30 years. She has held almost every nursing position in the Health Center-- Clinical Nurse RN, Community Health Nurse, Nursing Supervisor, Quality Assurance Coordinator, Health Information Director, and Privacy Officer.

Over the past year, Kelly has coordinated and managed Covid Vaccination Clinics for Lionel R. John Health Center and Cattaraugus Indian Reservation Health Center of the Seneca Nation Health System. She was instrumental in scheduling and educating patients and staff on the different vaccines, vaccinating patients, and vaccine documentation. She organized educational materials and coordinated staffing for the clinics.

Kelly has also spearheaded PCMH certification for both SNHS sites. She developed policies and procedures to obtain and maintain PCMH certification, and worked with the nursing staff and providers to educate and assist in implementation of PCMH requirements. This has led to improved patient care and increased reimbursement.

Kelly developed the quality assurance program at SNHS, coordinating all departments in developing policies and protocols to improve quality of services and patient care. She tracks patient care quality metrics, shares the results with staff, and motivates providers and staff to strive for improvement. She has led SNHS's search for a new EMR system to streamline documentation and allow improved accuracy in reporting for all departments.

Kelly has recently taken on the role of Health Information Manager and Privacy Officer, working closely with the Compliance Officer to improve and secure the transfer of protected information to and from SNHS. With her positive attitude, she is working with the departments to integrate, facilitate, and improve documentation.

Kelly Colton-Emke is a proud Seneca from the Deer clan. She has dedicated her professional career to serving her community. She is a compassionate, knowledgeable nurse who shows immense dedication and commitment to the Seneca Nation. She is a leader and role model for the staff and community and very worthy of this honor.