

January 25, 2021

Independent Ethics Commission  
Dino Ioannides, Executive Director  
1300 Broadway, Suite 240  
Denver CO 80203

Re: Ethics Complaint against Dr. Clifford Brown (Complaint 20-76)

## **RESPONSE**

To the Members of the Independent Ethics Commission:

I want to begin by saying that I am outraged at the unrelenting harassment I have experienced at the hands of the Complainant, Jordan Hedberg, to the point where I am seriously considering hiring an attorney and filing a lawsuit for libel against him and his newspaper. He has repeatedly made very serious allegations about me without a shred of evidence. Everything he has said in his newspaper and now in the Complaint he has filed with the IEC is either sheer conjecture or demonstrably wrong.

First, it is important for this Commission to understand some basic facts about the position I currently hold with Custer County—that of Public Health Director. The qualifications for a Public Health Director are set forth in §25-1-508 (5)(c)(I) C.R.S., which in part reads as follows: “A public health director may be a physician, physician assistant, public health nurse, *or other qualified public health professional.*” [italics mine]. When I applied for the position I did not represent myself as a physician. I am a Doctor of Optometry and never held myself out otherwise to the Board of Health. I was hired because I was clearly a qualified public health professional, as this Commission can see from the Curriculum Vitae I presented to the Board of Health. A copy of my CV is attached to this Response.

The statutory requirements make no mention of the need for a Master's Degree in Public Health, and I never relied on my Master's Degree as qualifying me for the position of Public Health Director. I was selected for the job on the strength of my many years of experience in the field of public health as reflected by my CV. Nobody has ever questioned the accuracy or validity of any of my other accomplishments that are set forth in the attached document.

Now, with respect to my Master's Degree, I am going to set forth here in full a press release that was sent by the Board of Health to Mr. Hedberg when he began to make his unfounded and baseless accusations about me in his newspaper:

#### **PRESS RELEASE FROM THE CUSTER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

The December 10 edition of the Wet Mountain Tribune contained a front page article questioning the credentials of Dr. Clifford Brown, the Public Health Director for Custer County and the head of the Public Health Agency. The article asserted that Dr. Brown obtained his Master's Degree in Public Health from a "diploma mill" and called into question his honesty and truthfulness for listing this degree on the lengthy curriculum vitae he submitted when applying for the position he now holds.

This issue has already been addressed by the Board of Health. Shortly after Dr. Brown was hired a complaint was made that his Master's Degree was bogus and fraudulent. He produced transcripts of the online courses he took during the two years he spent working toward this degree, and he also produced a copy of the diploma he earned from Dartley University. Dr. Brown acknowledged to the Board of Health that he had not checked as to whether Dartley was an accredited school at the time he made the decision in 2006 to pursue his degree through this institution. He informed the Board of Health that he had been accepted by the Master's programs at Emory University in Atlanta and New York University in New York City, but both of these universities required that he attend classes in person. At that time he was employed as a Commissioned Corps Officer in the United States Public Health Service, which is a division of the Department of Health and Human Services. The [Public Health Service Commissioned Corps](#) is the federal uniformed service of the USPHS. He was promoted to the rank of Captain, a Naval ranking equivalent to the rank of Colonel in the Army and Air Force, and served for 13 years as a Senior Health Administrator. He was working at the Crow Agency in Montana when he decided to pursue his Master's Degree. He was denied permission to take a sabbatical to attend classes in person, which is the reason he chose to earn a degree online. Dr. Brown said that he spent two years working toward his degree, and received his diploma in 2008.

The county commissioners, who also sit as the Board of Health for Custer County, were given the opportunity to review his transcripts and his diploma and had no reason to question the truth of his explanation. The members of the Board of Health considered the matter closed.

Dr. Brown is a Doctor of Optometry, having received his degree from Pacific University in 1973, and his long career in public health made him eminently qualified for the position of Public Health Director for Custer County. His Master's Degree in Public Health was not a deciding factor in the hiring decision; it

was his vast experience at the federal level in the field of public health that caused the Board of Health to offer him the position.

The Board of Health fully supports Dr. Brown as a person of high character and integrity.

Bill Canda, Tom Flower and Jay Printz  
Custer County Board of Health

As the Respondent in this matter, I adopt the factual assertions contained in the above press release and incorporate them into this Response.

I am asking this Commission to examine very closely the “acts or things complained of” by Mr. Hedberg in his Complaint. There are several contradictions and inconsistencies, as well as statements that are completely unsupported by any evidence whatsoever. I will number each allegation for purposes of clarity:

1. In his first paragraph Mr. Hedberg says that on September 30, 2020, I presented to the Board of Health “fake transcripts” and a “fake Diploma” from a “criminal and illegal online diploma mill.” What is his basis for these unsupported assertions? He never saw the transcripts and the diploma I furnished to the Board of Health. And what is the basis for referring to Dartley University as being a “criminal and illegal” operation? He provides no documentation to this Commission, nor does he provide anything about the FBI investigation to which he makes reference.
2. In paragraph 2 Mr. Hedberg says I have committed a criminal act, which is a very serious accusation. In his newspaper he has characterized it as felonious behavior. He either needs to provide proof—which he can’t because there is none—or he needs to publish a full retraction and apology in his newspaper if he wants to avoid being sued.
3. In the first paragraph on page 2 of his Complaint Mr. Hedberg claims that I have repeatedly stated that I attended Dartley University and took classes. I have never made such a statement. I have always disclosed that I took online classes for two years through Dartley because of my employment in Montana, as clearly stated in the press release set forth above. I was unable to take a sabbatical to attend classes in person at New York University or Emory University, both of which had accepted me into their Master of Public Health programs but which required in-person attendance.

4. In the same paragraph at the top of page 2 in the Complaint Mr. Hedberg says there has never been a Dartley University. This contradicts his earlier assertion that Dartley was a diploma mill. Which is it? Both accusations cannot be true. Did it never exist, or did it exist but was nothing more than a diploma mill? Mr. Hedberg can't have it both ways.
5. I adamantly deny that I have ever placed lives at risk for lack of education and experience in public health. My entire career has been in public health. Such a claim is so staggeringly untrue and vicious that I am at a loss for words as to how I should respond.

I cannot vouch for Dartley University. I found it online in 2006, when I was looking for a way to obtain a Master's Degree in Public Health, which had long been a professional goal of mine. Taking classes online allowed me to pursue such a degree while tending to my professional duties on behalf of Health and Human Services at the Crow Agency in Montana. I took two years of online classes, took tests online, and received a Master's Degree in Public Health in 2008. There was nothing about the way Dartley University conducted business that caused me to be suspicious about the validity of the institution or about the legitimacy of the degree I earned. All I can say about Dartley is that I paid my money and I took the classes and put in the work I expected would be required of me to earn my degree. I have never heard that Dartley was allegedly a diploma mill or that it was a criminal organization. I have never heard of any FBI investigation of Dartley. The burden of proof is on Mr. Hedberg to furnish documentary evidence to this Commission to support the claims he has made about Dartley University. At this point everything he has said about Dartley—and especially about me—is totally unsubstantiated.

In mid-December of 2020 I was contacted by Deputy James Barr from the Custer County Sheriff's Office. He advised me that he was investigating a criminal complaint filed against me by Mr. Hedberg. I was being accused of the crime of forgery. The deputy wanted to see the transcripts and the diploma from Dartley University that I had produced for review by the Board of Health. I sought the counsel of the County Attorney, Clint Smith. He told me that the commissioners, sitting as the Board of Health, had examined the documents and were satisfied as to their authenticity, and that I had no obligation to turn them over to anybody else for examination. He also told me that personnel records are confidential, including employment applications, and that they are not available to the public, not even if a CORA

request is made. Based on his legal advice, I decided not to comply with the deputy's request. Mr. Hedberg was using the Sheriff's Office as a means of getting his hands on documents that I have no duty to provide and that he has no right to see. Quite honestly, I was completely fed up with Mr. Hedberg's witch hunt at that point and was not going to play his game. Even if he did see the transcripts and the diploma, he would not consider them fairly and objectively; his mind is already made up that they are forged and that I am a fraud, a phony, and a criminal.

Mr. Hedberg says that Dartley University does not and never has existed. The burden of proof is on Mr. Hedberg to prove the allegations in his Complaint beyond a reasonable doubt. If Dartley University never existed, then how did the FBI manage to find it and declare it to be a diploma mill? And if this claim is true and Dartley does or did exist, then where is the FBI report?

Mr. Hedberg makes an extraordinary—and unsupportable—statement that the copies of the transcripts and the diploma I showed to the Board of Health were knowingly forged by me. He needs to explain to this Commission how he has come to such a conclusion without seeing the documents and without having a forensic expert examine them.

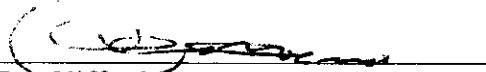
And finally, he says the Board of Health improperly considered my doctorate in optometry as proof that I am a medical doctor. I never represented that I was a medical doctor, the Board of Health never believed I was a medical doctor, and I was not hired as the Public Health Director because I use the prefix "Dr." in my name. I apologize if this is repetitive, but please look at the press release again that is set forth above—it was my "vast experience at the federal level in the field of public health that caused the Board of Health to offer [me] the position."

In conclusion, I have devoted a large part of my professional career to public health. The County Commissioners, sitting as the Board of Health, have repeatedly stated on the record that the reason for selecting me as the Public Health Director was my experience for 18+ years as a Public Health Officer in the USPHS, and had nothing to do with my degrees.

I have undergone an FBI investigation to obtain a top secret security position, an investigation that was very thorough, as a prerequisite to work as a Public Health Officer (Senior Medical Advisor, CAPT.) for the Department of Homeland Security. Both federal agencies possess investigative skills that far exceed those of Mr. Hedberg. No irregularities were found with respect to my Master's Degrees in Public Health.

I am asking this Commission to please dismiss the Complaint filed against me for the reason that it is an absolute work of fantasy. If permitted by the Rules that govern this Commission, I am also asking that Mr. Hedberg be admonished for making such scurrilous accusations against me without presenting an iota of evidence in support of the terrible things he has alleged. The burden of proof is totally on him, and he has provided nothing to the Commission that can remotely be labeled as "evidence" or "proof" of anything.

I, Dr. Clifford Brown, state that to the best of my knowledge, information and belief the statements set forth in this Response are true.

  
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Dr. Clifford Brown

Date: 25 Jan 2021

## **2019 CURRICULUM VITAE**

2019/01/05

**CLIFFORD DOUGLAS BROWN, OD, MPH, FAAO(D)**

CAPT/USPHS (Ret), Senior Medical Advisor

### **SUMMARY**

Having served in both private (12 years) and Federal (32 years) workplaces in capacities that ranged from staff to supervisory and clinical to senior management roles, I have recently left the Federal arena and moved to Colorado to begin a life close to mountainous terrain. Population-specific practice groups have varied from infant to geriatric, so I am very comfortable with the full spectrum age-wise.

Throughout my experience I have had the opportunity to work closely with essentially all health care professions and found this to be personally rewarding and patient-beneficial. I enjoy research/academic surroundings and strictly clinical care (administrative and staff) settings.

The personal contact with and provision of service to patients and other providers forms the most positive aspect of health care for me, so this is what I am looking for at this time.

### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

#### **Chief of Optometric/Eye Care Services (VHA)**

Central Alabama Veterans Administration Health Services

Montgomery/Tuskegee, Alabama 36007

*February 2013- June 2018*

**Mission Contribution** (supervisory)

**Duties:**

- Directly under Chief of Surgery over eight clinical staff optometrists and 11 optometric technicians
- Expanded optometric staff positions by two
- Established joint DoD-VA clinic in coordination with Chief of Ophthalmological Services in Ft. Benning Hospital as pilot action for further expansion of provided diagnostic and treatment services for active duty and veteran population of approximately 75,000
- Obtained new and replacement instrumentation to support upgrading of services within this service population of atypically advanced levels of medical complexity/co-morbidity
- Coordinated the re-establishment of permanent party ophthalmology service into Eye Clinic
- Received Outstanding ratings from first, Chief of Surgery, then chain of command shifted to directly to Chief of Staff and Outstanding ratings continued

**Chief of Operations/Senior Analyst (DHS/OHA/NBIS)**

National Biosurveillance Integration Service, Headquarters, 01-106-13, NAC 20, 3501 Nebraska Ave NW, Washington, DC 20016

*October 2010- Mar 2012*

**Mission Contribution** (supervisory)

**Duties:**

- Directly under Acting Director as senior federal official over eight contracting senior and junior analysts and two other federal officials
- Developing and directing the realignment and reorganization of the department as senior management official in conjunction with Acting Director and Director of OHA
- Production supervision of daily biosurveillance report to 11 federal agencies, integrating findings of national and international deviation from baseline data that might compromise our nation's infrastructural integrity
- AMSUS Awards Committee member, 2011



- Representative of PHS Optometry to AMSUS
- Presenter for USPHS Plenary, AMSUS 2011
- NBIC representative to National Biosurveillance Advisory Subcommittee Work Group and Regional Biosurveillance Collaboration Work Group for Global Biosurveillance, developing recommendations for establishment of national policy
- DHS/OHA/NBIC Representative to Food Safety Food Defense Exercise
- Staff Optometric Physician for Bethesda Naval Hospital
- American Academy of Optometry presenter of CME, 2011 meeting, Boston
- Representative/participant for OHA/NBIC to Global Biosurveillance Conference
- NBIC Federal Representative to National Fusion Center Conference
- Representative to National Association of County and City Health Officials
- Hold TS clearance

**Chief District General, 0-6** (supervisory)

IHS Billings Area, Crow/Northern Cheyenne IHS Hospital, Crow Agency, Montana (*isolated hardship tour*)  
 Jun 2005-September 2010

**Mission Contribution**

**Duties:**

- Currently serve Public Health Service as American Academy of Optometry (AAO) Diplomate (2002-present), [Fellowship(1985-present)]: Public Health and Environmental Vision Section
- Acting CEO (Dec) and Clinical Director (Aug-present) 2008, Crow/N Cheyenne Hospital
- Chief of Eye Clinic for Crow/N Cheyenne Hospital and Behavioral Health Department
- Supervise: one Psychiatrist, two Psychologists, four Sociologists, and staff receptionist
- Acting Allied Health Clinical Director: Departments managed include Pharmacy, Dental, Optometry, Behavioral Health, and Physical Therapy
- Hospital Executive Staff and Active Medical Executive Staff member
- Recipient (Association of Military Surgeons of the US) of H. David Sullins, Jr. Award for Outstanding Service to Optometry
- Adjunct professor for Salus University (PCO) and Associate Professor for SCCO (and multiple other Universities in past)
- Active member of Domestic Violence and Diabetes Teams
- TBI Research Study Montana guest contributor, June, 2008
- Consultant to Montana Governor's TBI Advisory Council
- Consultant to Crow Tribal TBI and Wellness Committee
- Presented to Commissioned Officers Association Scientific and Research Symposium re: Optometrists and Their Non-Clinical Roles in National Disasters 2008
- Veterans Administration program featured speaker, 2006: "mTBI: Our Part of the Solution"
- Senior Chairperson of 2010 USPHS Sectional Symposia and co-presenter of DV/mTBI course

- Chairperson of joint Optometric-Pharmacy Section Program and Optometry Award Chair of the international meeting of AMSUS 2008; topic: Forensic Science Pharmacological and Investigative Approach to Crime Scenes, Disasters, and Terrorism
- Presented to US Surgeon General and PHS Section, 2007, as a member of a panel composed of four national leaders (Pharmacy, Optometry, Nursing, and Medicine)
- Conducted original research comparing Indian and non-Indian population risk factors for progression of diabetic retinopathy into proliferative retinopathic degeneration requiring vitrectomy (2000-2002)
- Original investigator for major NIH research study submission (currently under review for funding) and a part of the clinical panel of experts named in the study advisory group
- Examiner for the Board of Diplomates in the AAO Public Health Section; one of only 24 international members (2002-present)
- Mentored four PHS Optometrists through their successful completion of the first section of their candidacy (written and oral examinations) for Diplomate status (2003-2004)

#### **Support activities that contributed to PHS:**

- Basic Qualified for deployment and successfully nominated for assimilation into USPHS
- NIST C team lead
- Invited presenter on OFRD panel discussion of leadership in the disaster (Ft A P Hill) response to H1N1 outbreak (May, 2010)
- Authored USPHS chapter in new public health text (text given APHA Award for Best New Public Health manuscript in 2010)
- Deployed to Gustav 2008 for three weeks, first scheduled to assume the position of Chief Planning Officer, but then served as LNO for ESF 8, and, finally, was chosen to be Deputy Commander of the Baton Rouge IRCT.
- Deployed for PHS Katrina relief support to first Gulfport, MS for two weeks as a team leader in MS-HAT, then again to New Orleans as PFO/AFO, Advanced SERT LNO for three weeks (03-18 Sep 2005, 03 –23 Oct 2005)
- Scientific/peer reviewer, Ophthalmology Section for the Journal of Military Medicine (2005-present)
- Researcher for Crow Eye Study; to be published this year
- Member of four person team developing national PHS research survey for Optometry (March, 2005-present)
- AMSUS Awards Committee member (1994-2007)
- Recruited and mentored interested Physician and two Optometrists into Corps
- Serving as member of four person team tasked by the Consultant to develop a national survey tool for PHS Optometry research and planning
- Developed, organized, and managed most highly attended AMSUS Optometry Section meetings ever held in the PHS-sponsored Convention (2003), presenting ophthalmic natural and man-made disaster care and management instruction to a multidisciplinary audience Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS) Planning Committee, Member (2003); member of 2003 Surgeon General's Executive Advisory Council
- Strabismus/Binocular Vision Consultant for PHS Optometry (1994-1998)
- Big Sky Area COA Representative (1993)
- USPHS OPAG Representative to AMSUS (1993-present)

- USPHS Representative to VA Winter Sports Clinic (rehabilitation/adaptive sports instructor) for 12 years and to TBI conference at Ft Harrison as Billings Area IHS-VA liaison

**Chief District General, 0-6** (supervisory)

IHS Pine Ridge Area, Sioux San IHS Hospital, Rapid City, Montana

*February 1998-May 2005*

**Chief District General, 0-6** (supervisory)

IHS Blackfeet Community Hospital, Browning, Montana

*February 1993-February 1998*

**Chief Optometry Service** (supervisory)

Bayne-Jones Community Hospital, Ft. Polk, Louisiana

*July 1992-February 1993*

**Deputy Chief/ Optometry Service**, Frankfurt Army Regional Medical Center

**Chief Binocular Vision Service**, EFMD, Frankfurt, Germany

*June 1989-June 1992*

**Medical Officers Advanced Course, CAS3, C4**

Ft Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas

*September 1998- June 1999*

**Dr.'s Willis, Plotsky, & Brown** (partner, private practice)

10060 Jasper Ave, Edmonton, Alberta

*June 1976-August 1988*

**Chief Optometry Service**

Security Services, Goodfellow USAF Base

San Angelo, Texas

*June 1973-June 1976*

**PHS Commissioned Corps Honor Awards**

PHS Achievement Medal (1998)

For development of an Optometric peer review instrument, Blackfeet Community Hospital

Coast Guard Special Operations Service Ribbon (1993)

(Currently nominated for PHS Commendation, Outstanding Service, Meritorious with valor, and Distinguished Service Medals by past and currently serving Chief Consultants for PHS Optometry, as my previous SU gave no individual or unit awards to their CO's in the last seven years)

**Other Honor Awards**

USA Meritorious Service Medal (1993)

USA Commendation Medal with bronze oak leaf cluster (1991)

USA Achievement Medal with Bronze oak leaf cluster (1992)

USAF Achievement Medal (1975)

USA Outstanding Achievement Award

USA and USAF National Defense Ribbon with bronze oak leaf cluster

USA Commander's Award

USA Overseas Ribbon (1993)

USA Army Service Ribbon (1993)

Certificate of Appreciation from DAV, Dodds-USA (2), Southern College of Optometry, University of Houston, Southern California college of Optometry, Browning Public Schools

Letter of Recognition from USA

## **EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Masters of Public Health Jun 2008

Dartley University

Diplomate, Public Health Section Dec 2002

American Academy of Optometry

Glaucoma Certification	May 1998
Pacific University College of Optometry	
Advanced Pharmacological and Therapeutics	March 1996
University of Houston, Houston, TX	
Associate Fellow	May 1992
College of Optometry in Vision Development	
Combat Casualty Care Course with ATLS	June 1989
USA, Fort Sam Houston Academy of Health Sciences, San Antonio, TX	
Combined Arms Staff Services School	March-May 1989
USA, Fort Leavenworth, KS	
Government Contracting Course	January 1989
Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX	
Updated: DHS Wash DC	November 2012
Property management Course	December 1988
Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX	
Officer's Advanced Course	Sept 1988-Feb 1989

Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX

Diagnostics and Therapeutics

July 1988

Pacific University College of Optometry

Fellowship/Board Certification

Dec 1984-1985

American Academy of Optometry

Basic Medical Officer's Training Course

June 1973

Shepherd Air Force Base, TX

Doctorate of Optometry

May 1973

Pacific University College of Optometry, Forest Grove, OR

Bachelor of Science, Pre-opt

May 1971

Pacific university, Forest Grove OR

Under-graduate course work

May-Aug 1969

University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Under-graduate course work

Sept 1966-June 1968

Biola College, La Mirada, CA

Required/mandatory Certification/Licensure

Licensure: Optometry

Expiration date: July 2019

Diplomate Board recertification

Expiration date: December 2025

**Continuing Education (past 14 years)**

AAO (Annually)

Oct, 2012-2017

AAO, Boston

Oct, 2011

Integrated Training Summit, Las Vegas

May, 2011

AAO, San Francisco

Oct, 2010

AMSUS, Phoenix

Nov, 2010

AMSUS, St Louis

Nov, 2009

AAO, Orlando

Nov 2009

AMSUS, San Antonio

Nov 2008

AAO, Anaheim

Oct 2008



AOA, Seattle	June 2008
COA Scientific Symposium, Tucson	June 2008
Biennial IHS Eye Care Conference, SCCO	May 2008
AMSUS, SLC	Nov 2007
AAO, Tampa	Oct 2007
Biennial IHS Eye Care Conference, SCCO	May 2006
AMSUS, San Antonio	Nov 2006
AAO, San Diego	Dec 2006
American Academy of Optometry	Dec 2005
Optometry Sectional Educational Courses AMSUS, Nashville, TN	Nov 2005
USPHS Section AMSUS, Nashville, TN	Nov 2005
Ocular Disease and Public Health Sections AAO, Tampa, FL	Dec 2004

**Public Health Training/Experience**

IRCT and FEMA training	Feb 2004-Apr 2008
Disaster Response	
Preventive Medicine for Filed Conditions	
Health Consequences and Response	
Disaster Triage	
Infectious Disease Management	
Terrorism	
ABC's of Bioterrorism	
Safety and Security Awareness	
Introduction to Incident Command System	
ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents	
National Incident Management System: an Introduction	
National Response System: an Introduction	
Advanced SERT/IRCT	
Battlefield Injuries of the OIF/OEF Warrior	Nov 2007
Contracting Officer training	Apr 2007
Supervisory Personnel training, time keeping with ITAS	Oct 2005

**CAREER PROGRESSION AND POTENTIAL**

**Billet level/Assignments/Mobility**

**Billet Title and Grade:** Chief of Eye Clinics, Central Alabama Veterans Health Services

Montgomery/Tuskegee, Alabama

*February 2013-June 2018*

- Directly under Chief of Surgery over eight clinical staff optometrists and 11 optometric technicians
- Expanded optometric staff positions by two
- Established joint DoD-VA clinic in coordination with Chief of Ophthalmological Services in Ft. Benning Hospital as pilot action for further expansion of provided diagnostic and treatment services for active duty and veteran population of approximately 75,000
- Obtained new and replacement instrumentation to support upgrading of services within this service population of atypically advanced levels of medical complexity/co-morbidity
- Coordinated the re-establishment of permanent party ophthalmology service into Eye Clinic
- Received Outstanding ratings from first, Chief of Surgery, then chain of command shifted to directly to Chief of Staff and Outstanding ratings continued

**Billet Title and Grade:** Operations Chief/Senior Analyst/Senior Medical Advisor (Supervisory)  
Department of Homeland Security, National Biosurveillance Integration Center, 3801 NW Nebraska Ave,  
Washington D. C.

*October 2010-March 2012*

**Duties:**

- Directly under Acting Director as senior federal official over eight contracting senior and junior analysts and two other federal officials

- Developing and directing the realignment and reorganization of the department as senior management official in conjunction with Acting Director and Director of OHA
- Production supervision of daily biosurveillance report to 11 federal agencies, integrating findings of national and international deviation from baseline data that might compromise our nation's infrastructural integrity
- AMSUS Awards Committee member, 2011
- Representative of PHS Optometry to AMSUS
- Presenter for USPHS Plenary, AMSUS 2011
- NBIC representative to National Biosurveillance Advisory Subcommittee Work Group and Regional Biosurveillance Collaboration Work Group for Global Biosurveillance, developing recommendations for establishment of national policy
- DHS/OHA/NBIC Representative to Food Safety Food Defense Exercise
- Staff Optometric Physician for Bethesda Naval Hospital
- American Academy of Optometry presenter of CME, 2011 meeting, Boston
- Representative/participant for OHA/NBIC to Global Biosurveillance Conference
- NBIC Federal Representative to National Fusion Center Conference
- Representative to National Association of County and City Health Officials
- Hold TS clearance

**Billet Title and Grade:** Chief of Optometry, District Complex (Supervisory)

HHS, Billings Area IHS, Crow /Northern Cheyenne IHS, Hospital, Crow Agency, MT

June 2005 – September 2010 (*isolated hardship tour*)

**Duties:**

- Supervise: one contract Optometrist (staff), one contract Ophthalmologist, and two technical assistants
- Manage clinical (outpatient and inpatient), surgical, and optical provision of services in both the hospital and two outlying clinics
- Responsible for all eye examination entries into the appropriate medical records in compliance with professional community standards

- Clinically provide diagnostic and therapeutic care to patients of the Crow, Northern Cheyenne, and other registered Indians in a responsible, caring, and culturally sensitive manner
- Support the Emergency Room (ER) referrals and Outpatient Department (OPD) referrals, receiving their consults on a regular basis
- Supervise school screenings for Crow tribal district
- Provide instruction for professional staff and training for technical staff in matters specific to care of the eyes and vision
- Conduct quality assurance program for eye care in the Service Unit (SU)
- Report directly to Hospital CEO
- Timekeeping (ITAS) supervisor
- Member of Active Medical Staff
- Developed active positions on Domestic Violence, Crow Tribal Health, and Diabetes Teams

**Impact/Accomplishments:**

- Organized/restructured the clinical provision of care for the three clinics
- Billet advanced to District Complex, Supervisory
- Successfully assumed responsibility and management of all Ophthalmological services
- Clinically proctored student externs
- Deployed for five weeks in PHS Katrina and Rita relief efforts
- Represented the Optometry Professional Advisory Group (OPAG) to the Association of Military Surgeons (AMSUS) 1993-2008
- Gained active medical staff position for Optometry (a first in this hospital's history) and Psychology
- Elected by Medical Staff serve on the Executive Medical Staff Council for Crow Agency Hospital
- Successfully presented to the Tribal Health Board and Tribal Diabetes Board, gaining funding for HCT III, OCT (Optovue), Pachymeter, and B Scan units. All will be used in reservation-wide research project (pediatric mTBI, TBI, and management of diabetes and glaucoma)
- Served Montana Governor on his Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council 2008-2010
- Created portion of national survey instrument for rural practice specific to the IHS
- Established OPD/inpatient/ER immediate referral/walk-in service for eye care
- Initiated inpatient care of acute care patients to reduce Contract Health Service (CHS) costs and localize care
- Clinical manager of research project within the Optometry Clinic (providing comparison of diabetic retinopathy care through routine practitioner vs. central diabetic reader program)
- Diplomate (one of only 26 internationally) in American Academy of Optometry (AAO), Public Health Section
- Mentoring Diplomate Candidates, PHS and non-PHS; serve on examining and research review board
- Nominated to become scientific reviewer for Journal of Military Medicine

**Billet Title and Grade:** Chief of Optometry, District General (Supervisory)

HHS, Aberdeen Area IHS, Rapid City Indian Hospital, Rapid City, SD

22 Apr 1999-31 May 2005

**Duties:**

- Supervised contract Optometrist, student intern program, and technicians
- Managed clinical (outpatient and inpatient), surgical and optical provision of services in the hospital
- Responsible for all entries into the appropriate medical records in compliance with professional community standards
- Clinically provided diagnostic and therapeutic care to patients of the Ogalala Sioux, N. Cheyenne, Rosebud Sioux, and other registered Indians in a responsible, caring, and culturally sensitive manner
- Supported the Emergency Room referrals and OPD referrals, receiving their consults on a regular basis
- Provided instruction for professional staff and training for technical staff in matters specific to care of the eyes and vision
- Conducted quality assurance program for eye care in the SU
- Reported directly to Clinical Director for five years, then Service Unit Director (SUD) for one year
- Supervised school screening programs for the reservations.
- Well Child Clinic provision of developmental and pathology management for five years
- Member of Active Medical Staff

**Impact/Accomplishments:**

- Established department providing full-scope Eye Clinic services where there had been only limited, part-time (contract) refractive care
- IHS Binocular Vision Consultant
- OPAG Representative to AMSUS, served as 2003 Executive Council Member and Awards Committee member (PHS) for six years
- Member of Active Medical Staff
- Developed Student Intern Program (Sioux San Hospital)
- Medical Mission (Nepal)
- As the sole IHS representative to the South Dakota State Learning Disabilities Association, instructed tribal and non-tribal educators on cultural identity and special needs of and classroom approaches to accessing successfully the learning modes specific to Indian children
- Veterans Administration(VA)/Disabled American Veterans (DAV)Winter Sports Clinic volunteer lecturer and instructor), designed/originated physical support systems and new techniques in sitski instruction for spinal injuries and specialized adaptive techniques for visually impaired veteran (Indian and non-Indian) participants; received Letter of Appreciation from VA/DAV (1996-2005)
- Developed student intern program
- Member of team that successfully composed seven-year Diabetes Team Grant
- Initiated proposal and gained highly specialized retinal edema assessment instrument

- Diabetes, Incorporated Board of Directors (member for 2002-2005, elected Board Chairperson for 2004-2005)
- Mentored IHS Pediatrician, Dietician, and Public Health Nurses (PHN's) into the Diabetes, Incorporated Advisory Board itself so as to create continuity between the regional health care community and the IHS Hospitals within the four state drawing area
- As a lead instructor for the visually impaired (Indian and non-Indian participants), initiated for the first time internationally direct student intern involvement, expanding the IHS sphere of influence and the educational experience of the student interns
- Originated diabetic retinopathy research, published in Journal of Military Medicine, July 2004
- First PHS/IHS Optometrist to successfully candidate for Diplomate status in the Public Health Section of the American Academy of Optometry (AAO), Optometry's international scientific and research organization
- Mentoring four IHS OD's through their Diplomate candidacy currently from my position on the examining board with the purpose of expanding the PHS role/voice within this national policy-making group Coordinated interprofessional interface between hospital and voluntary support organization for diabetic pediatric population
- Provided rehabilitative care for visually disabled patients
- Founding member of broad-scale NIH research grant proposal (pending) for Northern Plains tribes

**Billet Title and Grade:** Chief of Optometry, District Complex (Supervisory)

Aberdeen Area IHS, Pine Ridge IHS Hospital, Pine Ridge, SD

Mar 1998-Apr 1999 (*isolated hardship tour*)

**Duties:**

- Supervisor/manager of hospital and two satellite clinics, positions for three full-time and one part-time (contract) Optometrists, one Ophthalmologist, a student intern program, three technical assistants, and one secretary
- Clinically provided diagnostic and therapeutic care to patients of the Ogalala Sioux and other registered Indians in a responsible, caring, and culturally sensitive manner
- Responsible for all eye care entries into the appropriate medical records in compliance with professional community standards
- In charge of providing complete eye care services for a SU and clinics
- Supported the Emergency Room (ER) referrals and Outpatient Department (OPD) referrals, receiving their consults on a regular basis
- Supervised school screenings for tribal district
- Provided instruction for professional staff and training for technical staff in matters specific to care of the eyes and vision
- Conducted quality assurance program for eye care in the Service Unit (SU)
- Supervised school screening programs for the reservations
- Responsible directly to Clinical Director

**Impact/Accomplishments:**

- OPAG Representative to AMSUS
- Established for the first time a responsive consultant program in which the hospital referrals to eye care specialties received immediate and complete consultation reporting
- Established clinical secretary position
- Developed an OB-GYN coordinated effort to effectively screen at-risk, and specifically pregnant women for Pseudotumor Cerebri
- Expanded ocular care program within Diabetes Team for the reservation
- Broadened the student extern program to include four University extern programs
- IHS Binocular Vision Consultant
- Volunteer instructor/lecturer for VA/DAV Clinic
- Designed Eye Clinic portion of new healthcare facility at Wamblee, SD
- Ordered new instrumentation for the clinic
- Developed manpower plan for the facility
- Recruited two new OD's for clinical staff and head of service
- Developed 24/7 call for ocular trauma support of ER staff
- Reorganized and streamlined Optical services
- Senior Clinician/Ophthalmic Consultant for internal medicine, pediatrics, geriatrics, ICU, and prenatal services
- AMSUS Awards Committee Chairperson
- Designed AMSUS Optometry Program, 1998
- IHS AMSUS Chairperson, 1998
- Served term as one of four members of State of Montana Optometric Professional Society Committee, 1998
- Successful promotion to O-6 (CAPTAIN, Senior Health Advisor)

**Billet Title and Grade:** Chief of Optometry, District Complex (upgraded in 1994) (Supervisory)

DHHS, Billings Area IHS, Blackfeet Community Hospital, Browning, MT  
Feb 1993-Feb 1998 (*isolated hardship tour*)

**Duties:**

- Supervisor/manager of hospital and one satellite clinic, positions for two full-time Optometrists, one Ophthalmologist, a student intern program, two technical assistants, and one secretary
- Clinically provided diagnostic and therapeutic care to patients of the Blackfeet tribe and other registered Indians in a responsible, caring, and culturally sensitive manner
- Responsible for all eye care entries into the appropriate medical records in compliance with professional community standards
- In charge of providing complete eye care services for a SU and clinics
- Supported the Emergency Room (ER) referrals and Outpatient Department (OPD) referrals, receiving their consults on a regular basis
- Supervised school screenings for tribal district



- Provides instruction for professional staff and training for technical staff in matters specific to care of the eyes and vision
- Conducted quality assurance program for eye care in the Service Unit (SU)
- Supervised school screening programs for the reservations
- Responsible directly to Clinical Director

**Impact/Accomplishments:**

- Supervised and worked with Ft Benjamin Harrison Hospital executive officer to establish the first Cooperative VA-IHS Medical Program to furnish medical care to the Indian and non-Indian veterans on the reservation in a plan funded by the VA
- Instituted computerized diabetic registry for SU
- Began “eye care” section in patient records to facilitate efficiency (program adopted nationally)
- Established a Congressionally-approved national joint-service plan of cooperation between the National Guard and the IHS, enabling the Guard members to perform their active duty within IHS facilities thus decreasing IHS professional staffing shortages; this program is used nation-wide today
- Designed the new clinical area for the provision of eye care when the hospital was expanded in 1998-2000
- Chairperson of hypertension/cardiovascular disease committee for the Blackfeet Hospital’s Health Promotion/Disease Prevention (HPDP) Program in 1994, then as the Chairperson of the HPDP program from 1995-98
- Active Medical Staff member
- Contract Care Committee member
- Equipment Committee member
- Diabetes Team member
- Supervised the development of an risk management care program for diabetic retinopathy including a computerized recall system
- Wrote SOP for ER eye care
- Instructed students of EMS course in emergency care of the eyes and adnexiae
- Associate Professor/proctor for eight university and college level student training programs
- Volunteer instructor for VA/DAV Winter ports Clinic
- Big Sky Delegate to COA Convention in 1993
- Founding member/advisor of the “Wings” Indian running club for youth
- Promoted to O-5 (Commander)

**Billet Title and Grade:** Chief of Optometry (Supervisory)

Bayne-Jones Army Community Medical Center

USA, Army Regional Hospital, Ft Polk, LA (Jul 92-Feb 93)

**Duties:**

- Supervisor and Senior Clinician for eye care services, including hospital and troop medical clinic
- Managed one Optometrist, an entry level Ophthalmologist, six technicians and assistants, and three civilian clinical secretaries
- Provided high quality emergency and routine surgical and non-surgical care for active duty, a/d dependents, retirees and their dependents, and disabled veterans
- Responsible directly to Chief of Surgery

**Impact/Accomplishments:**

- Planned and supervised successful transfer of Eye Care Services for the Heavy Mechanized Division from Ft Polk, LA to Ft Hood, TX, receiving MSR
- Managed eye care and housing for area during Hurricane Andrew
- Established school eye care in community, lecturing and consulting throughout area school districts.
- AM for perfect 300 score in USA AFPT for three consecutive tests
- Adjunct Professor, U of H
- Promoted to Major and awarded Voluntary Indefinite status

**Billet Title and Grade:** Deputy Chief of Optometry, Frankfurt Army Regional Medical Center, USA, 97<sup>th</sup> General Hospital, Frankfurt, Germany (Jun 1989-Jun 1992)

**Duties:**

- Supervisory responsibility for staff OD's both in this 2,000 bed hospital and in five surrounding hospitals, including during time of war (DS/DS)
- Treatment and care of A/D , dependents, Diplomatic Corps members, their dependents, foreign service members temporarily deployed or in training under USA command
- Preparation and deployment of 33,000 A/D troops for Desert Shield/Desert storm
- Specialty care for A/D and their dependents, Diplomatic Corps, etc. manifesting visually-related learning difficulties as visual care provider on Exceptional Family Member Program Team serving DoDD's in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East
- Preparation of General Hospital for receiving 2,000 patients/day

**Impact/Accomplishments:**

- Successfully managed preparation of 33,000 troops for war
- Managed cutting edge treatment of wide variety of childhood conditions which rendered the children academically and/or developmentally challenged
- In direct charge of hospital's juvenile diabetics, examining and designing treatment programs for all of them
- Received several ribbons for providing care to the divisions and to the Army Bolslager Team (military competition between US teams and those of other countries) from Fulda
- Lectured to several European Military Eye Care Providers Conferences

- Lectured on the EFMD system of behavioral vision care to the first International Behavioral Vision Congress in Monte Carlo (1989)

**Billet Title and Grade:** Chief of Optometry Service (Supervisory)

USAFSS, Goodfellow AFB, San Angelo, TX (Jun 1973-Jun1976)

**Duties:**

- Chief of Optometry for the Security Services, USAF Hospital, providing 24/7 clinical and supervisory care/management for a cryptology training base A/D and dependents, retirees and dependents
- Supervised three Optometric technicians and one secretary
- Provided ER and full-scope routine Optometric services
- Environmental Vision Safety Officer duties
- Acute care clinic daily

**Impact/Accomplishments:**

- Prepared troops for code-deciphering in remote sites in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam
- Determined visual needs of cryptology students and designed optical and adaptive devices for them
- Developed rehabilitative techniques to effectively restore function to patients with nystagmus and strabismus
- Worked in close relationship with Wilford Hall Regional Medical Center Neuro-ophthalmology clinicians to establish appropriate care for encephalitis patients

**Collateral duties/Agency support activities**

- Deployment to MS HAT Team Leader (Sep 2005)
- Deployment to PFO, Advanced SERT, NOLA as LNO (Sep-Oct 2005)
- Rural Care/Optometric Survey Work Group-Consultant's team (Mar 2005-present)
- AMSUS Awards Committee member (1994-present)
- Nominated for PHS Optometry Consultant (2005)
- Served as Optometry Section member-representative to Executive Council of AMSUS (2003)
- Developed and presented workshop on Glaucoma for RCOS (2004)
- Organized and directed Optometry Sectional program on Disaster Preparedness: Biological, Chemical, and Terrorist Warfare (2003)
- Lectured for IHS on a panel of learning disability experts for the SD Learning Disabilities Association, presenting special needs of Indian populations (2003)
- Organized and directed as IHS representative the Optometry Section program on Public Health Services and Emergency Community Coordination (1998)
- PHS national Binocular Vision Consultant (1995-present)

- Scientific reviewer for Public Health and Environmental Optometry Section of AAO (2003-2005)

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CAREER OFFICER AND SERVICE TO THE CORPS**

### **Membership/Involvement in PAC/Advisory Groups**

OPAG: AMSUS Representative: (1994-Present)

AMSUS Optometrist of the Year Award: (2006)

OPAG program manager for AMSUS: (1998, 2003, 2008)

OPAG: AMSUS Awards Committee Member (voting) (1994-2008), Chair (1998, 2003, 2008)

### **BOTC/IOTC**

BOTC (1994), (2006)

SOTC (1995)

### **Professional Organizations**

Beta Sigma Kappa (Professional Honorary Society): (2006)

National Retinal Society: (2006)

American Academy of Optometry, Diplomate of Public Health Section/Environmental Vision: (2002)

Reserve Officers Association (ROA): (1996 – life membership in 1998)

AMSUS: (1994-presently life member)

Montana Optometric Association: (1994-present)

COA (Big Sky Branch): Delegate: (1993), member: (1993-present)

American Public Health Association (Vision section): (1993 – present)

College of Optometrists in Vision Development, Associate Fellow: (1992-97)

Armed Forces Optometric Society: (1989-present)

American Academy of Optometry, Fellow: (1985-present)

Canadian Public Health Association/Alberta Public Health Association: (1979-1988)

Health Promotion Category, Provincial Optometric representative: (1986-87)

Optometric Educational Foundation, National Chairman: (1987-88),

Regional Chairman: (1986-87)

Alberta Optometric Association, Pediatric Vision Chairperson: (1987-88)

Joint Council on Theoretical and Clinical Optometry, Chairman: (1988), member: (1986-88)

Edmonton Society of Optometrists, President : (1983-88), member: (1973-88)

Canadian/Alberta Optometric Association: (1976-93)

American Optometric Association: (1973-present)

Texas Optometric Association (1973-present)

Editorial/Professional Reviewer for Journal of Military Medicine, Ophthalmology Section

### **PHS Commissioned Corps Service Awards**

Field Medical Badge (2008)

Surgeon General's Certificate of Appreciation (2003)

Bicentennial Ribbon (1999)

Unit Citation

Isolated Hardship Award (1993, 1998, 2006)

### **Daily Wearing of Uniform**

Wears uniform daily

### **Civic and Community Service**

Certificate of Appreciation for service to Diabetes, Incorporated for serving for four years on the Advisory board, (the last year as board chair) and instruction each year of four different age groups of children and parents at the Diabetic Kids Camp

Certificates of Appreciation from VA/DAV, 14 years of service as Nordic instructor and lecturer

Certificates of Appreciation from Ski For Light, five years

Certificate of Appreciation, five years of service on Board of Elders, Extension Community Church

### **Civilian Service:**

Private practice with emphasis on pediatric and behavioral vision; Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Jul 76-Aug 88

Fellowship in AAO: 1985

### **Presentations:**

#### **Conference Proceedings:**

**Brown, Clifford D.** Lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina. COA, Tucson, AR; 2008.

**Brown, Clifford D.** Leadership Perspectives. AMSUS PHS Section Leadership Symposium. Salt Lake City, UT; 2007.

**Brown, Clifford D.** Vitreal Changes as a Presenting Sign of TBI. ANG Conference, Salt Lake City, UT; 2006.

**Brown, Clifford D.** Disaster Management: A Bird's Eye View of Katrina. ANG Conference, Salt Lake City, UT; 2006.

**Brown, Clifford D.** Mild Traumatic Brain Injury: a proposed mechanism. COA Optometry Section; Denver, CO; 2006 and to AMSUS, Optometry Section, San Antonio, TX; 2006.

**Brown, Clifford D.** History of Management Of Diabetes in the IHS: a plan for America. AAO PH/EV Section Symposium; San Diego, CA; 2003.

**Brown, Clifford D.** Reasons to pursue scientific advancement past the level of Fellowship in the AAO. IHS Eye Care Providers Conference; 2003 May 11; SCCO; Fullerton, CA; 2003.

**Brown, Clifford D.** Saccadic fixational movements and the neural components involved in the visual process. EFMD Educational Conference; 1992 Feb; Pruegshheim, Germany; 1992.

**Brown, Clifford D.** Computers and eye strain. European Military Optometric Convention; 1990 Mar; Wurzburg, Germany; 1990.

**Brown, Clifford D.** Behavioral vision and military practice. European Military Optometric Convention; 1989 October; Garmisch, Germany; 1989.

**Brown, Clifford D.** Vision, the eye, and binocularity. United States School of Health, Physicians Assistant Course; 1989 May; USHSS; Ft Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX; 1989.

**Brown, Clifford D.** Guest lecturer for University of Alberta Medical School, Department of Neurology; 1987 December; Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, 1987.

**Brown, Clifford D.** Neurophysiological basis of visually-related learning. Western Optical Society, Regional Convention; 1987 Feb; Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, 1987.

**Brown, Clifford D.** Visually-related learning disabilities and the classroom. Visual Consultant for five school districts and visiting consultant in two others: Edmonton Public, St. Paul's Separate, Stony Plain Public, Sherwood Park Public, Spruce Grove Public, Mill Woods Public, Prince Alpert Separate School Systems; all-school, teacher's in-service trainings and educational seminars; 1976-88.

**Journal Articles:**

1. **Brown CD.** A comparative study of panretinal photocoagulation and vitrectomy for advanced diabetic retinopathy. Journal of Military Medicine, July, 2003.
2. **Bertolli ER, Brown CD,** et. al. Clinical Detection and Imaging of Contusions in Suspected Physical Abuse, Winter, 2011.