



Phyllis S. Wolfe

Director

Urban Indian Health Programs

Indian Health Service

Phyllis S. Wolfe, a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, is the Director of the Office of Urban Indian Health Programs for the Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Ms. Wolfe began her career with the IHS in 1980. She was recruited to IHS Headquarters from the Public Health Service Regional Office in San Francisco, California.

As Director of the Urban Indian Health Programs, Ms. Wolfe is responsible for planning, developing and executing a government health-related program that serves American Indian and Alaska Native people now residing in Urban areas throughout the United States. These programs include direct medical services, alcohol/substance abuse services, mental health, HIV/AIDS, and health promotion and disease prevention services. She recommends and supports methods of improving health care availability and delivery to the Urban American Indian and Alaska Native people through collaborative efforts with Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations; Federal, State and Local governments; and foundations and other entities. She serves as the principal advisor to the IHS Director on all issues related to Urban Indian health.

From 1980 to 1999, she served as a Grants Management Specialist and, at various times, as Acting Chief of the IHS Grants Management Branch. She administered 25 IHS discretionary and entitlement grant programs valued at \$550 million under the Indian Self-Determination and Education and Assistance Act, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, and the Public Health Service Act.

Since 1999 until late November 2005, Ms. Wolfe served as Special Assistant and Senior Advisor to the Director of IHS Field Operations. She provided national leadership, management and oversight of the field operations structure that delivers comprehensive health services through a system of IHS, Tribal and Urban operated facilities and programs. Ms. Wolfe directed and guided the analysis of legal, financial and policy issues and provided recommendations for developing management and executive decisions on issues of national importance that impact the ability of the IHS to carry out its mission and respond to Departmental and Congressional mandates.

During her employment as Special Assistant and Senior Advisor to the Director of IHS Field Operation, from October 2003 through October 2004, Ms. Wolfe served on special assignment as Executive Director, Intradepartmental Council on Native American Affairs (ICNAA) in the HHS Office of the Secretary. She provided direction and management of the ICNAA to achieve the HHS Secretary's vision for all Staff and Operating Divisions to be responsible for and to increase funding and access to program resources for American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Americans.

Ms. Wolfe holds a bachelors degree from the American University in Washington, D.C.