



Dr. Beverly Cotton, DNP

Acting Director, Office of Clinical and Preventive Services

Indian Health Service

Dr. Beverly Cotton, DNP, RN, CPNP-PC, an enrolled member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, is the Acting Director of the Office of Clinical and Preventive Services (OCPS) for the Indian Health Service (IHS). 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.

In this position, Dr. Cotton is the principal advisor for policy development, budget development, and allocation for clinical, preventive, and public health programs throughout the IHS. OCPS is responsible for national health professional recruitment, health program implementation, emergency services, and the management of several grant programs.

Dr. Cotton previously served as the Director for the IHS Division of Behavioral Health. She joined IHS in 2011 as the National Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Coordinator and established the Tribal Forensic Health Care Training Program. While at IHS, Dr. Cotton has led a team of professionals in the IHS Division of Behavioral Health who began new grant programs, training projects, and initiatives, including the Preventing Alcohol-Related Deaths grant program, Behavioral Health Integration Initiative; Zero Suicide Initiative; Trauma Informed Care Collaborative, an integrated trauma informed care into pediatric primary care initiative; and a training series on trauma informed care.

Before coming to IHS, she worked as a pediatric nurse practitioner at Our Kids, Inc., in Nashville, TN, a clinic specializing in integrated behavioral health and the medical evaluation of children and adolescents who have been sexually abused. She has served as the emergency department nurse manager for the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw, MS, and had several positions covering medical-surgical and school nursing. Prior to her healthcare career, she worked as a detention officer for the Choctaw Police Department and as a Native youth counselor in the Youth Opportunity Program for her Tribe.

Dr. Cotton is a board certified nurse practitioner in primary care pediatrics. She started her nursing career at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, MS, as a neonatal intensive care unit nurse. Dr. Cotton holds an associate degree in nursing from Meridian Community College, a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Southern Mississippi, a master's degree in nursing from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and a doctor of nursing practice from Vanderbilt University.