



Capt. Marcus Martinez, P.E.

Director

Portland Area

Indian Health Service

Capt. Marcus Martinez, P.E., a member of the Spokane Tribe of Indians, is the director of the Indian Health Service Portland Area. The IHS, an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the principal federal health care advocate and provider for American Indians and Alaska Natives. Capt. Martinez has more than 27 years of experience working with federal agencies, tribes, and local governments, including acquisitions, finances, and health care oversight. As Portland Area director, he oversees a health care delivery system for more than 100,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and part of Utah, which includes 43 federally recognized tribes.

This position includes administrative responsibility for clinical, dental, preventive health, nutrition, behavioral health, environmental health, public health, and facility construction services. Capt. Martinez consults with tribal leaders at local, state, and national levels and keeps the tribes informed of new legislation, policy changes, management actions, and available resources. In addition, Capt. Martinez provides oversight of six federally-operated service units in the Portland Area and maintains a close working relationship with the local tribal health boards.

Capt. Martinez started his IHS career in 1995 as an engineering technician for the IHS Spokane District Office's Office of Environmental Health and Engineering. He then became a field engineer and worked his way up to managing the district office and two field offices. He has held multiple leadership positions during his IHS career, including serving as the chief executive officer of the Wellpinit Service Unit from 2009-2019. He most recently served as the associate Portland Area IHS Office of Environmental Health and Engineering director. Capt. Martinez is the current chair for the IHS OEHE Leadership Personal Development Board.

As a U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps officer, Capt. Martinez deployed with the USNS Mercy to respond to the devastation from a 2005 Tsunami in Indonesia in 2005 and also responded to Hurricane Ike in Texas as an emergency response team member in 2008. He was also a volunteer EMT-B with the Spokane Tribal Ambulance for 14 years.

CAPT. Martinez has a Bachelor's in aeronautical and astronautical engineering from the University of Washington and a Master's in engineering management from the University of Idaho. He has been married for 24 years and has five children.