



FEB 06 2019

Dear Nashville Area Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

This letter is to formally announce and inform you that Dr. Beverly Cotton was appointed to the Senior Executive Service and selected to serve as Director of the Nashville Area, Indian Health Service (IHS). I apologize for the delay in notifying you of Dr. Cotton's selection. The delay was due to the lapse in appropriations.

As Area Director, Dr. Cotton will be responsible for providing leadership in the administration of a comprehensive Federal, Tribal, and Urban Indian health care system. An enrolled member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Dr. Cotton has served as the Acting Director of the IHS Office of Clinical and Preventive Services since April 2018.

Dr. Cotton is a board certified nurse practitioner in primary care pediatrics. She joined the IHS in 2011 as the National Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Coordinator and established the Tribal Forensic Health Care Training Program. Dr. Cotton also previously served as the Director for the IHS Division of Behavioral Health from July 2013 through March 2018. In that role, she led a team of professionals who began new grant programs, training projects, and initiatives, including the Preventing Alcohol-Related Deaths grant program, Behavioral Health Integration Initiative, Zero Suicide Initiative, Trauma Informed Care Collaborative, an integrated trauma informed care into pediatric primary care initiative, and a training series on trauma informed care.

Dr. Cotton started her nursing career as a neonatal intensive care unit nurse at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi. She also holds an associate degree in nursing from Meridian Community College, a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Southern Mississippi, a master's degree in nursing from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and a doctor of nursing practice degree from Vanderbilt University.

I also want to thank Bruce Finke, M.D., for his leadership in serving as the Acting Director of the Nashville Area IHS for the past year. Dr. Finke will continue to serve as Acting Deputy Director to assist Dr. Cotton in assuming her new duties and responsibilities at the Nashville Area Office.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Cotton as the IHS Nashville Area Director.

Sincerely,

/Michael D. Weahkee/

RADM Michael D. Weahkee, MBA, MHSA  
Assistant Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service  
Principal Deputy Director