



Capt. Kelly Battese Acting Director Office of Direct Service and Contracting Tribes **Indian Health Service**

Capt. Kelly Battese, an enrolled member of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, is the acting director of the Office of Direct Service and Contracting Tribes for the Indian Health Service, an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services. The IHS is the principal federal health care provider and health advocate for American Indian and Alaska Native people.

As acting director of ODSCT, Capt. Battese provides leadership and oversight of tribal health activities authorized under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act for direct service tribes, and serves as the agency's principal liaison to the 573 federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes in support of Indian self-determination, as authorized under Title I of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. Capt. Battese oversees the policy coordination, technical assistance and support to tribal governments and the IHS director in the area of self-determination, advocacy for direct service tribes in the development of health policy program management, budget allocation, and government-to-government relationships between tribes and the IHS.

Capt. Battese started his career with IHS in 2005 as a staff pharmacist with the Haskell Indian Health Center in Lawrence, Kansas. His work ethic and leadership skills have transitioned him into several leadership positions within the IHS Oklahoma City Area over the last 14 years. In 2007, he served as the chief pharmacist of the White Cloud Health Station in White Cloud, Kansas, and assumed the chief executive officer duties for that station in 2008. In 2012, he transferred to the Claremore Indian Hospital where he served as the ambulatory care director and later as the hospital's administrative officer. These positions and experience led him back to serve as the CEO of the Haskell Health Clinic.

Capt. Battese serves as the vice-chair for the National Council of Chief Executive Officers and as the team commander for Rapid Deployment Force 4 – one of five tier 1 deployment teams in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

Capt. Battese received his Bachelor of Arts in biology from Tabor College, a Masters of Business Administration in health care from Southern Nazarene University and Doctorate of Pharmacy from the University of Kansas. Capt. Battese has been married to Rachel for 16 years and has three children, Alayna, Natalie, and Tanner. He enjoys spending time with family and friends as well as time in the outdoors.