



Rose Weahkee, Ph.D.

Acting Deputy Director for Management Operations Indian Health Service

Dr. Rose Weahkee, a member of the Navajo Nation, is the acting deputy director for management operations for the Indian Health Service. The IHS, an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the principal federal health care advocate and provider of health care services for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

As the acting deputy director for management operations, Dr. Weahkee serves as the principal advisor to the IHS director for the management of IHS operations. She is responsible for providing management direction to IHS program offices, including implementing the IHS mission and agency goals; providing overall organization management to improve agency performance; developing strategic plans; and planning, directing, and evaluating operations of the headquarters functions, authorities, and responsibilities in support of the director.

Dr. Weahkee previously served as the director of the Office of Urban Indian Health Programs and was responsible for providing leadership in the administration of agreements with 41 urban Indian organizations. These 41 UIOs are 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that provide culturally appropriate and quality health care and referral services for urban Indians throughout the U.S. in 22 states. She made recommendations and provided key advice as a subject matter expert on methods of improving health care access and delivery to urban Indians through collaborative efforts with tribes and tribal organizations; federal, state, and local governments; public and private foundations; and other entities.

In September 2017, Dr. Weahkee joined the Office of Urban Indian Health Programs as deputy director after serving as director of field operations for the Phoenix Area IHS, helping to oversee the delivery of health care services to more than 170,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives in Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and a portion of California. Dr. Weahkee also previously served as director for the IHS Division of Behavioral Health and as the California Area behavioral health consultant, where she provided behavioral health leadership to tribal and urban Indian health programs in California.

Before joining the IHS, Dr. Weahkee served for 8 years as the administrative clinical director for United American Indian Involvement, Inc. in Los Angeles. In this position, she was responsible for providing administrative and clinical leadership for a range of community-based services. As a licensed psychologist, she also provided clinical supervision, mental health therapy, substance abuse counseling, psychological assessments and testing, individual, group, and family therapy, and parent education and training.

In 2006, Dr. Weahkee was the recipient of the American Psychological Association's Early Career Award in the Public Interest. In 2011 and 2012, she was recognized for her leadership in behavioral health with an IHS National Director's Award. In 2011, she was recognized for her leadership and community involvement with the prestigious Luana Reyes Leadership Award. Also in 2011, Dr. Weahkee was awarded

a Presidential Citation by the American Psychological Association for her lifelong commitment to multi-cultural issues and her work in psychology. In 2018, she was recognized for her contributions to OUIHP with an IHS National Director's Award. Dr. Weahkee was also the recipient of the Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley's Collaborative Impact Award Recognizing Excellence in Leadership in 2020.

Dr. Weahkee received her Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Loyola Marymount University and her masters and doctoral degrees in clinical psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology.