



James Driving Hawk Acting Director Great Plains Area Indian Health Service

Mr. James Driving Hawk, an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, is the Acting Director of the Great Plains Area of 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.

As Acting Director, Mr. Driving Hawk has administrative responsibility for 19 Great Plains service units consisting of seven hospitals and 10 health centers. The Great Plains Area also supports two Urban Indian Health Programs. The Indian health system in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota serves 17 Tribes and more than 130,000 American Indian people eligible for IHS services. Mr. Driving Hawk oversees this system, which is composed of services provided through IHS federal-government-operated facilities as well as health care services provided by Tribes that have assumed partial or full responsibility for their own health care programs under the authority of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.

Before joining the IHS Great Plains Area, Mr. Driving Hawk served as Executive Officer for the IHS Phoenix Area Office. He chairs the IHS National Council of Executive Officers, which is responsible for identifying and disseminating administrative best practices among IHS Executive Officers nationwide and which advises the IHS Director on administrative and management matters. Mr. Driving Hawk also serves IHS as a member of its Labor Management Relations Council, which promotes effective relations between IHS and its unions.

With more than 19 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 IHS Great Plains Area. 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. 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.