



OCT 16 2003

Dear Tribal Leader:

W. Craig Vanderwagen, M.D., Acting Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for the Indian Health Service (IHS) Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, has taken a voluntary, temporary assignment in Iraq. To ensure the continuity of advice and guidance on health care policies and issues is available to the Office of the Director, I am appointing Vincent Berkley, M.D., as the Acting CMO for Headquarters effective October 1.

In addition to providing medical advice and guidance to me and the immediate Office of the Director staff on American Indian and Alaska Native health care policies and issues, Dr. Berkley's duties will include acting as the primary liaison and advocate for clinical and community-based health professionals, providing national and international health care leadership and representation for the Agency, and ensuring that patient care and medical standards and concerns are represented in the decisionmaking process of the Agency. He will be responsible for establishing professional contacts with medical, educational, and physician organizations.

Dr. Berkley's most recent leadership role as CMO for the Phoenix Area has provided him with the experience for the Agency-wide leadership required for the position of Acting CMO for IHS Headquarters. Dr. Berkley has served on the Walker River Paiute Tribal Reservation in northern Nevada. He received his medical degree from the Philadelphia College of Medicine in 1980 and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix in 1992. He holds the rank of Captain in the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

I appreciate Dr. Berkley's willingness to accept this important leadership assignment. I know I can count on all of you to do all you can to support him in this temporary role.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles W. Grim, DDS".

Charles W. Grim, D.D.S., M.H.S.A.
Assistant Surgeon General
Director