



Jack Austin, Jr., became Assistant Chief of the Choctaw Nation in 2014, after serving as Director of the Choctaw Nation Recovery Center in Talihina, OK. His journey working for the Choctaw Nation began in 1991 with a position in the Choctaw Nation Health Care System soon after being honorably discharged from the U.S. Army where he began serving in 1987.

He completed his Associates of Arts at Eastern Oklahoma State College in 1999. An opportunity arose to work as a counselor/coordinator with the Cultural Assessment of Resources and Evaluation of Services grant (CARES) from 2003-2008. After receiving a Bachelor's of Arts in Education in 2004 from East Central University,

he received his Masters of Education in 2009, and completed graduate work to attain licensure in Counseling. He began working as the Director of the Choctaw Nation Recovery Center in 2008.

The Choctaw Nation's values of Faith, Family and Culture were exemplified through Assistant Chief Austin's parents, Jack Sr. and Norma (and the late Earlene Austin), all employees of the tribe. He credits them for providing a Christian home which gave him a solid foundation. He and his family have attended the same church for 30 years where he has served as a board member for more than 10 years. As Assistant Chief, he sits on the several boards that generally manage and oversee the overall direction and strategy of the applicable business entities that drive the tribe's new business ventures.

He also currently serves on a national board for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA), which provides expertise on behavioral health and links other Federal agencies, states, service providers and community-based organizations in the region. A proud alumni of Choctaw University Leadership Courses, Assistant Chief Austin encourages employees of the tribe to attain knowledge to become its future leaders. Assistant Chief Austin was published in 2005 for his vision regarding Youth Involvement in Systems of Care. In 2014, Assistant Chief Austin was recognized with the Outstanding Alumni Award from East Central University for his work in Counseling.

Assistant Chief Austin and his wife, Philisha, have been married since 1990. Philisha has also served the Choctaw people since March 2001 as a Licensed Counselor for Chi Hullo Li, a women's residential treatment center of the Choctaw Nation. They have been blessed with oldest son Clark and his wife Tara; daughter Malacha and her husband Ethan, grandson Dawson; and youngest son, Samuel.