Stacey Ecoffey

Deputy Director for Intergovernmental and External Affairs

Indian Health Service

Stacey Ecoffey, an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, is the deputy director for intergovernmental and external affairs for the Indian Health Service. The IHS, an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the principal federal health care provider and health advocate for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

As the deputy director for intergovernmental and external affairs, Ecoffey provides leadership on tribal and urban Indian health activities through oversight of the Office of Tribal Self-Governance, Office of Direct Service and Contracting Tribes, and Office of Urban Indian Health Programs. Additionally, she provides leadership, oversight and direction on all congressional engagements and interactions, and correspondence with external stakeholders through supervision of the Congressional and Legislative Affairs staff, the Public Affairs staff, and the Executive Secretariat staff in the Office of the Director.

Ecoffey was born, raised, and resides on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Prior to joining the IHS, she served as the principal advisor for Tribal Affairs at HHS for over 15-years, overseeing all departmental tribal consultations, the development, leadership, and management of the Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee, and communication to and with tribal leaders and tribal governments. In this capacity, she has advised six HHS cabinet-level secretaries during their tenure at the Department. Ecoffey has led tribal issues through administrative transitions, providing guidance and advice on HHS policies and programs and their potential and real impacts on Indian Country. Ecoffey also represented the Department as a liaison to the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and served as the lead HHS liaison for the White House Council on Native American Affairs. Her leadership in this role has resulted in numerous concrete policy and programmatic changes at HHS for the betterment of Indian Country.

From late 2016 to June 2018, Ecoffey served as the acting deputy assistant secretary for Native American Affairs and acting commissioner for the Administration for Native Americans at the Administration for Children and Families. She was the first person to serve in the role of deputy assistant secretary for Native Americans. In this position, Ecoffey served as an advocate for Native Americans and oversaw ANA's $56 million in discretionary funding programs,

while helping to coordinate activities within HHS and ACF to develop policies, programs, and budgets to best reflect the needs of Native Americans.

Ecoffey earned a Bachelor of Arts from Colorado State University and received a Master's Degree in Social Work from Boston College. She has been recognized for her more than 15-years of experience working with tribal governments and was awarded the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development's "40 under 40" award in 2012, and a National Impact Award from the National Indian Health Board in 2014. Ecoffey received HHS' highest honor in 2015 when she received the HHS Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service. She was also recognized as the 2015 "Woman of the Year" by the National Indian Women's Supporting Each Other.