

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

**D'Loni Little Sun, RN, BSN**, serves as a Nurse Clinical Care Coordinator and lead for her care team at Chemawa Indian Health Center from the Western Oregon Service Unit in the IHS Portland Area. She not only provides high quality and continuity of care for patients, but does so while preparing to obtain her certification in Case Management. Her clinical expertise and patient care management aligns with the clinic's mission of providing a caring medical home that is trusted, innovative, and responsive through coordination of care for patients.

She was an integral part of her Care Team's Innovations Project, which was awarded by the Office of Quality for *2021/2022: Addressing Social Determinants of Health to Decrease Obesity Rates at Chemawa Indian Health Center*. She also helped create and implement the Social Determinants of Health screening tool for her clinical care team. This important tool has enabled the team to identify a patient's needs and address them through case management. She has already screened more than 74 patients for social needs and will act as a subject matter expert to help train other nurse case managers.

D'Loni is a role model and mentor to clinical staff, and always willing and ready to help and support her fellow nurses. She continually strives to improve her knowledge and skills and is currently working to achieve Case Management certification to augment the care coordination role. Her continued contributions to the IHS mission are evident in her willingness and dedication to patient care.