



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Meeting Minutes HEALTH COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

10:00 AM

Legislative Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fullbright called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Snell gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 12 - Bill John Baker; S. Joe Crittenden; Don Garvin; Meredith Frailey; Cara Cowan Watts; Jack D. Baker; Tina Glory Jordan; Jodie Fishinghawk; Janelle Fullbright; Harley Buzzard; Curtis Snell and Chris Soap

Absent 2 - David Thornton Sr. and Bradley Cobb

Late Arrival 2 - Buel Anglen and Julia Coates

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Bill John Baker made a motion to approve the June 16, 2009 regular session minutes. Councilor Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

1. Claremore Service Unit - George Valliere

Mr. Valliere was unable to attend.

2. Cherokee Nation Health Services - Melissa Gower

Ms. Gower offered to take questions for Mr. Valliere and send them to him or she suggested emailing the questions directly to him. She offered to answer questions from her written report. As discussed last month Bret Hayes is here to provide a power point presentation on contract health services. Chair Fullbright inquired about someone living within the Cherokee Nation boundaries in Muskogee County and being sent to Creek Nation for services. Mr. Hayes stated the Creek Nation has the in-patient authority and the Cherokee Nation has the out-patient authority. Councilor Fishinghawk requested the maps within the presentation be provided in larger size. Councilor Cowan Watts requested the maps be placed on the web. Councilor Bill John Baker inquired about it taking up to eighteen months to obtain a primary care physician. Ms. Gower agreed it could sometimes take this long and they are working

to correct the issue. She stated the Cherokee Nation can be listed as the primary care physician it doesn't have to be a specific doctor with regard to contract health issues. Councilor Bill John Baker inquired why the referrals with a \$10 insurance co-pay are paid and approved. Ms. Gower stated the contract health approval process is based on medical priority not co-pay. Councilor Bill John Baker inquired about appropriating tribal funds for these situations to some what clear the system. Ms. Gower voiced concern and stated 100 referrals would be a \$1,000 which could be the cost of service for someone with a higher medical priority. Councilor Jack D. Baker inquired if 70% of appeals are approved then why they aren't approved as a referral. Ms. Gower stated most of them are due to lack of documentation. Councilor Soap inquired as to what percentage of our patients in the contract health system have additional pay sources. Ms. Gower stated they can provide this information. Councilor Soap inquired about the timeline for contract health services. Mr. Hayes stated the patient should either receive an appointment or a denial within two weeks. Councilor Fishinghawk requested the un-obligated balance be submitted to her by email. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired if a one page contract health information sheet could be sent out to patients at the clinics by household. She further suggested having poster size information posted at the hospitals and clinics about contract health. Ms. Gower stated they are considering creating a brochure of contract health information to be available at all health centers. Councilor Frailey stated based on the statistics provided the denials are down. She inquired if there is a plan for those remaining. Mr. Hayes stated efficiency is a large part. Ms. Gower stated the overall strategic plan is to continue to lobby for more dollars to be appropriated. She stated as complicated as contract health is the Cherokee Nation has one of the best ran programs in the Country.

Chair Fullbright announced the pictures for this afternoon have been cancelled.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

1. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE TRIBAL MANAGEMENT GRANT APPLICATION
Councilor Bill John Baker made a motion to approve. Councilor Garvin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Bill John Baker made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Crittenden seconded the motion. Motion carried at 11:20 a.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

Melissa Gower
Ida Webber

Dr. Gloria Grim

Bret Hayes

VISITORS PRESENT:

Todd Hembree

APPROVAL / DISTRIBUTION

Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Legal & Legislative Coordinator

Motion to approve minutes made by: _____

Minutes attested and concurred by: _____

Date: _____