



Charles W. Grim, D.D.S., M.H.S.A.

Secretary of Health

Chickasaw Nation Department of Health

Charles W. Grim, D.D.S. is the Secretary of Health for the Chickasaw Nation. As Secretary of Health, Dr. Grim serves as the executive in charge of a health system that includes the 72 bed Chickasaw Nation Medical Center, three outpatient health clinics, an EMS service, revenue cycle, facilities management, and a host of public health, nutrition and community health programs. He is also actively involved in helping expand the health sector of the Chickasaw Nation. The Chickasaw Nation Department of Health provides Obstetrical, Intensive Care and Medical/Surgical inpatient services and a wide range of outpatient services. The health system has over 1400 employees and in 2017 the Chickasaw Nation Department of Health had more than 930,000 patient encounters, delivered more than 1,200 babies, filled more than 1.8 million prescriptions and served more than 60,000 meals to children. Quality health care is provided to a patient population in excess of 70,000 in a 13 county tribal service area, however patients receiving care here come from communities throughout the United States.

Prior to joining the Chickasaw Nation Department of Health leadership, Dr. Grim served for 10 years in various leadership roles for the Cherokee Nation health system, ultimately serving as their Executive Director. Prior to that he was appointed by President George W. Bush and received unanimous Senate confirmation as the Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS). Dr. Grim administered the nationwide multi-billion dollar health care delivery program from August 2002 until September 2007. The IHS is responsible for providing preventive, curative, and community health care to approximately 1.9 million of the Nation's 3.3 million American Indians and Alaska Natives and is the principal federal health care provider and health advocate for Indian people. The IHS is composed of 12 administrative Area (regional) Offices, which oversee local hospitals and clinics. Dr. Grim has a strong health management background and during a 26 year career with the IHS held numerous clinical, administrative and executive leadership positions within the Agency prior to being appointed its Director.

Dr. Grim is a native of Oklahoma and a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. He is a retired Assistant Surgeon General and Rear Admiral (upper half) in the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Services (USPHS). Dr. Grim graduated from the University of Oklahoma College Of Dentistry in 1983, where he was recently named Alumni of the Year. He is board certified in Dental Public Health and a Fellow in the Academy of General Dentistry. In addition to his dentistry degree, Dr. Grim also holds a master's degree in health services administration from the University of Michigan. Among his honors and awards are numerous U.S. Public Health Service Medals and Citations, including the U.S. Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Medallion. Dr. Grim has been listed in multiple editions of Marquis Who's Who, including those editions of Who's Who in America, in American Politics and in Medicine and Healthcare. The state of Oklahoma has presented him with the Spirit Award and the Governor has honored him by issuing two proclamations citing the dates of his two Senate confirmation hearings as "Charles W. Grim Day" in the state. He has also been presented the Health Leader of the Year award by the Commissioned Officers Association and Community Leadership Award by the Cherokee Nation. Dr. Grim is a member of numerous professional associations and boards. He is married to Dr. Gloria Grim and they have 5 children.