



Hickory Starr, Jr.

Acting Director

Oklahoma City Area

Indian Health Service

Hickory Starr, Jr., a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, is Acting Director of the Oklahoma City Area of the Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services.

As the Acting Area Director, Mr. Starr is responsible for the provision of comprehensive healthcare services to one of the largest and most diverse IHS service populations. The Oklahoma City Area was established to serve Tribes in Oklahoma, Kansas, and portions of Texas. The Oklahoma City Area Indian health system provides health care services through IHS owned and operated facilities, urban health programs, and tribally managed programs assumed under the authority of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (Public Law 93-638, as amended). Mr. Starr works to achieve and address Area priorities and policies, including managing the formulation and execution of the Oklahoma Area budget.

Prior to his service with the IHS, Mr. Starr was the Director for the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission and the Administrator for the Oklahoma City Urban Indian Health Program. He began his federal career with the IHS in 1980 serving as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the Talihina Indian Hospital. Since then he has held key leadership positions throughout the IHS in Oklahoma and Maryland. He served as a Facilities Accreditation Officer in the Oklahoma Area Office; Oklahoma Area Personnel Officer; Director for the Division of Tribal Activities in Rockville, Maryland; CEO for W.W. Hastings Indian Hospital in Tahlequah, Oklahoma; and Director for the Office of Planning and Partnership Development in the Oklahoma City Area Office. He also served as the CEO for the Lawton Service Unit.

Mr. Hickory graduated from Central State University in Edmond, Oklahoma, and received his master's degree from the University of Maryland. Mr. Starr has been recognized and received numerous awards from Tribes and federal agencies, including the Secretary of HHS Distinguished Service Awards in 2003 and 2004.