



Kathleen R. Annette, M.D.

Bemidji Area Director

Indian Health Service

Kathleen R. Annette, M.D., a member of the White Earth Band of Chippewa and a Minnesota native, began her career with the Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services, in 1986 as a medical officer at the Leech Lake Service Unit at Cass Lake, Minn. She subsequently held various positions of increasing responsibility, including Clinical Director of the Leech Lake Service Unit and later as the Chief Medical Officer for the Bemidji Area of the IHS.

Selected as the Director of the IHS Bemidji Area in 1990, Dr. Annette manages a varied health care program. The Bemidji Area provides health services for more than 60,000 American Indians from the 33 federally recognized tribes in the states of Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Health care is provided through direct care, contract care, or tribally operated facilities. Health facilities range from urban health clinics, community health nursing stations, and walk-in first aid centers to fully staffed hospitals and clinics with lab, pharmaceutical, and X-ray facilities. As part of a national Indian health system of federal, tribal, and urban Indian health programs, the Bemidji Area also contributes to the support of five urban health programs located in the cities of Minneapolis, Minn.; Detroit, Mich.; Green Bay and Milwaukee, Wis.; and Chicago, Ill.

Dr. Annette is involved with the development and implementation of an annual Health Care Providers conference that focuses on health issues impacting American Indians, serves on an advisory committee for a joint Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and State “Emerging Infectious Disease” project, and is a frequent speaker on Indian health at medical schools and other institutions. As an Area Director, she also is a member of the Executive Leadership Council, a decision-making body of the agency that examines health care policy issues as they pertain to the IHS.

A graduate of the University of Minnesota, Dr. Annette holds a bachelor of arts degree in chemistry and a doctor of medicine. She obtained her residency training at the Duluth Family Practice Center, receiving board certification in 1986. Professional affiliations include the Association of American Indian Physicians.

In FY 2000, Dr. Annette was selected as a recipient of the Presidential Rank Award. These prestigious awards are presented annually to top federal managers for extended, exceptional performance in the federal government. Dr. Annette’s other honors, awards, and recognitions include: the U.S. Public Health Service Outstanding Service Award; the American Indian Service Awards; the IHS Group Award for the National IHS Quality Management Health Professionals Workgroup on Recruitment and Retention; the Mead Johnson Award from the American College of Family Practice; and the Association of American Indian Physicians Recognition Award for Endeavors in American Indian Education on AIDS.