



Johnnita Tsabetsaye Acting Director Office of Direct Service and Contracting Tribes **Indian Health Service**

Johnnita Tsabetsaye, a member of the Zuni Tribe, is the acting director of the Office of Direct Service and Contracting Tribes for the Indian Health Service, an agency within the U.S. 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, Ms. Tsabetsaye 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 574 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. She also oversees the policy coordination, technical assistance and support to tribal governments and the IHS director in the areas 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.

In January 2020, Ms. Tsabetsaye was appointed the Contract Support Cost director at IHS headquarters, where she shared management responsibility as the principal advisor on administrative and management functions, systems, activities, and concerns for the IHS as it pertains to CSC. She joined ODSCT in November 2017 as a management and program analyst and previously served as a public health advisor for the IHS Phoenix Area in the Office of Self-Determination. Before transferring to the Phoenix Area, Ms. Tsabetsaye worked as a project officer for the Bureau of Indian Education, U.S. Department of the Interior Office. She started her federal service career with the IHS Albuquerque Area in 1997 as a public health advisor in the Office of Tribal Self-Determination. Before entering federal service, Ms. Tsabetsaye enjoyed working with various tribes and tribal organization in New Mexico in the field of accounting and financial management.

In 2006, Ms. Tsabetsaye was a recipient of a doctoral fellowship in economics from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for Health Policy at the University of New Mexico. Ms. Tsabetsaye received her Master of Public Administration and Bachelor of Economics and Business Administration from the University of New Mexico.