



Margo D. Kerrigan

California Area Director

Indian Health Service

Margo D. Kerrigan, M.P.H., a member of the White Earth (Mississippi) Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, began her career with the Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in 1979 with the IHS California Area Office of Program Operations. She then served with the Phoenix Area Office of Third-Party Health Resource Management, followed by an assignment to the Office of the Director in the Nashville Area. From 1989 to 1996, she served as the Director of the Division of Management Policy, Office of Administration and Management, at IHS Headquarters in Rockville, Md.

In September 1996 Ms. Kerrigan assumed her responsibilities as the Director of the IHS California Area. As Area Director, she manages a unique health care program provided entirely through contracts as allowed by the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, Public Law 93-638, where tribes establish and maintain responsibility for the development and operation of their health facilities, programs, and services. The California Area serves 103 tribal communities through 26 rural health care operating units, 7 urban health programs, and 14 alcohol treatment programs. The Area Office carries out the federal government's responsibility to provide health care services to federally recognized American Indians and Alaska Natives. As part of the national Indian health system of federal, tribal, and urban Indian health programs, the California Area also contributes to the support of seven urban health programs located in Oakland, Sacramento, San Jose, Santa Barbara, San Diego, and Los Angeles, Calif.

Ms. Kerrigan holds a bachelor of arts degree in Human Biology from Stanford University, Palo Alto, Calif., and a master of public health degree in health administration and planning from the University of California at Berkeley.

Ms. Kerrigan is actively involved in the American Public Health Association (APHA) and was the first American Indian to serve on its Executive Board in its 120-year history. She founded APHA's American Indian and Alaska Native Caucus. Among her honors is a 1993 Public Health Service (PHS) Special Recognition Award for outstanding contributions to the management control systems of the IHS. She recently led a Workers' Compensation Task Force that received a 1995 PHS Special Recognition Award and Group Citation. She was recognized by the National Indian Health Board in 1995 for her voluntary work on APHA's American Indian and Alaska Native Caucus. In 1997, she was recognized by Vice President Albert Gore's National Performance Review Committee for her contributions to the Department of Health and Human Services Internal Regulations workgroup. In 1997, she was inducted into the Stanford University's Alumni Hall of Fame for her contributions in public service to Indian people. In FY 2002, Ms. Kerrigan was selected as a recipient of the Presidential Rank Award. These awards are presented annually to top federal managers for extended, exceptional performance in the Federal government.