



James Driving Hawk

Deputy Director for Field Operations Indian Health Service

Mr. James Driving Hawk, an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, is the deputy director for field operations of the Indian Health Service, an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services. The IHS is the principal federal health care advocate and provider of health care services for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

As deputy director for field operations, Mr. Driving Hawk provides management oversight and resource allocation for six IHS Area Offices: Alaska, Portland, California, Billings, Great Plains and Bemidji. The Indian health care system delivers comprehensive services to nearly 2.7 million eligible American Indians and Alaska Natives residing on or near reservations directly served by the IHS or through tribally contracted and operated health programs.

Mr. Driving Hawk previously served as chief executive officer for the Phoenix Indian Medical Center. From April 2017 to September 2021 Mr. Driving Hawk served as area director for the Great Plains Area. It serves 17 Tribes and more than 130,000 American Indian people eligible for IHS services in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota. Before joining the IHS Great Plains Area, Mr. Driving Hawk was the executive officer for the IHS Phoenix Area Office.

With more than 25 years of service to IHS, Mr. Driving Hawk brings deep expertise in financial management, healthcare administration, purchased/referred care, business office operations, and tribal budget consultation to field operations. He began his career as a supervisory operating accountant, then served IHS Phoenix Area as budget officer and later director of revenue enhancement and director of field operations. In 2013 Mr. Driving Hawk was asked to serve as executive officer for the Phoenix Area. During his career he also served as chief financial officer for IHS Bemidji Area. Mr. Driving Hawk was chief executive officer for the Southern Band Health Center in Elko, Nevada from 2002 to 2005 and chief executive officer for the Fort Yuma Hospital from 2005 to 2007.

Mr. Driving Hawk holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Cardinal Stritch University and is a current member of the American College of Healthcare Executives.