

2023 Division of Nursing Services Nurse of the Month: June

I am pleased to nominate Christian Clarquist RN, from the Lac Courte Oreilles Community Health Center in the Indian Health Service (IHS) Bemidji Area, for the Division of Nursing Services, IHS Headquarters, Nurse of the Month! If I could, I would nominate her for "Nurse of the Pandemic."

As her immediate supervisor, I have been witness to her strength and courage throughout the last three years. As Director of Nursing of Lac Courte Oreilles Community Health Center, her compassion for her staff and patients are limitless as is her passion for excellence. I have been in primary care for more than 34 years and tribal healthcare for seven and she is by far the best RN I have worked with. She is also a tribal member here and she is an excellent role model for young tribal members.

In addition to her many duties as Director of Nursing, she inspires the next generation of nurses as she trains student nurses with patience and energy. She writes and re-writes policies, as indicated, and ensures the health center is executing the most up to date policies in accordance with requirements and national standards. In 2022, she supervised the distribution of over 10,000 doses of Covid vaccines. Our patient load has almost doubled to 8,100 patient visits. She has fostered a seamless integration of a Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) program (Buprenorphine and Vivitrol) into our primary care program that has improved access to care for patients with opioid use disorder and substance use disorder.

I could go on and on about her accomplishments and how much our staff and leadership depend on her leadership. As Medical Director, I wholeheartedly support her.