



Taylor Jones Satala, B.S., M.S.W. Tucson Area Director Indian Health Service

Taylor Jones Satala, a Hopi and Yavapai-Apache Indian, assumed his responsibilities as the Indian Health Service (IHS) Tucson Area Director in October 1998. As a Public Health Service scholarship recipient, he was commissioned in the National Health Service Corps in 1978 and served as a Medical Social Worker with the State Maternal and Child-Health Program in Rapid City, South Dakota, until 1980. After completing his service obligation, he worked with the University of Kansas as an Extension Associate for the School of Social Welfare Mental Health Paraprofessional Training Project. In 1984 he began his career with the IHS as a Medical Social Worker at the Colorado River Service Unit, in Peach Springs, Arizona. In 1985 he served as the Acting Health Center Director and later as the Health Center Director and Health Systems Administrator until 1989. In 1989 he accepted the position of Service Unit Director for the Phoenix Area - Keams Canyon Service Unit, located in Keams Canyon, Arizona, a position he held until his selection as Area Director.

As the Tucson Area Director, Mr. Satala manages primary care and community outreach programs for the Tohono O'odham Nation and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona. He administers a total health program to identify and correct health deficiencies with the assistance of tribal governments. A very important aspect of his responsibilities as Area Director is the emphasis on consultation with tribal groups and leaders at local, state, and national levels to promote their fullest possible participation in carrying out health programs that affect the Indian communities that they represent. He also keeps the tribal leadership informed of new legislation, policy changes, management actions, and any additional resources that may be available to meet the needs of the tribes. As part of a national Indian health system of federal, tribal, and urban Indian health programs, the Tucson Area also contributes to the support of one urban health program located in Tucson, Arizona.

Tucson Area health services are centered at the Sells (Arizona) Service Unit, with two satellite health centers in Santa Rosa and San Xavier. Health care in the Sells Service Unit is a combined effort of the IHS and the Tohono O'odham Health Department, providing a comprehensive health program of inpatient, ambulatory, and community health services. The Sells Hospital, a modern 37-bed facility with JCAHO accreditation, is the central component of the Sells Service Unit, providing general medical and primary care on an inpatient and outpatient basis and some emergency services. The other Tucson Area service unit is also managed in partnership with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. Services are rendered directly and indirectly through an innovative system of subcontracts, including some services through a Tucson-based health maintenance organization.

Mr. Satala earned a bachelor of science degree in social work and a masters of social work from Arizona State University. He served as a United States Air Force as a munitions maintenance specialist in Vietnam and received the Vietnam Service and Combat medals.