



Karissa Stoecker

VP of Health Services for
Kodiak Area Native
Association (KANA)



Alaska Area Delegate

Karissa Stoecker serves as the Vice President of Health Services for the Kodiak Area Native Association. A tribal citizen of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Tribes of Alaska, she is honored to represent the Alaska Tribal Health System and be a voice for the Alaska Area.

Karissa serves as the Area technical co-lead negotiator for the Alaska Area in negotiations with the Indian Health Service. She also serves on a variety of committees and work groups focused on health issues impacting Tribal communities.

Karissa holds a BA in Anthropology from Macalester College and a Masters in Health Care Administration from Saint Joseph's University.



Jacqueline Bergstrom

Executive Director of Health Services of Tanana Chief Conference



Alaska Area Alternate

Jacqueline Bergstrom has worked for Tanana Chiefs Conference since 2007 and as the Executive Director of Health Services since 2014, serving 37 federally recognized Tribes in the Interior of Alaska. She holds a Dutch medical degree (MD) with specialty training in Public Health and a Master's of Business Administration (MBA) in health care management.

Jacqueline serves as vice-chair of the Alaska Tribal Health Directors Association and actively participates in statewide committees and workgroups, focused on improving and expanding access to care for Tribal communities across Alaska serving tribal and non-tribal citizens.

She is appointed by the Alaska Native Health Board as one of the Alaska technical representatives for the IHS National Budget Formulation Workgroup and is the Alaska primary delegate to the IHS National Purchased /Referred Care workgroup. She was the 2016 recipient of the Indian Health Services Special Recognition Award.



Krystal Enjady



Councilwoman
Mescalero Apache Tribe

Albuquerque Area Delegate

Hello, my name is Krystal Enjady, I am currently serving as a Tribal Council Member for the Mescalero Apache Tribe in Mescalero, New Mexico. I've served as the Mescalero Tribal Councils – Programs Committee Chair, currently the President for the Mescalero Apache Licensure Committee, and recently appointed to the resources committee and cultural committee. I have always been involved and passionate about services to the Mescalero Apache Tribe, community and people, and our surrounding communities. I have worked in many capacities in the tribe: the tribal court, alternative sentencing, drug court, health and wellness, youth development, and case management. I have always been passionate about working with the youth in the community and surrounding communities in support and enrichment.

My goals include improving and increasing access to care, providing additional resources, and providing venues of support in the mental health capacity. I bring many years of community services, being of service to others, networking, access to services, advocating, and supporting others and strengthening the community. Overall wellness and wellbeing are my primary goals and inclusive to all who need these services.

My interests include the Mescalero Apache Culture/Traditions and family inclusion focusing on positive parenting. I am and have always been involved in youth development, enrichment, and support in all areas where this population should be included. I enjoy family time, coffee, and being culturally involved in my community. I look forward to working with you all and fulfilling my responsibilities to increase and provide services to people and the capacity being served.



Dorlynn Simmons

Councilwoman
Mescalero Apache Tribe



Albuquerque Area Alternate

Dorlynn Simmons has over 40 years working in Indian communities, primarily throughout the southwest. She has worked for the Indian Health Service/US Public Health Service as a Commissioned Officer for 29 years in the fields of substance abuse, behavioral health, administration, and chief executive officer. She retired in 2019 as a Captain, serving 26+ years. She currently serves as a Tribal Council Member of the Mescalero Apache Tribe, with over 12 years of service. She received her bachelor's in social work from New Mexico State University, and her Master of Science in Social Work with an emphasis on Administration and Planning from the University of Texas at Austin. She was an IHS 437 Scholarship recipient and her entire career has been in Indian Country serving Indian communities.

Her many years of background helps her understand the cultural differences of Indian tribes, yet recognize the similarities and levels of unmet needs. She maintains an unyielding desire to be an agent of positive change to Indian country and wants to be part of a team that exemplifies ambitious standards, which is goals and outcomes driven. Above all, her heart is in doing what is in the best interest of Indian communities she serves.

Improving the health status of Indian people while building and developing personal and tribal capacities is her primary focus. Honoring service obligations to her tribe to improve the Indian health care status and protecting tribal resources is her primary goal.



Dr. Aaron A. Payment

Councilman
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of
Chippewa Indians



Bemidji Area Delegate

Council Member Payment serves on his Tribal Council and has served in Tribal office for 24 years including as Tribal Chairperson/CEO for four terms. Dr. Payment is a high school dropout who lied about his age at 16 to take and pass his GED and go on to earn a B.S., three master's and a doctorate degree. He has served in the past as Co-Chair of the HHS Secretary Tribal Advisory Committee, Chair of the NIH Tribal Advisory, NIH Director's Advisory, Chair of the Office of Minority Health ~ Health Research Advisory Council, in a Presidential appointment for the National Advisory Council on Indian Education across three presidential administrations, SAMHSA Tribal Advisory, and previously served on the HRSA Tribal Advisory Council. He also served previously on the National Congress of American Indians in Executive Officers positions of 1st Vice, Secretary and as Regional VP for the Midwest.

Dr. Payment is a self-professed nerd and data geek having taught statistics at the collegiate level and did his own quantitative data rotation for both his Master's in Higher Education and Doctorate in Education. Dr. Payment is keenly interested in how HRSA can assist Tribal nations in building Tribal Human Resources capacity including recruitment and retention of tribal health and behavioral health professionals.



Kimberly Whiteman Harjo

Co-Chair

Northern Arapaho Tribe



Billings Area Delegate

Madame Co Chair, Northern Arapaho Business Council (2025-2026)
Northern Arapaho Tribe – Ethete, Wyoming
4 Terms as Northern Arapaho Business Council Member: 2018 – 2026

Boards

- Health Resources and Service Administration: Delegate – Tribal Advisory Council
- Administration for Children and Families: Delegate – Tribal Advisory Committee
- Indian Gaming Association: Delegate – Board of Directors
- Wind River Family and Community Health Care: Member – Governance Board
- Northern Arapaho Tribal Industries: Member – Board of Directors

Committees

Wind River Intertribal Council (Fort Washakie, WY)

- Finance Committee
- Land Resource Committee
- Judicial Committee
- Shoshone & Arapaho Law and Order Code Revision Committee

Key Accomplishments

Healthcare

- Supported Northern Arapaho's health clinic Wind River Cares to move from 638 to Self-Governance
- Directed the Tribe's legal team during litigation that resulted in winning *Becerra v. Northern Arapaho* at the U.S. Supreme Court
- Key member of the Business Council that guided the Northern Arapaho Tribe through the COVID crisis
- Led efforts that resulted in cannabis being decriminalized and legalized with the Tribe

Economic Development

- Developed Northern Arapaho Propane Company
- Helped expand Wind River Internet's services provided to tribal members

Cultural

- Supported the Tribe's work on Buffalo Restoration
- Champion of Champions Indian Horse Relays



Michael Yellowplume

Councilman
Northern Arapaho Tribe



Billings Area Alternate

Michael Yellowplume currently serves on the Northern Arapaho Business Council, where he sits on numerous committees and boards for the Northern Arapaho Tribe. Prior to joining the Council, he was elected Chairman of the Northern Arapaho Economic Development Commission, a role he held for four years.

Mike has worked with the Northern Arapaho Diabetes Awareness Program for over nine years, specializing in physical fitness and nutrition. Throughout his career, he has been a dedicated advocate for the community, remaining actively involved in initiatives that promote health, economic development, and the overall well-being of the Northern Arapaho people.



Lisa Bradley

Council Secretary
Tejon Indian Tribe



California Area Delegate

Lisa Bradley currently serves on the Tejon Tribe’s Executive Council as Secretary and manages the Tribe’s administrative offices, a role she has held for a total of nine years. Lisa is a seasoned administrative and operations professional who supports leadership, strengthens operational processes, and fosters collaborative, trust-based relationships across teams and departments. Known for her calm leadership and strong problem-solving skills, Lisa is a natural relationship builder who thrives in dynamic, people-centered environments.

Before working in tribal government, Lisa spent 30 years in the dental field in various roles. During this time, she also advanced into an IT role as an analyst, super user, and subject matter expert for the same organization. In this position, she supported more than 900 offices during a major system transition—assisting teams during their go-lives and training dentists, regional managers, and office managers to ensure a seamless adoption of the new platform.

With a reputation for reliability and integrity, Lisa brings a grounded, solutions-oriented approach to every task and interaction. She is committed to supporting community-centered work and building positive working relationships across all levels of an organization.

When she’s not working, Lisa enjoys spending time with her family, getting out on the golf course, and cycling.



Lisa Nadal

Councilwoman
Tejon Indian Tribe



California Area Alternate

Lisa Nadal has been in the medical field since 1995 when she started as a Medical Assistant. Over the course of 30 years, she has held a variety of healthcare positions not limited to Case Manager, Phlebotomist, Radiology Tech Aide, Referral Coordinator, and Medical Office Manager. Lisa also opened the first IHS office for the Tejon Indian Tribe in 2002 and it still serves over 700 members today. Lisa remains on the Tribe's Health and Housing Committees. She received her Bachelor and Master Degree in Health Care Administration and is now the Regional Practice Administrator for Coastal Kids for the Central California Region.

Lisa has been serving on the Tejon Indian Tribe Executive Council since 2022 and a member of the Gaming Authority Board. Lisa is a constant advocate for healthcare & housing issues within the Tribe and its community. She is currently working on a new project targeting Special Needs members. In her spare time, Lisa is with family, loves NFL Football, MLB Baseball and sings with the California Traditional Singers with the Tejon Indian Tribe.



Lonna J. Street

Chairwoman
Spirit Lake Nation



Great Plains Delegate

Lonna J. Street currently serves as the Tribal Chairwoman for the Spirit Lake Tribe, Fort Totten, ND, she was elected in May of 2023, and has since served in this capacity.

Chairwoman Street received an associate degree from Cankdeska Cikana Community College, and a Bachelor of Arts from University of North Dakota. She has eight years of tribal leadership experience in her previous role as Secretary Treasurer of the Spirit Lake Tribe.

Also, serving her community on various boards including the Advisory Board for the Spirit Lake Tiwahe Program; Tribal Health Board Representative for the Mission District; Board of Directors at United Tribes Technical College; the Devils Lake Outlet Management Advisory Committee; and most recently, appointed to the Health Resources and Services Administration Tribal Advisory Council (TAC) representing the Great Plains service area.



Cyrus Ben

Tribal Chief

Mississippi Band of Choctaw
Indians



Nashville Area Delegate

Cyrus Ben, Tribal Chief Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, is the fifth democratically elected Tribal Chief of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, a federally-recognized tribe of over 11,100 members living on or near 35,000 acres of tribal lands in east central Mississippi. Chief Ben has a 14-year record of public service to the Choctaw tribal government and tribal business leadership, including 8 years as Pearl River community's representative on the Tribal Council prior to being elected as Tribal Chief in July 2019. He served four years as the Tribe's Secretary- Treasurer and three years as the President of Choctaw- Ikhana, a tribally chartered corporation.

A graduate of Mississippi College, Chief Ben earned his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Marketing in 2001. As Tribal Chief, he provides Executive-branch leadership, overseeing a workforce of over 7,000 employees and administering services to include education and development, as well as several enterprises related to housing, healthcare, transportation, construction, water and utilities, natural resources, real estate, and public safety.

Chief Ben stays active in the community serving as a coach and mentor for youth sports, promoting peer and elder mentorships, goal-setting and appreciation of Choctaw Self-Determination. Recently, Chief Ben received the Governor's Initiative for Volunteer Excellence (GIVE) Award and was appointed to the Mississippi Flag Commission, which oversaw the development of the new state flag.

Chief Ben is a life-long resident of the Pearl River community, where he resides with his wife TaRita and their children, Brodie, Eden and Selah.



Mary Harrison

Health Director
Mississippi Band of
Choctaw Indians



Nashville Area Alternate

Mary Harrison, MHA, is a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) and serves as Health Director for Choctaw Health Center (CHC), a Tribally-run hospital and health system operating under Title V Self-Governance. CHC provides comprehensive healthcare services to Tribal communities across central Mississippi.

Ms. Harrison brings more than two decades of healthcare experience, including over 15 years in senior leadership within Tribal and rural health systems. She has led large-scale, enterprise-wide initiatives spanning healthcare operations, workforce development, quality improvement, emergency preparedness, and federal-Tribal collaboration. She served as Hospital Incident Commander and Joint Incident Commander during the COVID-19 public health emergency, leading sustained emergency operations, and the expansion of innovative care delivery models.

Ms. Harrison holds a Master of Healthcare Administration and a bachelor's degree in business management from Belhaven University. She serves in leadership and advisory roles across Tribal and regional organizations, including as the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Tribal Advisory Council (TAC) Alternate for Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben. She is a committed advocate for health equity and for ensuring the federal government upholds its trust and treaty responsibilities to MBCI through strong, sustainable healthcare systems.



Richelle Montoya

Vice-President
The Navajo Nation



Navajo Area Delegate

Vice President Richelle Montoya is the first Navajo woman to be elected to the office. A former chapter president, Vice President Montoya supports local governance by advocating for more responsive Navajo Nation Executive Branch programs and community leadership.

Richelle Montoya was selected by Dr. Buu Nygren as his vice-presidential running mate following the 2022 Navajo Nation Primary Election. Vice President Montoya serves as the 11th Vice President of Navajo Nation and the first ever female elected to the office. Vice President Montoya is a mother and her home community is Torreon/Star Lake, New Mexico.

Prior to her historic election, Vice President Montoya was elected in 2020 as the Torreon/Star Lake Chapter President.

In addition, Vice President Montoya holds the following roles:

- Na’neelzhiin Ji Olta, Inc. School Board Member (since 2019);
- Eastern Navajo Agency Executive Committee Member (since 2021); and
- Eastern Navajo Fair Board Member (since 2018).

Previously, Vice President Montoya served as a member of the Torreon/Star Lake Chapter Community Land Use Planning Committee (2017-2020) and as the director of the Miss Indian New Mexico Pageant (2008-2019).



Sherylene Yazzie

Executive Director of
Department of Health
The Navajo Nation



Navajo Area Alternate

Appointed by Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren as the Executive Director of the Navajo Department of Health (NDOH), Sherylene Yazzie is a public-sector leader with extensive experience in executive and legislative government operations, policy development, budgeting, and organizational management within the Navajo Nation government. She has served in key leadership roles, including Deputy Chief of Staff for the Navajo Nation Office of the President & Vice President and Chief of Staff for the Navajo Nation Council’s Office of the Speaker. With a strong background in capital infrastructure management, compliance, and strategic partnerships, Director Yazzie brings proven expertise in process improvement, intergovernmental coordination, and long-range planning. Her professional background also includes serving as a Senior Environmental Health & Safety Engineer with Raytheon Missile Systems, as well as a department manager overseeing capital improvement planning and project management for the Navajo Nation’s 110 Chapter governments. Additionally, she previously served twelve years as an elected official for Coyote Canyon Chapter and as the Health Services Administrator for the Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) prior to her appointment.

Director Yazzie holds a master’s degree in business administration and has built a career dedicated to strengthening effective governance and community-centered service. She continues to be a strong advocate for tribal healthcare needs across Indian Country and is the founder of the “Navajo Healing Navajo” vision that guides the work of the Navajo Department of Health.



Chuck Hoskin Jr.

Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation



Oklahoma City Area Delegate

Chuck Hoskin Jr. was elected to serve as the Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, the country's largest tribal government with more than 400,000 tribal citizens, in 2019. He previously served as Secretary of State and as a member of the Council of the Cherokee Nation. During his time as Principal Chief, he has increased minimum wage at Cherokee Nation and Cherokee Nation Businesses and secured the largest language investment in the tribe's history to expand Cherokee language education and preservation. He also appointed the tribe's first delegate to the U.S. Congress. He has prioritized health and wellness initiatives, including record investments in behavioral health and addiction treatment.

Chief Hoskin has also expanded tribal workforce training programs, protections for natural resources, and early childhood education offerings. He and First Lady January Hoskin have worked together to elevate the voices of women and children on the Cherokee Nation Reservation. On the HRSA Tribal Advisory Council, Chief Hoskin represents the Oklahoma City Area which covers Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas.



Brandon Tupper

Councilman
The Klamath Tribes

Portland Area Delegate

Brandon Tupper is a member of the Klamath Tribes and is currently an elected Tribal Councilman representing over 5,900 members of the Klamath, Modoc, and Yahooskin-Paiute people. With this appointment to the HRSA TAC, as an Area Delegate, his Portland representation includes Washington, Idaho, and Oregon.

Tribal Government Headquarters are in Klamath County- Southern, Oregon.

His leadership experience, aside from Tribal Government, is centered in the health care arena working in positions that directly relate to patient registration and health care services. His work over the past 15 years has included Co-Chair of the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) Bridge Advisory Committee for the 9 Tribes of Oregon and NARA (Native American Rehabilitation Association); Coordinated Care Organizer for the Tribal Advisory Committee; Senate Bill 770 and Oregon Health Association Meeting Representative; former Klamath Tribal Health & Family Services Patient Registration Department Manager; and current Klamath Tribal Council appointed Tribal Health Division Liaison.

Parallel to his life-long commitment to his tribe, he is a family man. He resides in Klamath Falls, with his wife Rachelle and their 5 boys, ages teen to newborn. Their vision is focused on health, happiness, safety, spirituality, and prosperity for their tribe and the community.



Shawn Jackson

Councilman
The Klamath Tribes

Portland Area Alternate



Shawn Jackson is a member of the Klamath Tribes, Klamath, Modoc and Yahooskin-Paiute descent and is currently an elected Tribal Councilman (2025-2028), representing over 5,900 members of the Klamath, Modoc, and Yahooskin-Paiute people. With this appointment to the HRSA TAC, as an area Delegate, his Portland representation includes Washington, Idaho, and Oregon. Tribal Government Headquarters are in Klamath County-Southern, Oregon.

Shawn's education background consists of a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Promotion/Fitness Management from Southern Oregon University (1997). He has served Tribal and Urban Indian communities in Oregon since 1998 and fully understands the needs of the people. He is committed to helping solve the health disparities that American Indians/Alaska Natives face by bringing solutions and deep understanding of Indian Health care.

His leadership experience includes serving 3 terms as a Klamath Tribal Councilman from 2010-2026, as well as Chairing multiple committees centered in the health care arena. His life-work has been directly related to patient care centered round prevention. His work over the past 20 years includes: Klamath Tribal Health & Family Services Quality Assurance Specialist; Director of Health Planning and Education; SDPI Diabetes Prevention Coordinator; Opioid Prevention Manager; Street Outreach and Referral Manager; Project Specialist at Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board; Klamath Tribal Council appointed Tribal Health Division Liaison.

Parallel to his life-long commitment to his tribe, he is a family man, and a distinguished hunter and fisherman. He resides in Klamath Falls, with his wife Melissa and their 3 children Talani (10) Jagger (17) and Trusten (19). Their vision is focused on health, happiness, safety, spirituality, and prosperity for their tribe and the community.



Pamela J. Benavidez

Legislative Council Representative
Tohono O’odham Nation



Tucson Area Delegate

Pamela J. Benavidez is a proud member of the Tohono O’odham Nation and currently serves on the Tohono O’odham Legislative Council, representing the District of Pisinemo. Her work is grounded in a lifelong commitment to advocating for the health, dignity, and well-being of O’odham people and communities.

Before serving on the Legislative Council, she worked as a Social Work Associate with the Tohono O’odham Healthcare, where she gained extensive hands-on experience supporting individuals and families through compassionate, client-centered care. That experience continues to shape her leadership style, one rooted in listening, understanding, and practical solutions.

She also serves on the National Indian Health Board, where she contributes to advancing health equity and strengthening community-based approaches to care for Native nations nationwide.



Lucius E. Lopez

Legislative Council
Representative
Tohono O’odham Nation



Tucson Area Alternate

Within my short time in Legislative since the May 2025 Elections, I’m now serving on Health & Human Services Committee, Housing Committee, and Cultural Preservation Committee, and still learning my new role as my district elected official.

In my past employment I have worked in our Behavior Health office as a Behavior Health Technician (BHT) for over 10 years and other related Health services. While living and working on the O’odham Nation, I have worked serving our 2.8 million acres in America and our O’odham Members in Mexico as a Community Health Representative. My interest is in helping people where no one attempts to assist.