



SEP 11 2020

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am pleased to announce that Rose Weahkee, Ph.D., has been appointed to the Senior Executive Service and selected to serve as Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS) Office of Urban Indian Health Programs (OUIHP). As OUIHP Director, Dr. Weahkee will provide oversight of functions and operations related to the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and health care services provided to American Indian and Alaska Native beneficiaries who reside in urban areas across the nation.

Dr. Weahkee will be responsible for providing leadership in the administration of agreements with the 41 Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs). These 41 UIOs are 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that provide culturally appropriate and quality health care and referral services for Urban Indians throughout the United States in 22 states. She makes recommendations and provides key advice as a subject matter expert on methods of improving health care access and delivery to Urban Indians through collaborative efforts with Tribes and Tribal Organizations; Federal, state, and local governments; public and private foundations; and other entities.

In September 2017, Dr. Weahkee joined the OUIHP as Deputy Director. She previously served as Director of Field Operations for the Phoenix Area IHS, helping to oversee the delivery of health care services to more than 170,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives in Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and a portion of California. Dr. Weahkee also previously served as Director for the IHS Division of Behavioral Health and as the California Area Behavioral Health Consultant, where she provided behavioral health leadership to Tribal and Urban Indian health programs in California.

Before joining the IHS, Dr. Weahkee served for 8 years as Administrative Clinical Director for United American Indian Involvement, Inc. in Los Angeles, California. In this position, she was responsible for providing administrative and clinical leadership for a range of community-based services. As a licensed psychologist, she also provided clinical supervision, mental health therapy, substance abuse counseling, psychological assessments and testing, individual, group, and family therapy, and parent education and training.

In 2006, Dr. Weahkee was the recipient of the American Psychological Association's Early Career Award in the Public Interest. In 2011 and 2012, she was recognized for her leadership in behavioral health with an IHS National Director's Award. In 2011, she was recognized for her leadership and community involvement with the prestigious Luana Reyes Leadership Award. Also in 2011, Dr. Weahkee was awarded a Presidential Citation by the American Psychological Association for her lifelong commitment to multi-cultural issues and her work in psychology. In 2018, she was recognized for her contributions to the OUIHP with an IHS Director's Award.

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Dr. Weahkee holds a master's degree and a doctoral degree in clinical psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Loyola Marymount University.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Weahkee as OUIHP Director.

Sincerely yours,

/RADM Chris Buchanan, R.E.H.S., M.P.H./  
Assistant Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service  
Deputy Director