



Terri Schmidt, R.N.

Director

Direct Service and Contracting Tribes

Indian Health Service

Terri Schmidt, RN is the Director for the Direct Service and Contracting Tribes for the Indian Health Service. Ms. Schmidt is Arapaho and a member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. The IHS, an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services, is the principal federal health care advocate and provider for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

As ODSCT director, Ms. Schmidt 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.

Ms. Schmidt has a broad array of management experience, and her career progression includes both direct clinical care, service unit leadership, area office, and IHS headquarters experience. She began her IHS career as a staff nurse, and through the years she served as the chief nurse executive, chief executive officer for the Clinton Service Unit, and area purchased/referred care officer in the Oklahoma City Area. She most recently served as director for the Division of Contract Care in the Office of Resource Access and Partnerships.