

## 2022 Division of Nursing Services Nurse of the Month: November

It is with great privilege that I submit for consideration recognition for Mr. Alex Daniels, Director of Public Health Nursing (PHN) at the Chinle Service Unit, Division of Community Health Services for the Division of Nursing Services November 2022 Nurse of the Month. He has demonstrated remarkable professional service and distinguished leadership as he leads the PHN department and has made notable contributions to the agency throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and efforts to address communicable disease.

Mr. Daniels has shown tremendous dedication to serving his community and has displayed outstanding leadership. He successfully manages a staff of 80 employees, including PHNs and a covid-19 response team. He managed the coordination and implementation of a Covid-19 response team, and under his leadership, the PHNs provided a wide array of services during the pandemic. His management of patient services and compliance matters resulted in successful hosting of vaccination clinics and conducting home visits to high-risk patients. One of Mr. Daniels exemplary accomplishments as a leader was addressing the syphilis outbreak in the Navajo Nation, beginning with a focus at his service unit. His team developed and implemented protocol and competency training for the Chinle PHN staff to administer penicillin outside of the clinical setting to address this outbreak, demonstrating his vision and commitment to meeting patient needs. Since the fruition of integrating this program, the PHNs have successfully continued to address this public health outbreak at the Chinle Service.

With the assistance of Mr. Daniels, the Navajo Area Nurse Consultant developed an area-wide policy and procedure on syphilis including standing order protocols for penicillin and epinephrine dosing for the PHN program. Because of his dedication to the mission and relentless devotion to continuous professional development, Mr. Daniels sought out and successfully implemented PHN competencies to improve knowledge and skills to coach and facilitate this improved PHN treatment activity, as well as support the implementation of such strategies throughout the organization and community.

Furthermore, this activity led to the development of hiring a STI case manager at the Chinle Service Unit through an IHS-HQ PHN program award. Along with these accomplishments, Mr. Daniels continues to emphasize the importance of continuing home visit to target primary prevention and tertiary care services, including acute to chronic disease health care services. Total patient contact visits for the past year are 479 home visits made, 10,135 for Covid-19 vaccination, contract tracing, covid-19 testing, and immunization services, and 954 attempted visits made without patient contact, ending the FY-2022 visits of 11,568 visits under Mr. Daniels leadership.

Mr. Daniels has been a Registered Nurse for 23 years, 10 of which in Public Health as nurse and a leader. Currently, he has spent the last 6 years at the Chinle Service Unit. It is with my greatest support that I nominate Mr. Daniels for Nurse of the Month.