

Roubideaux, Yvette (IHS/HQ)

From: Roubideaux, Yvette (IHS/HQ)
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 10:14 AM
To: IHS ALL
Subject: Update

To: IHS-ALL

I am writing to update you on the status of the position of the Director of the Indian Health Service. The position is a 4-year term position, so when my initial 4-year term ended in May 2013, President Obama nominated me to serve a second 4-year term as Director of the Indian Health Service. Since then, I have served as the Acting Director. The Administration has indicated to me that they strongly support my candidacy for the position of Indian Health Service Director.

Last week, it was determined that a provision in a 2009 appropriations act is permanent law that limits the amount of time that a nominee can serve in an Acting position for which they are nominated. As a result, I am writing to let you know that Secretary Burwell is appointing me to be a Senior Advisor to the Secretary for American Indians and Alaska Natives, effective today. I will serve in this position while my nomination is pending, and the Administration will continue to work to secure my confirmation as IHS Director. In my new capacity, I will work on a set of specific projects to help improve health for American Indians and Alaska Natives in general. While I am in this new position, I will not be able to act as the IHS Director, and cannot make decisions on IHS business or direct IHS staff.

Therefore, effective today, Robert McSwain, IHS Deputy Director, will serve as Acting Director of the Indian Health Service. The other Senior Staff positions will remain the same. Mr. McSwain previously served as the IHS Director before my tenure in the position, and I have full confidence in his ability to lead the agency while my nomination is in progress.

Please give your full support to Mr. McSwain during his time as the Acting Director of the Indian Health Service and he and HHS will keep you updated. Otherwise keep up the great work you all do each and every day for the patients we serve.

Thank you for continuing to change and improve the IHS.

Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H.
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