

Bobby Saunkeah is Kiowa. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Nursing in 1978 and received a Master's in Healthcare Ethics from Creighton University in 2014. He has a long history in clinical research, primarily in the field of cardiac pacing and electrophysiology, at the OU Medical Center and Mt. Sinai Hospital in Miami Beach, Fl. He has worked in the Chickasaw Nation Department of Health for 20 years in several capacities, including certified diabetes educator, diabetes program manager and his current position, manager of the Research and Population Health division. Bobby has served on the Chickasaw Nation Institutional Review Board (IRB) for many years and is presently IRB Chair as well as the human research subjects protections administrator. He is a tribal representative on the National Indian Health Service IRB, a Certified IRB Professional (CIP), and adjunct faculty for the Department of Health Promotion at the OU College of Public Health. He was appointed in 2016 to serve a two-year term as the Oklahoma Area delegate to the National Institutes of Health Tribal Advisory Committee for research (NIH TAC). His primary interests are promoting tribal public health, creating tribal research infrastructure, and exploring the application of research and public health ethics principles within the context of tribal culture and sovereignty. Rev. Saunkeah is an ordained deacon in the Episcopal Church. He lives in Ada, OK, with his wife of 32 years, Peggy, and their 9 year old daughter, Lili.