



## **Rear Adm. Travis Watts, PharmD** **Oklahoma City Area Director** **Indian Health Service**

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Rear Adm. Travis Watts, PharmD, a member of the Choctaw Nation, is the Director of the Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Service. The IHS, an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services, is the principal federal health care advocate and provider of health care services for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

As the Oklahoma City Area Director, Watts is responsible for the provision of comprehensive healthcare services to one of the largest and most diverse service populations in IHS. The Oklahoma City Area serves over 400,000 patients annually and is home to 43 Tribal Nations in the states of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas. The Oklahoma City Area Indian health system provides direct, preventive, and contract health care services through a successful collaboration of tribal, urban, and federally operated facilities.

Rear Adm. Watts previously served as Acting Director of Field Operations for the Oklahoma City Area, where he oversaw the Area's 11 federally managed facilities and provided management oversight and expertise in formulating policies, goals, and strategies related to Federal program operations and resource allocation.

Rear Adm. Watts began his IHS career as a Commissioned Corps Officer in 1989 as a Junior Commissioned Officer Student Training Extern at the Clinton Indian Hospital. He holds a bachelor's degree in pharmacy from Southwestern Oklahoma State University and a doctorate in clinical pharmacy from the University of Oklahoma. He completed an American Society of Health-System Pharmacists residency in primary care through the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Rear Adm. Watts is certified in pharmacotherapy by the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties and has practiced as a national clinical pharmacy specialist for many years in the Indian Health Service.

During his career, Rear Adm. Watts has served as the Area's Governing Board Chairman, Chair of the Executive Leadership Team, served on several USPHS boards, President for the Northeast Oklahoma Branch of the Commissioned Officer Association, Chairman and Coordinator of the Area Commissioned Officer Awards Committee, Co-Chairman of the Oklahoma City Area Institutional Review Board and served as a member of the National Pharmacy Council. Rear Adm. Watts has been the recipient of numerous awards including the USPHS Outstanding and Distinguished Service Medals, the USPHS Allen J. Brands - Clinical Pharmacist of the Year Award, multiple IHS Director's Awards, the Oklahoma City Area John J. Farris Customer Service Award and the IHS Senior Pharmacist of the Year and the Oklahoma City Area Junior Pharmacist of the Year awards.

Rear Adm. Watts has more than 29 years of experience in clinical pharmacy, hospital and clinic operations, commissioned corps personnel services, and health care administration. He has been married to his wife Sheila for 30 years and together they have two children.