

BHA Spotlight – Sylvia Guthrie-Blandov

Meet Sylvia Guthrie-Blandov who was nominated by the Metlakatla Indian Community for the BHA “Super Star Award”. The Executive Director of Willa mootk Counseling Center wrote “Our BHA Program in Metlakatla has overcome tremendous challenges since March of 2020. During this pandemic we had substantial staff turnover amid the global pandemic. While our organization was one of many to navigate through the barriers to services, this staff member in particular shined bright in Metlakatla.



During the Fall of 2020 Sylvia Guthrie was the only staff member providing Behavioral Health Aid services at Willa mootk Counseling Center. She provided services to 32 of our severely emotionally disturbed clients in whatever capacity she was able to, depending on our community's responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Willa mootk staff were working through community "lock down", surges of covid outbreaks, and a school year of zoom class. During all of this Sylvia maintained the standard of excellence that she has developed over the course of her eight-year tenure at Willa mootk. She provided knowledgeable, flexible, and empathetic support to clients, their families, and our staff.

Since that time, she has obtained a BHA II certification and has stepped into the role of BHA Lead. Through her new leadership position, she is supporting our BHA team through their first certification. Sylvia is a constant flow of ideas and uses her free time to participate in trainings beyond what is needed to maintain her certification. She is a non-judgmental presence for her clients and will often volunteer to take the "high risk" most challenging clients, with whom she serves with unconditional positive regard.

I believe that Sylvia's outstanding accomplishment of steadfast commitment to making our community a better place deserves the Super Star Award, because she was brave, self-less, and dedicated to our clients and their families. Her contributions have no doubt lead to

more positive outcomes for all of Wil la mootk's clients, and, in effect, our overall community.