



Kobe Thammavongsa, BSN, RN

Lieutenant, United States Public Health Service (USPHS)

Anchorage, Alaska/Southcentral Foundation Detox

Years of Service in I.H.S: 1



Why I chose to pursue Nursing as my major...

I chose nursing because I wanted to make a real difference in people's lives, especially in addiction and recovery. Growing up, I saw the effects of addiction up close through family and friends. Those experiences were challenging, but they inspired me to be part of the solution. Nursing felt like the perfect path to support people in their most vulnerable moments and help them get back on track. I'm grateful for the chance to bring a bit of healing and hope to families dealing with addiction.

My I.H.S and previous job assignments...

Right now, I'm working at Southcentral Foundation Detox as a Nurse Shift Supervisor. My role is all about ensuring quality care and supporting a great team of staff. I oversee patient care, help mentor our staff, and focus on quality improvements that keep everything running smoothly. I'm committed to creating a safe, supportive space for individuals going through detox and making sure they receive the highest standard of care.

Why I chose to work at I.H.S.....

I chose to work at IHS because I feel a strong calling to serve communities that often face extra challenges in accessing healthcare. Growing up in Alaska, I saw just how important it is to have compassionate, culturally sensitive care, especially for underserved populations. IHS lets me be part of a team that's truly dedicated to supporting Alaska Native communities, helping close those gaps in healthcare.

My most rewarding experience in I.H.S has been...

IHS has given me some incredibly rewarding experiences, like visiting Kodiak, Alaska, and meeting a group of people who are genuinely supportive and passionate about what we do. But the most rewarding moments actually come later—sometimes months or even a year down the road—when a former patient reaches out to let us know they're still sober and doing well. Those updates mean the world because they remind me that what we're doing here makes a lasting impact.

What is an interesting fact about yourself to share with your I.H.S family...

One of my biggest goals is to visit all 63 national parks across the U.S., and I'm proud to say I've visited 21 so far. But even after seeing so many beautiful places, nothing compares to Alaska in my eyes. I was born and raised here, and I feel a deep connection to Alaska's landscapes and communities—it's hard to imagine calling anywhere else home.