

Tribe's Benewah Medical & Wellness Center Hires New CEO

Heather Keen/Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe

Plummer – Helo Hancock will be taking the reins at the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's Benewah Medical & Wellness Center as the new Chief Executive Officer effective November 28.

"Helo has a wealth of experience and knowledge from his time working with the Tribe and I have no doubt he will do a tremendous job for us at the Benewah Medical & Wellness Center," said Chief Allan, Chairman of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. "We have great faith in his leadership and abilities and we look forward to seeing what great things he has planned for the BMWC."

Mr. Hancock has been employed by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe since 2005, including working for the last nearly 9 years as the Tribe's Legislative Director. As such, he was closely involved in a variety of issues that impacted the Tribe at the local, state, and federal level including healthcare policy, taxation and gaming. Prior to that, Helo worked as an in-house attorney for the Tribe in the Office of Legal Counsel.

"It has been such an amazing honor and privilege to work for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe in different roles over the last 11 years. I am extremely excited to be the new leader of the Benewah Medical & Wellness Center," said Hancock. "The BMWC is a spectacular facility that plays such a critical role in the overall wellness of our reservation. Together with the Tribe, we have so many wonderful opportunities to build upon the BMWC's tradition of excellence in delivering state-of-the-art healthcare to this great community."

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe first opened the Benewah Medical Center in 1990 with 14 staff members, 800 patients and a \$900,000 budget. The Tribe moved the medical center into a new building that opened in 2012. The 50,000 square foot, state-of-the-art medical facility is equipped with the latest technology to enhance the continued provision of healthcare services to native and non-native patients on a sliding fee scale. New patients are always welcome and no one is denied health care based on ability to pay. Today, the Benewah Medical Center employs approximately 150 staff, and sees 35,000 primary care visits annually with an \$18 million budget.

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