



January 16, 2025

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Beverly Cotton as the Deputy Director for Field Operations (DDFO) at the Indian Health Service (IHS). Dr. Cotton is an enrolled member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

As IHS DDFO, Dr. Cotton provides management oversight and resource allocation for four IHS Area Offices: Albuquerque, Navajo, Oklahoma City, and Tucson. The Indian health care system delivers comprehensive services to nearly 2.8 million eligible American Indians and Alaska Natives residing on or near reservations directly served by the IHS or through tribally contracted and operated health programs.

Dr. Cotton previously served as the director for the Nashville Area IHS, the largest geographic and culturally diverse region in the IHS, spanning 24 states and serving 36 Tribal nations and 3 Urban Indian health programs. She served as the previous acting director for the IHS Office of Clinical and Preventive Services. As acting director, she was the principal advisor for policy development, budget formulation, and delivery of headquarters programs, services, functions, and activities related to clinical, preventive, and public health services throughout IHS.

Dr. Cotton joined the IHS in 2011 as the national sexual assault nurse examiner coordinator and later established the Tribal Forensic Health Care Training Program. In 2013, she became the director for the IHS Division of Behavioral Health, leading a team of professionals in the development of new grant programs, training projects, and initiatives.

Before joining the IHS, she worked as a primary care pediatric nurse practitioner and in several registered nurse roles, including as the emergency department nurse manager for her Tribe's hospital in Choctaw, Mississippi. Prior to her health care career, she worked as a detention officer for the Choctaw Police Department and as a Native youth summer counselor in the Youth Opportunity Program for her Tribe.

Dr. Cotton 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.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Cotton as Deputy Director for Field Operations at IHS.

Sincerely,

Roselyn Tso  
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Roselyn Tso  
Director