



Ron Cornelius Acting Director Aberdeen Area Indian Health Service

Ron Cornelius, a member of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, is Acting Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS) Aberdeen Area. The IHS, an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services, is the principal federal health care advocate and provider for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

As Acting Director for the Aberdeen Area, Mr. Cornelius has administrative responsibility for 19 service units consisting of 7 hospitals and 10 health centers. He manages a varied health program for more than 118,000 American Indian people eligible for IHS services. The Aberdeen Area IHS serves 17 Tribes and supports two urban Indian health programs; one located in Pierre, S.D., and the other in Omaha, Neb. The Aberdeen Area employs more than 1,900 employees and has an annual operating budget of more than \$302 million.

Mr. Cornelius oversees a unique Indian health system composed of direct health services provided primarily through the IHS owned and operated facilities, but also through Tribes that have assumed partial or full responsibility for their own health care programs through contractual arrangements with the IHS Aberdeen Area under the authority of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (Public Law 93-638, as amended).

Mr. Cornelius began his career with the IHS in December 1985. He recently served as the Acting Deputy Area Director for Management Operations for the Aberdeen Area. He has also served in a number of Aberdeen Area leadership roles, including serving as a standing member of the Aberdeen Area Governing Body Committee, the Aberdeen Area Senior Leadership Group, and the Aberdeen Area Executive Committee member.

Mr. Cornelius has participated in various national financial leadership roles during his career, most recently as a member of the Aberdeen Area Financial Management Officer Advisory Committee Officer and as the IHS United Financial Management System Accounts Payable Module Lead.

Mr. Cornelius received his Bachelor of Science degree in business from Montana State University, Bozeman, MT, in 1985.