



Doni L. Wilder

Portland Area Director

Indian Health Service

Doni L. Wilder, an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux tribe, began her career in Indian health in 1983 as the Assistant General Manager of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon. In 1986, she joined the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) and became the Executive Director in 1989. She served in that capacity until 1998 when she accepted the position of Area Director for the Indian Health Service (IHS) Portland Area.

The Portland Area IHS provides health care for 91,000 American Indians, primarily members of the 43 federally recognized tribes in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. Ms. Wilder manages a unique health care program that includes clinical, dental, behavioral health, nutrition, environmental health, and facility construction services. Ms. Wilder also manages a large Contract Health Service (CHS) program through which inpatient and specialty care are purchased.

The IHS Portland Area provides health services through 15 health centers, 28 health stations, two dental clinics, and six CHS programs. Tribes also operate programs under P.L. 93-638. The health centers are ambulatory clinics in which local practitioners provide a road range of services. Many locations also operate specialty clinics, staffed by private specialists, to supplement the family practice orientation of IHS/tribal staff physicians. Health stations are generally open less than 40 hours per week and/or provide a less comprehensive level of care. Operated directly by the IHS are seven health centers, one health station and four CHS programs. The IHS also provides funding to three urban health clinics located in Seattle and Spokane, WA, and in Portland, OR, and two youth residential treatment programs.

Ms. Wilder administers a total health program including prevention, clinical care, and public health activities. An important aspect of the Area Director position is consultation with tribal leaders at local, state, and national levels to promote full participation in carrying out health programs that affect the Indian communities. The Area Director also keeps the tribes informed of new legislation, policy changes, management actions, and resources available to the tribes. In addition, each service unit in the Portland Area maintains a close working relationship with the local tribal health board. The Area Office provides core funding to the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB), a tribal organization which represents all of the federally recognized tribes in the Portland Area on health related issues. Delegates of the NPAIHB are selected by their tribal council and serve in an advocacy and advisory capacity to the Area Director.

Ms. Wilder earned a bachelor of science degree in anthropology from Portland State University (PSU). She continued her professional education at PSU in Education and Public Administration. Among her awards are a special recognition from the National Indian Health Board for her work in rebuilding that organization and a 10-year service award from the NPAIHB recognizing her contribution to national resource allocation and information system issues.