BEMIDJI AREA TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES TO NATIONAL, DEPARTMENTAL, AND INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEES AND WORKGROUPS

National Indian Health Board (NIHB) – Contact: Phyllis Davis at (616) 681 0360

Website: www.nihb.org

Purpose: They advocate on behalf of all federally-recognized tribes in the development of national Indian health policy at the federal level and, keeping tribal governments current on changes in mainstream health care management. They provide a variety of services to tribes, Area Health Boards, federal agencies, and private foundations.

Representative: Cathy Abramson, Tribal Council Member
Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Indians
cabramson@saulttribe.net
410 Dawson Street
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
906.635-3054
906.322-3823 (cell)

Alternate: Phyllis Davis, Tribal Council Member
Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish
Pottawatomi
padavis@mbpi.org
PO Box 218
Dorr, MI 49323
616.681.0360
Fax: 616.681.0380

Term in Office: No term limit as long as elected position held (MAST appointed)

HHS Secretary’s Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC Members) – Contact: Stacy Ecoffey at (202) 290-7410.

Website: www.hhs.gov/intergovernmental/tribal

Purpose: To promote a government-to-government relationship between the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) and Indian Tribal Governments. The Secretary’s Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC) is to seek consensus, exchange views, share information, provide advice and/or recommendations, as well as facilitate other interaction related to intergovernmental responsibilities or administration of HHS programs.

Representative: Cathy Abramson, Director, Tribal Council Member
Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Indians
cabramson@saulttribe.net
410 Dawson Street
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
906.635-3054
906.322-3823 (cell)

Alternate: Phyllis Davis, Tribal Council Member
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616.681.0360
Fax: 616.681.0380

Term in Office: Two calendar years. Terms will be staggered. When a vacancy occurs, IGA will
notify Indian tribes in the respective Area and ask them to nominate a replacement.

**HHS Health Research Advisory Council (HRAC) – Contact: LCDR Tracy Branch at (240) 453-6157**

Website: minorityhealth.hhs.gov/hrac

**Purpose:** The Federal delivery of health services and funding of programs to maintain and improve the health of American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) are consonant with the Federal Government's historical and unique legal relationship with Indian Tribes. In recognition of this, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) supports research on improving the health of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

**Representative:** Aaron Payment (Term 2012 - 2015)  
Tribal Chairman Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians  
523 Ashmun Street  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
Phone: 906-632-6829  
Email: aaronpayment@saultetribe.net  
Phone: 906-440-5937  
Email: aaronpayment@yahoo.com

**Alternate:** Phyllis Davis, Tribal Council Member  
PO Box 218  
Dorr, MI 49323  
616.681.0360  
padavis@mbpi.org  
Fax: 616.681.0380

**Term in Office** No term limit as long as elected official.  
Delegate and Alternate Selection: The OMH will send a letter to tribal leaders requesting nominations for HRAC delegates from Tribes.

**HHS Center for Disease Control (CDC) Tribal Consultation Advisory Committee - Contact: Dr. Dawn Wyllie (218) 444-0491**

Website: http://www.cdc.gov/stltpublichealth/TribalSupport/TCAC/charter.html

**Purpose:** The Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) to the Director shall advise the Director of CDC and Administrator of ATSDR on policy issues and broad strategies that may affect American Indian/Alaska Native tribes and people. TAC will assist CDC/ATSDR in fulfilling its mission to promote health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability through established and ongoing relationships and consultation.

**Representative:** Cathy Abramson  
Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Indians  
3875 Nicolet Road  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 906-322-3823  
cabramson@saulttribe.net  
Fax: 906-632-6289

**Alternate:** Lisa Abramson, MPH  
Inter-Tribal Council of MI  
2956 Ashmun Street  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
Term in Office: No limit to the length of service. The Chairman of the TCAC will notify the respective Area when vacancies occur.

**HHS Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Tribal Technical Advisory Group (TTAG) - Contact: Deanna Dick at (218) 444-0463**

Website: [http://cmsttag.org](http://cmsttag.org)

Purpose: The Tribal Technical Advisory Group (TTAG) was formed to provide advice and input to the CMS on policy and program issues affecting delivery of health services to American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) served by CMS-funded programs. TTAG serves as an advisory group by holding monthly conference calls and three face-to-face meetings each year.

Representative: Melinda Danforth  
Oneida Tribal of Wisconsin  
mdanforj@oneidanation.org  
P O Box 365  
Oneida, WI 54155  
920-869-2214  
Fax: 920-869-4040

Alternate: Phil Norrgard, Health Director  
Fond Du Lac Band of Lake  
philnorrgard@fdlrez.com  
927 Trettel Lane  
Cloquet, MN 55720  
218.879.1227  
Fax: 218.879.8378

Term in Office Two years

**IHS Tribal Self-Governance Tribal Advisory Committee (TSGAC) – Contact Deanna Dick at (218) 444-0463**

Website: [http://www.ihs.gov/selfgovernance/index.cfm?module=advisory_committee](http://www.ihs.gov/selfgovernance/index.cfm?module=advisory_committee)

Purpose: The Indian Health Service Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee (TSGAC) provides advice to the IHS Director and assistance on issues and concerns pertaining to Tribal Self-Governance and the implementation of the Self-Governance within the IHS. The TSGAC represents Self-Governance Tribes by acting on their behalf to clarify issues that affect all compacting tribes specific to issues affecting the delivery of health care of American Indian and Alaska Natives.

Representative: Greg Matson, Vice-Chairman  
Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin  
gmatson@oneidanation.org  
PO Box 365  
Oneida, WI 54155  
920.869.2214  
Fax: 920.869.4040
Alternate: Robert Kewaygoshkum  
Grand Traverse Band  
2605 NW Bay Shore Drive  
Peshawbestown, MI 49682  
231-534-7750 or 7129  
Fax: 231-534-7010

Term in Office Three years

IHS Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee - Contact: Debra Smith at (218) 444-0454

Website: http://www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/Diabetes/index.cfm?module=peopleTLDC

Purpose: The Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee (TLDC) makes recommendations to the IHS Director on broad-based policy and advocacy priorities for diabetes and related chronic conditions. The TLDC also plays a key role in ensuring that the IHS consults with Tribes before making decisions on diabetes treatment and prevention efforts.

Representative: Cathy Abramson, Tribal Council Member  
410 Dawson Street  
Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Indians  
cabramson@saulttribe.net  
906.635-3054  
906.322-3823 (cell)

Alternate: Phyllis Davis, Tribal Council Member  
PO Box 218  
Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish  
Pottawatomi  
padavis@mbpi.org  
616.681.0360  
Fax: 616.681.0380

Term in Office: No term limits, changes to the TLDC membership are to be submitted by the appropriate Area Director or Tribal Chairperson.

IHS Area Budget Formulation Team - Contact: Bryce Redgrave at (218) 444-0453

Website: http://www.ihs.gov/PublicAffairs/DirCorner/index.cfm?module=tc_workgroups

Purpose: In preparation for the IHS Area-wide Tribal consultation session, Area budget formulation teams provide ongoing support to the budget formulation activities at the Area level by solicitation of Area-wide input in establishing the health and budget priorities for the Area in consultation with tribes. The health priorities established at the Area work sessions provide the basis for developing the IHS Annual Performance Plan that is submitted as a part of the IHS budget request.

Representative: Phyllis Davis, Tribal Council Member  
P.O. Box 218  
Dorr, MI 49323  
616.681.0360

Alternate: Robert Two Bears, District V Legislator  
Ho-Chunk Nation  
robert.twobears@ho-chunk.com  
715.284.9343
Term in Office: Annually: Two Reps are selected each year after their Area Budget Formulation session; after the national meeting a small group is selected annually from 24 representatives to develop and present recommendations to HHS. No By-Laws or charter.

**IHS Direct Services Tribes - Contact: Bryce Redgrave at (218) 444-0453**

Website: [http://www.directservicetribes.org](http://www.directservicetribes.org)

Purpose: The Direct Services Tribe (DST) Advisory Committee was established to provide leadership, advocacy, and policy guidance that impact the delivery of health care for Indian Tribes. The DST Advisory Committee also provides verbal and written recommendations to the IHS director.

Representative: Erma Vizenor  
Chairwoman  
White Earth Band of Chippewa Indians  
26246 Crane Road  
White Earth, MN 56591  
218-983-3285  
Fax: 218-983-3285

Tribal Alternate: Vacant

Federal Liaison: Larry Patnaude  
Chief Executive Officer  
White Earth Health Center  
40520 County HWY 34  
Ogema, MN 56569-9612  
(218) 983-6214

Term in Office: No term limit as long as elected position held.

**IHS National Tribal Advisory Committee on Behavioral Health - Contact: Cleo Monette 218-444-0485**


Purpose: The NTACBH helps guide the development of, and support for, behavioral health throughout the IHS/Tribal/Urban (I/T/U) systems, and works to ensure that services are as broadly integrated, available and culturally appropriate as possible. It serves as an advisory body to the IHS Director and to the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH). The NTAC provides guidance and recommendations regarding behavioral health programmatic issues which affect the delivery of behavioral health care for American Indian/ and Alaska Native (AI/AN) served by the IHS and the entire Indian Healthcare System.

Representative: Lana Causley, Board Member, Unit II  
Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians  
lcausley@saulttribe.net  
523 Ashmun Street  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
906.635.6050  
Fax: 906.632.6289
IHS Facilities Appropriations Advisory Board (FAAB) - Contact: Louis Erdrich at (218) 444-0507

Website:  [http://www.ihs.gov/PublicAffairs/DirCorner/index.cfm?module=tc_boards](http://www.ihs.gov/PublicAffairs/DirCorner/index.cfm?module=tc_boards)

Purpose: The Facilities Appropriation Advisory Board (FAAB) is responsible for evaluating existing or new facilities policies, procedures, and guidelines and recommending changes as necessary. If any of the recommendations necessitates changes in law, this group will recommend desired legislative changes. The FAAB meets 2 times per year.

Tribal Representative: Carol Rollins
Environmental Health Director
Ho-Chunk Nation
P O Box 636
Black River Falls, WI 54615
715-284-9851

Alternate: Don Smith
Facilities, LCO
13380 West Trepania Road
Hayward, WI 54843
715-634-4795

Federal Representative: Louis Erdrich, Director
Bemidji Area Office/OEHE
522 Minnesota Avenue NW
Bemidji, MN 56601
louis.erdrich@ihs.gov
218.444.0507

Term of Office: Four years

IHS Information System Advisory Committee (ISAC) – Contact: Bryce Redgrave at (218) 444-0453

Website: [http://www.ihs.gov/cio/isac/](http://www.ihs.gov/cio/isac/)

Purpose: The Information Systems Advisory Committee (ISAC) is established to guide the development of a co-owned Indian health information infrastructure and information systems. The ISAC assists in ensuring that the information systems are available, accessible, useful, cost effective, user-friendly, and secure for local-level providers, and that these systems continue to create standardized aggregate data that supports advocacy for the Indian health programs at the national level.

Federal Representative: Bryce Redgrave
Bemidji Area Office
522 Minnesota Avenue NW
Bemidji, MN 56601
bryce.redgrave@ihs.gov
218.444.0453
**IHS National Nurse Leadership Council (NNLC) - Contact: CAPT. Amy Buckanaga at (218)335-3254**

Website: [http://www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/nnlc](http://www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/nnlc)

Purpose: The National Nurse Leadership Council (NNLC) ensures the Nursing Program representatives serves as the advisory group to the Chief Nurse and other IHS leadership on all Indian Health Systems nursing issues. They are responsible to promote professional standards and professional competencies within the Indian Health System.

Representative: CAPT Amy Buckanaga, MSN, RN  
Nursing Supervisor  
Cass Lake Indian Hospital  
amy.buckanaga@ihs.gov

**Term in Office** Two years

**IHS National Oral Health Council - Contact: Dr. Dawn Wyllie 218-444-0491**

Website: [http://www.ihs.gov/doh/nohc](http://www.ihs.gov/doh/nohc)

Purpose: The committee composition is made up of the entire Indian Health Services dental staff of commissioned corps, tribal and urban programs who are charged with the responsibility to improve oral health of the Native American/Alaskan Native Populations throughout the United States. To accomplish this task, the committee strives to communicate accurate assessments of the needs with all clinical IHS staff and the IHS leadership in the development to improve policies and resolutions.

Representative: Moody Wasif, DDS  
Sault Ste. Marie HHS  
mwasif@saulttribe.net

**Term in Office** Two years

**IHS National Council of Clinical Directors (NCCD)**

Website: [http://www.ihs.gov/ihm/index.cfm?module=dsp_ihm_circ_main&circ=ihm_circ_9706](http://www.ihs.gov/ihm/index.cfm?module=dsp_ihm_circ_main&circ=ihm_circ_9706)

Purpose: The National Council of Clinical Directors (NCCD) assists Clinical Directors at the IHS national level and tribal and urban health programs to effectively implement Indian Health Services in health care policies for American Indian and Alaska Natives throughout the United States. They are charged with the responsibility to assist IHS Clinical Directors in proper training and careers development, as well as a forum to initiate IHS strategic planning and development in health care issues to improve
patient care quality at the Service Units, Area Offices, and Headquarters levels.

Representative:  Paul Ditmanson, M.D.  
Clinical Director, Red Lake Hospital  
paul.ditmanson@ihs.gov  
Hwy 1  
Red Lake, MN 56671  
218-679-3912  
Fax: 218-679-0181

Antonio Guimaraes, M.D.  
Clinical Director, Cass Lake Hospital  
antonio.guimaraes@ihs.gov  
425 7th Street NW  
Cass Lake, MN 56633  
218-335-3205  
Fax: 218-335-3300

Term in Office:  Permanent committee of IHS

IHS National Council of Chief Executive Officers

http://www.ihs.gov/NCCEO/

Purpose:  The National Council of Chief Executive Officers (NCCEO) is a council for Chief Executive Officers, Tribal Health Program Directors, and Urban Indian Health Program Directors for all Hospitals and Clinics in the Indian Health System.

Representative:  Norine Smith  
Cass Lake PHS Hospital  
425 7th Street NW  
Cass Lake, MN 56633  
218-335-3200

IHS Behavioral Health Work Group (started 11/08) – Contact: CAPT Jon Perez, Ph.D. at (301) 281-1777

Website:  http://www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/Behavioral/documents/AIANNationalBHStrategicPlan.pdf

Purpose:  The IHS Behavioral Health Work Group (BHWG) was established as a technical group of subject matter experts charged with providing guidance to the IHS in the development of programs and services for behavioral health for AI/AN communities. The BHWG is composed of Tribal and Urban representatives who are providers and experts in the field of behavioral health and/or substance abuse.

Representative:  Cheryl Samuels-McCue,  
Director of Substance Abuse/Mental Health  
Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians  
csamuels@lttbodawa-nsn.gov  
101 Greenwood Road  
Petoskey, MI  49770  
231.242.1460

Alternative:  Tom Barrett, Director  
Red Lake Substance Abuse Program  
terminator_1959@hotmail.com  
PO Box 550  
Red Lake, MN  56671  
218.679.3392

Term of Office  No limitation

Created on 1/19/2010, Revised on 2/15/2013
IHS National Contract Health Services (CHS) Workgroup – Contact Carl Harper at (301) 443-1553

Website: http://www.ihs.gov/PublicAffairs/DirCorner/index.cfm?module=tc_workgroups

Purpose: The CHS Workgroup is charged with reviewing input received on how to improve the CHS Program. They are also responsible for looking at the Fiscal Year 2001 CHS distribution formula to determine if changes are needed for the new funding beginning in Fiscal Year 2011 and beyond.

Tribal Representative: Cathy Chavers
Bois Forte
Cchavers07@yahoo.com
PO Box 145
Orr, MN 55771
218.757.3507

Federal Representative: Roberta Bellanger, CHS Coordinator
Red Lake Indian Hospital
roberta.bellanger@ihs.gov
24760 Hospital Drive
Red Lake, MN 56671
218.679.3912

IT Investment Review Board – Contact Jenny Jenkins at (218) 444-0452

Website: http://www.ihs.gov/ihm/index.cfm?module=dsp_ihm_circ_main&circ=ihm_circ_0704

Purpose: The Information Technology Investment Review Board (ITIRB) is the official IHS reviewing body for information technology (IT) investments, including all major initiatives, funding, and expenditures. The ITIRB ensures IT resources support the IHS mission.

Representative: Jenny Jenkins, Acting Area Director
Bemidji Area Office
jenny.jenkins@ihs.gov
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Bemidji, MN 56601
218.444.0452