



## **Charles W. Grim, D.D.S., M.H.S.A.**

### **Assistant Surgeon General**

### **Senior Executive Policy Advisor**

### **Indian Health Service**

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Charles W. Grim, D.D.S. is the Senior Executive Policy Advisor for the Indian Health Service (IHS). Dr. Grim is an Assistant Surgeon General and holds the rank of Rear Admiral in the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Services (USPHS). He is a native of Oklahoma and a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.

As Senior Executive Policy Advisor, Dr. Grim serves as the IHS principal advisor on all key departmental policies and initiatives. Dr. Grim reviews all IHS policy and is the key advisor to the IHS Director and Deputy Director on the coordination of the review of all major issues of significant importance to IHS. He reviews major decisions for the IHS Director and advises him directly with respect to consistency with law, departmental, and IHS policy. The IHS is responsible for providing preventive, curative, and community health care to approximately 1.9 million of the Nation's 3.3 million American Indians and Alaska Natives. The IHS is the principal federal health care provider and health advocate for Indian people. The IHS is composed of 12 administrative Area (regional) Offices, which oversee local hospitals and clinics.

Prior to this position, Dr. Grim was appointed by President George W. Bush and received unanimous Senate confirmation as the Director of the Indian Health Service. Dr. Grim administered the nationwide multi-billion dollar health care delivery program from August 2002 until September 2007.

Dr. Grim graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry in 1983 and began his career in the IHS with a 2-year clinical assignment in Okmulgee, OK, at the Claremore Service Unit. Dr. Grim was then selected to serve as Assistant Area Dental Officer in the Oklahoma City Area Office. As a result of his successful leadership and management of the complex public health dental program, he was appointed as the Area Dental Officer in 1989 on an acting basis.

In 1992, Dr. Grim was assigned as Director of the Division of Oral Health for the Albuquerque Area of the IHS. He later served as Acting Service Unit Director for the Albuquerque Service Unit, where he was responsible for the administration of a 30-bed hospital with extensive ambulatory care programs and seven outpatient health care facilities. Dr. Grim was later appointed as the permanent Director for the Division of Clinical Services and Behavioral Health for the Albuquerque Area and had the responsibility for working with all health related programs at the Area level. Dr. Grim was then appointed Acting Executive Officer for the Albuquerque Area, one of three top management officials for the two-state region, and was responsible for the fiscal and administrative leadership of the area.

In April 1998, Dr. Grim transferred to the Phoenix Area IHS as the Associate Director for the Office of Health Programs. In that role, he focused on strengthening the Phoenix Area's capacity to deal with managed care issues in the areas of Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program of Arizona. He also led an initiative within the Area to consult with Tribes about their views on the content to be included in the reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, P.L. 94-437.

In 1999, Dr. Grim was appointed as the Acting Director of the Oklahoma City Area Office, and in March 2000 he was selected as the Area Director. Dr. Grim managed a comprehensive program that provides health services to the largest IHS user population, more than 280,000 American Indians comprising 37 Tribes. The geographic area of responsibility covers the states of Oklahoma, Kansas, and portions of Texas. Health care is provided through direct care, contract care, or tribally operated facilities. As an Area Director, he was also a member of the Indian Health Leadership Council composed of IHS, tribal, and urban Indian health program representatives, which is a decision making body of the agency that examines health care policy issues.

In addition to his dentistry degree, Dr. Grim also has a master's degree in health services administration from the University of Michigan. Among Dr. Grim's honors and awards are the U.S. Public Health Service Commendation Medal (awarded twice), Achievement Medal (awarded twice), Citation, Unit Citation (awarded twice) and Outstanding Unit Citation. He has also been awarded Outstanding Management and Superior Service awards by the Directors of three different IHS Areas. He also received the Jack D. Robertson Award, which is

given to a senior dental officer in the USPHS who demonstrates outstanding leadership and commitment to the organization. Dr. Grim is a member of the Commissioned Officers Association, the American Board of Dental Public Health, the American Dental Association, the American Association of Public Health Dentistry, and the Society of American Indian Dentists.