

CHEROKEE NATION HEALTH SERVICES AUTISM TASK FORCE



Rebecca Shepherd, DNP, RN
Committee Chair

Dr. Rebecca Shepherd is the Cherokee Nation Health Services Senior Director of Nursing. She received her BSN from University of Arkansas in 2000, an MSN in Nursing Administration/Management in 2017 and a DNP in 2020 from the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Shepherd is passionate about improving access to quality healthcare, innovating care coordination, and providing support to CNHS nursing leaders and frontline nurses.



Juli Skinner
MSW, LMSW

Juli Skinner is the Cherokee Nation Health Services Senior Director of Behavioral Health. Throughout her career she has received multiple honors for commitment to service, advocacy, social work, and youth services. Juli holds several professional memberships and has been privileged to have multiple research papers and studies published. Juli's career path has followed her personal dedication to the wellbeing, safety, and consideration of tribal children, and is a testament to her commitment to the Cherokee Nation for the expansion of behavioral health services.



Amber Tiehen
PT, DPT, OCS, CSRS

Dr. Amber Tiehen is the Cherokee Nation Health Services Senior Director of Rehabilitation Services. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Kinesiology from the University of Arkansas in 2010 and her Doctorate of Physical Therapy in 2014. She is a Certified Stroke and Rehabilitation Specialist and a Board Certified Orthopedic Specialist. Dr. Tiehen has worked for Cherokee Nation Health Services for nine years and feels at home serving her community and advocating for patients.



Leah Baxter
DO, FAAP

Dr. Leah Baxter is the Cherokee Nation Outpatient Health Center Pediatrics Medical Director. She graduated from OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2002 and completed her pediatric residency with OU-Tulsa in 2005. Dr. Baxter also serves as a core faculty member for the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine at Cherokee Nation. She has a passion for increasing access to pediatric services and providing excellent care within the Cherokee Nation health system.



Crystal Hernandez
Psy.D., MBA

Dr. Crystal Hernandez, a proud Cherokee citizen, is a psychologist by training, tribal disabilities expert, researcher and mother of three (including one autistic son). She provides expert consultation and direct services to many tribal nations in relation to mental health and justice. Dr. Hernandez serves as a board member for the Autism Foundation of Oklahoma, the Arc of Oklahoma and is a Program Advisory Committee member for the State of the States in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

