

2022 Division of Nursing Services Nurse of the Month: October

The Executive Leadership Team at Red Lake IHS Hospital is pleased to nominate Angelina Rustand, BSN, RN-BC, PHN for Nurse of the Month for October 2022. Angelina has been a continuous model of leadership and dedication at Red Lake Service Unit since 2014. Her current position is that of Quality Improvement Coordinator, but due to staffing shortages, she also willingly has taken on the role of Outpatient Services Supervisor. As such, Angelina manages four OPD teams staffing 16 nurses, demonstrating her cultural sensitivity within the planning committee by helping give these teams Ojibwe names. She was also involved in planning and roll out of our new Walk-In Clinic in 2021, reducing ED overutilization by 20-40 patients per day during a pivotal COVID-19 moment. She continues to manage the Walk-in clinic's two nurses.

At the onset of the COVID pandemic, Angelina was instrumental in planning all aspects of patient testing and treatment, including a beginning in a humble trailer and eventually moving to a large, drive-through testing site. She worked as an RN liaison with physicians and pharmacists to plan and roll out vaccine initiatives and continues to help plan for subsequent booster programs. She also helped develop the Infection Control Program and shares responsibility of the program with our Employee Health RN while we search for a permanent replacement.

Red Lake Hospital has been planning for transition from Joint Commission Rural Emergency Hospital status to Critical Access Hospital with Patient Centered Medical Home for the last 2 years. Angelina has spent many hours chairing weekly meetings and planning for the PCMH component of that transition. In the last month, she helped to lead our team through a Joint Commission mock survey and, after reviewing the results, took on the task of setting up 187 tracers to improve our performance. As Quality Improvement Coordinator, Angelina coordinates and compiles our extensive quarterly report to the Governing Board and attends the board meeting with us, taking feedback and using that to plan for the future. She also chairs the QA/PI committee and promotes the latest in evidence-based practices through ongoing projects, including using the Red Lake Hospital Strategic Plan to write our yearly Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement Plans.

As she constantly rises above and beyond expectations, Angelina's recent volunteer projects included the creation of a beautiful power point presentation for the Joint Commission describing Red Lake Ojibwe culture and history along with the goals and strategic plan for the hospital. We truly could not function as we do without her. In our opinion, Angelina epitomizes the IHS Mission to raise the physical, mental, social and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaskan Natives to the highest level.