



# Council of the Cherokee Nation

Cherokee Nation Complex  
17675 S. Muskogee Ave.  
Tahlequah, OK 74464

## Meeting Minutes - Final HEALTH COMMITTEE

*Dr. Mike Dobbins, Chair*

*Recording Secretary, Shelli Brittain Coke  
Phone: 1-800-995-9465,  
E-mail: council-public@cherokee.org*

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Monday, May 16, 2022

12:30 PM

Tribal Council Offices

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### CALL TO ORDER

**Chair Dobbins called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m.**

### INVOCATION

**Councilor Sam gave the invocation.**

### ROLL CALL

*Councilor Coates attended remotely.*

**Present** 12 - Keith Austin; Joe Deere; Daryl Legg; Dora Patzkowski; Mike Shambaugh; Mike Dobbins; Candessa Tehee; E. O. "JR." Smith; Joshua Sam; Melvina Shotpouch; Danny Callison and Johnny Kidwell

**Absent** 2 - Wes Nofire and Victoria Vazquez

**Late Arrival** 3 - Julia Coates; Shawn Crittenden and Rex Jordan

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Councilor Deere moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Councilor Austin seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

### REPORTS:

Claremore Service Unit - George Valliere

*Mr. Valliere provided an update on COVID and gave highlights from the report. Chair Dobbins requested clarification on the COVID report. He inquired as to the number of dental chairs, staff and patients seen at their facility. Councilor Austin inquired about the contract health denials. Councilor Shambaugh inquired as to the main reason for being denied. Councilor Callison inquired if the denial letter stated why and if it was where the citizen could understand. Councilor Patzkowski requested a copy of the denial letter.*

Cherokee Nation Health Services - Dr. Steve Jones

*Dr. Jones provided highlights from the report. He commented on the health newsletter recently provided by email. He offered to answer questions from the report. Councilor Legg inquired about patients getting multiple bills for contract health. Councilor Crittenden requested a copy of their denial letter. Councilor Callison inquired as to the main reason for a denial. He requested a copy of the rules of contract health be given to the Council. Councilor Kidwell inquired who determines what is considered "risky behavior". Councilor Callison questioned taking third party credit to help people who don't qualify for contract health. He inquired as to the last time the contract health department was reviewed and/or expanded. Councilor Deere requested clarification on a comment pertaining to contract health. Councilor Kidwell inquired if we have an MOU with Muskogee Creek Nation. Councilor Shambaugh inquired about the budget for contract health.*

Cherokee Nation Public Health - Lisa Pivec & Dr. David Gahn

*Ms. Pivec gave highlights from the report provided. She announced cherokeepublichealth.org has been launched. The Tribal Health Assessment will be on the website in a few weeks. She reported on their efforts to assist in the shortage of infant formula and provided caution on the scams. The Summer Food Program will have a payment increase.*

*Dr. Gahn provided an update on the COVID numbers, the next variant, and the cases slowly increasing again. Councilor Shambaugh inquired about our status on vaccines.*

#### OLD BUSINESS

*None pending.*

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. [TMP-402](#) DISCUSSION ONLY: CHEROKEE NATION CONTRACT HEALTH SERVICES  
With CNCHS Director, Steve Carey  
*This discussion was held during the Cherokee Nation Health Services Report. A Powerpoint handout was provided pertaining to Contract Health Services.*

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Chair Dobbins announced the opening of a dental school.*

*Councilor Legg congratulated Dr. Jones on his son graduating dental school.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Callison moved to adjourn. Councilor Crittenden seconded the motion. The motion carried at 1:43 p.m.**

STAFF PRESENT:

*David Gahn*  
*Corey Bunch*  
*David Moore*

*Lisa Pivec*  
*Christina Carroll*

*Steve Jones*  
*Camerin Fite James*

VISITORS PRESENT:

*George Valliere*

*Teddy Snell*

*John Young*