



R. Kim Hartwig, M.D.

Director of Strategic Initiatives

Indian Health Service

Dr. R. Kim Hartwig, a Nimiipuu (Nez Perce) board certified family physician, recently joined the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as director of strategic initiatives for the Indian Health Service. In this role, she collaborates across HHS and IHS to advance creative, community driven solutions that elevate tribal health and improve clinical outcomes. Her approach centers holistic healing and cultural grounding, connecting clinical care with traditional practices and Indigenous knowledge, while addressing the historic harms that have shaped health for American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

Born and raised in Lapwai, Idaho, on the Nez Perce Reservation, Dr. Hartwig became the first female Nimiipuu physician after earning her M.D. from the University of Washington School of Medicine in 2003. She served as medical director for Nimiipuu Health (2019–2024), leading quality improvements, regional collaboration, and public health outreach during COVID-19. Her prior experience also includes serving as medical director at Benewah Medical Center, practicing at Providence Medical Group in Spokane, Washington, and owning and operating Hartwig Health, PLLC.

Dr. Hartwig contributes to regional and national efforts through board service, including membership on the Idaho Academy of Family Physicians board and the Alzheimer's Association leadership committee, and remains a committed advocate for culturally rooted, accessible care across Indian Country.