



Remarks for RADM Chris Buchanan
Twelve Clans Unity Hospital Community Celebration
July 25, 2018 | 11:00 a.m. CDT | Winnebago, NE

Remarks as prepared

Good morning. Let me begin by thanking you all for having me here today, and for the work you do to promote Native health. I am honored to join you at the Twelve Clans Unity Hospital open house. With me here today is Rear Admiral Kevin Meeks, IHS deputy director for field operations, and Mr. Jim Driving Hawk, IHS Great Plains Area director.

On behalf of the Indian Health Service, I want to congratulate the Winnebago Tribe on entering a self-governance agreement to operate this hospital. We look forward to continuing to work in close partnership with the Winnebago Tribe.

Rear Admiral Weahkee regrets that he could not be here today but he sends his best and wanted me to congratulate the Winnebago Tribe on assuming operation of the Twelve Clans Unity Hospital under a self-governance agreement.

IHS is committed to ensuring the successful transition from federal to tribal control of health care services and we look forward to continuing to work in close partnership with the Winnebago Tribe.

IHS recognizes that tribal leaders and members are in the best position to understand the health care needs and priorities of their communities. Our self-governance program is designed to ensure the successful transition from federal to tribal control of health care services. Through the program, tribes continue to

develop innovative solutions that address the health care delivery challenges facing their communities.

The self-governance program provides tribes with the flexibility to manage program funds to best fit the needs of their citizens and tribal communities. Approximately 370 federally recognized tribes are now participating in the self-governance program and more than two-thirds of the total annual IHS funding for American Indian and Alaska Native health is now administered by tribes. With this agreement with the Winnebago Tribe as well as agreements entered this month with the Pinoleville Pomo Nation in the IHS California and the Samish Indian Tribe in the IHS Portland Area, the IHS has now entered into 101 compacts and 127 funding agreements under the authority of Title V of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.

It has taken a lot of work to get here. We wish you great success. Thank you again for having me here with you today.