



Jenny Jenkins

Acting Director

Bemidji Area

Indian Health Service

Jenny Jenkins, a member of the White Earth Band of Chippewa Indians, is the Acting Director of the Bemidji Area of the Indian Health Service (IHS). The Bemidji Area serves Tribes in Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Illinois. The IHS, an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services, is the principal federal health care advocate and provider for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

The IHS directly operates two short-stay hospitals, two health centers, and two health stations in the Bemidji Area. The 34 Tribes in the Area run a total of 134 health facilities under the authority of Public Law 93-638, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. These facilities range from fully staffed health clinics to walk-in first aid centers. In addition, there are four urban Indian health programs that operate under the authority of Title V of Public Law 96-638.

After many years in the private sector health care industry, Ms. Jenkins began her IHS career in the Bemidji Area office as Director of Health Information Management. In 1996, she became a Public Health Advisor, and from 1997 to 1998 she acted as Director of the Office of Clinical Support. Ms. Jenkins has also served as CEO for the Cass Lake Hospital on the Leech Lake Reservation. In 2007, after five years in this capacity, she accepted a position as the Deputy Director of Program Operations (Executive Officer) for the Bemidji Area where she provided management oversight for three direct federal sites and the Area office program support departments. She became acting Area Director in 2009.

Ms. Jenkins attended The College of St. Mary and Concordia College majoring in Health Information Management and Organizational Management. She is the recipient of numerous IHS and Area awards for exceptional performance.