



Jonathan Merrell, RN, BSN, MBA **Deputy Director** **for Quality Health Care** **Indian Health Service**

Jonathan Merrell, RN, BSN, MBA, an enrolled member of the Delaware Tribe of Indians and the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma by Delaware descent, is the Deputy Director for Quality Health Care for the Indian Health Service.

In this role, Merrell serves as the principal advisor to the IHS Director on health care quality and provides leadership and management over the IHS Quality Program. His responsibilities include implementing and updating the IHS quality framework, advising IHS offices on quality improvement methods and ensuring that work related to the quality of the IHS Direct Service health care program is fully integrated across all levels of the agency and engaged with other HHS Operating Divisions and external partners, including states and other federal agencies.

The IHS Quality Program aims to ensure that American Indian and Alaska Native people receive the highest quality, patient-centered, safe, and reliable health care through the IHS Direct Service health care programs. Merrell provides accountable, transparent leadership to IHS Direct Service programs that includes the development and issuance of clear and current quality guidance and tools that ensure compliance with quality-based industry standards.

Merrell has served as Acting Deputy Director for Quality Health Care since March 2017. Previously, Merrell served as the Director, Office of Clinical Support for the Portland Area Office of the Indian Health Service. Mr. Merrell was previously the Senior VP of Performance Improvement at OCHIN, Inc. He has an extensive background in leadership development, organization planning and strategy, emergency and critical care nursing, clinical applications, quality assurance, compliance and accreditation. Prior to OCHIN, he was responsible for performance improvement at the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma Health Services. Mr. Merrell has also served as contract/adjunct faculty for the IHI and Northeastern State University of Oklahoma. Mr. Merrell has served as a member of the National Quality Forum and served as a member of the National Association of Community Health Centers, social determinants measurement committee.

He earned his Associate Degree in Nursing from Roger's State University in 1997, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2004 from Oklahoma Wesleyan University, and his Master's in Business Administration from the Chesapeake Energy School of Business at Oklahoma Wesleyan University in 2008. He has received multiple awards and recognition including the Portland Area Leadership Award in 2015.