



## **Dale Keel**

### **Oklahoma Area Director (Acting)**

### **Indian Health Service**

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Dale Keel, a member of the Chickasaw Nation and an Oklahoma native began his career with the Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services, in 1980 as an audiologist at the Gallup Indian Medical Center in Gallup, New Mexico. In 1984 Mr. Keel transferred to the Oklahoma City Area Office (OCAO) in Oklahoma City. He has served in a number of key OCAO senior management positions including Director, Office of Health Programs; Director, Office of Program Planning and Evaluation; and Deputy Area Director.

As Acting Director for the Oklahoma City Area, Mr. Keel is responsible for a comprehensive health program serving the largest IHS service population in the United States extending health care to over 285,000 American Indians in Oklahoma, Kansas and a portion of Texas. Approximately 12,000 admissions and 1.5 million outpatient visits are made annually at 7 Indian hospitals and 42 outpatient health centers administered through 11 Service Units located throughout Oklahoma, northeastern Kansas, and Eagle Pass, Texas. Additional services are provided through 4 Urban Programs located in Wichita, Kansas and Dallas, Texas; and Tulsa and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Additionally, his program provides health professional technical and staff support for tribal programs. Health care delivery in the Oklahoma City Area is truly a partnership of the Federal and Tribal programs. Mr. Keel is the principal IHS spokesman for the 44 tribes in the region. He explains IHS policies to congressional groups, state programs, other federal agencies, and the public in general.

Mr. Keel was commissioned as an Officer in the U.S. Public Health Service in 1980 and was appointed as a member of the regular corps in 1989. Mr. Keel currently holds the rank of Captain. His service awards include the Outstanding Service Medal; Achievement Medal (awarded twice); Citation; Unit Commendation; and National Defense Service Medal.

Mr. Keel is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and received a bachelor of science degree from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma and a master of science degree from Texas Tech University. He received a board certification in audiology in 1982.