



DEC 14 2015

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to inform you that effective December 13, 2015, the Indian Health Service (IHS) has established a new Deputy Director position to oversee and focus the agency on improving quality improvement practices across the IHS. The Deputy Director, Quality, has the responsibility to ensure that work related to the IHS Direct Service health care program is fully integrated across all levels of the agency and engaged with other HHS Operating Divisions and external partners, including states and other federal agencies.

In addition, I am announcing that Ms. Dorothy A. Dupree, currently the Phoenix Area Director, has been asked to serve in this capacity. Ms. Dupree is a member of the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes and grew up in Poplar, Montana, on the Fort Peck Reservation. In her current position as the Phoenix Area Director, Ms. Dupree provides leadership to the Phoenix Area and oversees the delivery of health care to more than 170,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives in Arizona, Nevada, and Utah. The Phoenix Area administers and provides oversight for two acute care hospitals, one of which is a large referral hospital; two critical access hospitals; three ambulatory care clinics; and three urban Indian health programs. Additionally, two Tribes manage acute care hospitals under Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act authorities, in addition to a number of Tribal clinics primarily located in Nevada.

Ms. Dupree began her career as Director of Finance for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe in Tucson. She then joined the IHS in the late 1980s and later served in a number of leadership roles in the Albuquerque Area, including Executive Officer and Acting Area Director. In 1999, she was the Senior Policy Advisor on Indian Health at the HHS Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), serving in this capacity for 10 years. While in this position, Ms. Dupree addressed policy impacting Indian health care, established a Tribal Leaders Advisory Group, and formed the CMS Tribal Affairs Office before returning to the IHS in 2008. Upon her return to the IHS, Ms. Dupree served as the Director for the Tucson Area from 2008 to 2010 and the Director for the Phoenix Area from 2010 to the present, where she was assigned to improve deficiencies identified through an internal IHS administrative review. Most recently, in 2015, Ms. Dupree successfully completed a one year, four month assignment to the Billings Area as the Acting Area Director to focus on improving the quality of care, which was the focus of a Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Field Hearing in early 2014.

Ms. Dupree is the recipient of numerous awards from IHS and CMS, including the HHS Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service, IHS Superior Performance awards, CMS Administrator's Achievement awards, and CMS Superior Performance awards. She has also been recognized by Tribal organizations and has been awarded the National Luna Wessel Leadership Award from the California Rural Indian Health Board and the National Impact Award from the National Indian Health Board. Ms. Dupree received her Bachelor of Science degree in Education from the University of North Dakota and her Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Arizona.

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I have asked RADM Ty Reidhead to serve as Acting Director, Phoenix Area IHS, while we advertise and permanently fill the position. As is the policy of the IHS, the Tribal Leaders in the Phoenix Area will be involved in the interview of qualified candidates.

Please join me in welcoming Ms. Dupree to her new position and offering her support in her new capacity. It is my intent to advertise the Phoenix Area Director position as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

/Robert G. McSwain/

Robert G. McSwain
Principal Deputy Director