



SEPT 29 2022

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I was officially sworn in as the Indian Health Service (IHS) Director on September 26, and I appreciate the numerous Tribal Leaders and Urban Indian Organization Leaders who attended my swearing-in ceremony on September 27. As a career IHS employee and life-long user of the Indian health system, I reaffirm my commitment to our patients, Tribal and Urban Indian Organization partners, and IHS employees.

It is my honor and privilege to serve as the leader of the IHS. I am excited for this opportunity and understand that while the IHS has made great strides to improve health care services over the last few years, there are areas we must review and improve. I am committed to working with our Tribal and Urban Indian Organization partners, and our partners across the Federal Government, to continue raising the health status of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level.

In the coming weeks, I look forward to sharing more information with you regarding my priorities for advancing the IHS and the services we provide. My initial areas of focus will include communication, alignment of resources to priorities, and streamlining business and operational processes. I value open communication that is timely and meaningful. I also know that it is essential for us to align our resources and priorities to ensure we are maximizing our resources for the greatest impact. Additionally, we must look closely at how we are doing business to ensure we are working as a unified and efficient IHS health care system. All of these efforts will lead to improved IHS oversight and accountability.

I commit to working closely with Tribal and Urban Indian Organization partners to form an improved understanding of Tribal health and Urban Indian health care systems and their needs. The IHS believes wholly in the unique government-to-government relationship with Tribal governments, and I remain committed to regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration.

I also want to express my gratitude to my friend and colleague, Ms. Elizabeth Fowler, for her leadership as the IHS Acting Director since January 2021. I hope to continue the progress made under her leadership.

Thank you for your support and partnership as we work together to provide high-quality health care for the people we serve.

Sincerely,

Roselyn Tso
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Roselyn Tso -S
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Roselyn Tso
Director