



OCT 26 2018

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to express the Indian Health Service's (IHS) concern about sexual abuse of minors by a former IHS physician, Dr. Stanley Patrick Weber.<sup>1</sup> We have heard from many who are rightfully alarmed and are questioning how the IHS is addressing the situation. Though the IHS cannot comment on the ongoing criminal cases involving Dr. Weber, we are extremely troubled by his actions and the negative impact on our patients. The IHS wants to work with our Tribal communities to prevent these actions from ever happening again.

The IHS has taken immediate steps to affirm and enhance safeguards to protect our patients, especially children. Efforts taken to date include the following:

- Reminding all IHS staff of the duty to report suspected abuse and the methods for reporting;
- Reinforcing with all staff the strict prohibitions against inappropriate contact with children, including those stated in the *Indian Health Manual*, Part 3, Chapter 23: Ethical and Professional Conduct of Health Care Providers;
- Reminding all IHS staff of the protections for whistleblowers who report suspicions of abuse;
- Drafting a new policy to further stress zero tolerance for abuse of children; and
- Initiating an internal patient safety medical quality assurance review.

The IHS encourages its employees, Tribal leaders, patients, family members, and others to report suspicions of abuse. Two methods for reporting suspicions of any fraud, waste, and abuse are the IHS hotline and the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General (OIG) hotline, both of which allow for anonymous reporting.

- IHS hotline: (301) 443-0658. The number is monitored Monday-Friday, and you can also leave a message. In addition, reports can be e-mailed to [reportfraud@ihs.gov](mailto:reportfraud@ihs.gov) or submitted online at <https://www.ihs.gov/reportFraud/>.
- OIG hotline: (800) 447-8477.

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<sup>1</sup> On September 6, 2018, a jury in Montana convicted Dr. Weber of sexually abusing two boys between 1993 and 1995; the jury convicted him of two counts of aggravated sexual abuse of a child, one count of attempted aggravated sexual abuse of a child, and abusive sexual contact of a minor. *United States v. Weber*, No. 18-14-GF-BNM (D. Mont.). Sentencing is scheduled for December 2018. Dr. Weber also has been indicted in South Dakota for sexual abuse dating from 1998 to 2011. *United States v. Weber*, No. CR 17-50033 (D.S.D.). A trial is currently scheduled for January 2019. Dr. Weber worked at multiple IHS facilities in the Oklahoma City, Billings, and Great Plains Areas while employed by IHS (from 1986-2016).

The IHS is committed to working with all Tribes and Tribal leaders to protect the safety of our patients, especially children. Please send any suggestions for improving current practices and policies to the following address:

Principal Deputy Director  
Indian Health Service  
5600 Fishers Lane, Mail Stop: 08E86  
Rockville, MD 20857

Sincerely,

/Michael D. Weahkee/

RADM Michael D. Weahkee, MBA, MHSA  
Assistant Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service  
Principal Deputy Director