



CAPT Sandra Pattea

Deputy Director
for Intergovernmental Affairs
Indian Health Service

CAPT Sandra Pattea, a member of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, and a descendent of the Hopi Tribe of Arizona, is the Deputy Director for Intergovernmental Affairs for the Indian Health Service (IHS). The IHS, an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services, is the principal federal health care advocate and provider for American Indians and Alaska Natives. In this position, CAPT Pattea advises the IHS Director and provides oversight on tribal and urban Indian health activities and communications as well as public, legislative, and Congressional relations within the Office of the Director.

CAPT Pattea is currently a nurse officer in the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service with over 27 years of active duty. From November 2009 to July 2010, CAPT Pattea served as an advisor to the IHS Director, and from July 2010 to January 2011 she served as the Acting Deputy Director for Intergovernmental Affairs.

CAPT Pattea came to IHS headquarters from the Phoenix Area as the Integrated Services Delivery Network Coordinator. She formerly worked with the Phoenix Area Tribes, service units, and urban programs of Arizona, Nevada, and Utah on the regional health care service master plan. In her previous position at the Phoenix Area Office, she oversaw numerous health care facility replacement planning projects, such as the San Carlos Alternative Rural Health Care Center; Fort Yuma Ambulatory Care Center; and Phoenix Indian Medical Center - Southwest, Southeast, and Northwest Ambulatory Care Centers.

From 1985 to 1996, CAPT Pattea worked in the intensive care and outpatient surgery units at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center. Prior to this position, she worked at the Gallup Indian Medical Center in orthopedics. CAPT Pattea also served as the Health Division Director for the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation for eight years through a Memorandum of Agreement. Under her leadership, a new tribal health care center was constructed, expanded, and achieved accreditation.

CAPT Pattea received her undergraduate degrees in nursing from Scottsdale Community College and Arizona State University. She completed her Master of Science degree in Nursing Administration from Arizona State University. CAPT Pattea graduated with honors and was inducted into the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International.