



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Meeting Minutes

Health Committee

Tuesday, March 13, 2007

1:00 PM

Legislative Colnference Room

Call To Order

Chair Crittenden called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Invocation

Councilman Bill John Baker gave the invocation.

Roll Call

Present 14 - Bill John Baker; Audra Smoke-Conner; S. Joe Crittenden; Jackie Bob Martin; David Thornton Sr. ; Phyllis Yargee; Don Garvin; Linda Hughes-O'Leary; Melvina Shotpouch; Meredith Frailey; Cara Cowan Watts; Buel Anglen; Taylor Keen and Jack D. Baker

Absent 1 - Charles "Chuck" Hoskin

Late Arrival 1 - John F. Keener

Approval of Minutes

Councilman Buel Anglen made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 13th regular session. Council member O'Leary seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Reports

Claremore Service Unit:

Jim Cussen

Jim Cussen reported the Leadership reviewed the feasibility of providing a Pap Smear Clinic on Saturday mornings to increase access for women's care and to address their GPRa goals. He along with the Clinical Director and Chief Nurse Executive are preparing a business plan for improving the OB/GYN services to be equal to or better than Community Standards of Care. They are planning for the implementation of epidurals and the construction of initially two labor, delivery, recovery and post partum rooms. He attended a town meeting in Broken Arrow on the NSU campus and St. Francis of Broken Arrow is relocating their operation out on 169 highway. The existing facility in Broken Arrow will be an urgent care clinic and the emergency will be out on 169. The IT Department has had to re-prioritize workload due to daylight savings patch of all computers, laptop encryptions, and certification and accreditation of systems within the facility. Third party collections are up \$167,000 but still have a backlog due to switching over to the electronic health records. Contract Health Service had 102 denials and 1012 of unmet needs. CHEF update had 6 cases identified, 5 cases submitted and 1 case is pending submission. The budget shows a deficit and the reason for this is they have done some cost shifting due to the new UFMS system. They plan to have obligations transitioned by March 31st. He attended the Grand Opening of the new Clinton Indian Health Center on March 9th, 2007. Dr. Charles Grim was the keynote speaker and was

bestowed with a headdress by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Chiefs. The next Joint Committee will be in Tulsa on April 24-25, 2007. The Hastings Indian Medical Center, Cherokee Nation and the Tulsa Resource Health Center will be hosting the event. The continuing resolution is in effect through September 30, 2007 which is the end of fiscal year 2007. The construction of the new housekeeping building is near completion and they have worked out the problem with the architect and the construction firm about the dock. The implementation of the charge master is progressing well. They have their performance standards pulled together and will submit them for their mid-term evaluations.

Hastings Indian Medical Center:

Ed McLemore

Ed McLemore reported the balance at the end of February 2007 is \$778,809.28 and they project to carry this through to the end of the fiscal year, ending with about \$810,039.27. He commented on a press release included in the booklet from the Indian Health Service dated February 6, 2007 that states the President is proposing a 7% increase in FY 2008 budget for Indian Health Service. The total recommended increase is about \$212 million dollars across the Indian Health budget line items. Adding in funds from health insurance collections estimated at \$700.3 million, designated diabetes appropriations of \$150 million, and \$6 million for staff quarters rental collections, increases the proposed budget for the IHS to \$4.1 billion in program level spending. They are looking at for the Hastings Indian Medical Center about \$31.5 million dollars in collections and their total appropriation is about \$22 million with total operations at \$54 million dollars. Rod Copley has decided to retire after many years of dedicated service to Hastings Indian Medical Center. On February 17th the OCAIHS Pharmacy Branch held its annual awards luncheon in conjunction with the Annual Pharmacy Officers meeting at the Renaissance Hotel in Tulsa. Several of the Hastings Indian Medical Center pharmacists were recognized for contributions in this past year. Among those were Brian Wren, Ivanne Cheatham, Lindsey Marshall, Stacy Thornton, Dick Stowe and Kim Barrett. The construction of the Diabetic/PT Building is moving along and the interior rooms have been framed and exterior insulation is mostly completed. He gave an update on the current vacancy rates for some health professions. The land acquisition of the 8.5 acres is at the point of closing and they have all approvals and are now currently waiting on a check for one third of a million dollars. The closing is tentatively scheduled for the 29th of March.

Cherokee Nation Health Services:

Melissa Gower

Melissa Gower reported Cherokee Health Partners performed 133 procedures for a net gain of \$39,000 in the month of February. They are still interviewing and answering questions from the Oklahoma Health Care Authority on the PACE application. They are in a joint recruiting effort with Oklahoma University taking the lead on finding an Oncologist for the Cancer Program. They will be co-hosting with Hastings Indian Medical Center and the Tulsa Urban Clinic for the next Joint Combines Council meeting that will be held in Tulsa on April 24-25, 2007. She and Callie Catcher attended the Native American Finance Conference on invitation and gave a presentation on Cherokee Nation's Health Care Financing Construction Bonds. She gave construction project updates on Sallisaw, Nowata and Muskogee. They continue to work with Tahlequah City Hospital on a few joint endeavors and are currently looking at some health business ideas. They have been meeting with Jane Phillips Hospital in Bartlesville to discuss their contracting partnership and how they may be able to expand that with the new Nowata Clinic opening. Third party collections continues to improve and project to be \$1.5 million above what they collected last year. They have implemented a very concentrated focus follow-up billing program that is working very well. They are implementing a quavatic system which

is a third party eligibility validation software program. Dr. Gloria Grim is leading a group to develop and complete a prevention plan for obesity and chronic disease which also has a worksite wellness type program included. The Diabetes and Behavioral Health Programs have moved their offices to Fourth Street. They continue to work on some emergency medical health plans preparedness plans. The Diabetes Prevention Program has started a new class in Adair County. The Patient Satisfaction Action to Care Survey is completed and for anyone of the clinics that did not meet the threshold of 85% they have implemented a plan of action for them to get that in alignment. The CDC Program has been preparing for the new grant submittal that funds their program. Jay has begun a weight class with thirteen participants currently enrolled. Wings Program held ten events last month and have 1200 active members. They have smoking cessations classes going in numerous communities with lots of participants. They received sixteen applications from communities for the Summer Youth Fitness Day Camps. They have been working in communities on implementing some kitchen creation classes. Community Health Nursing made 150 home visits. Jack Brown has a census of 22 which is at capacity. The Behavioral Health Program seen 3500 patients last month. Contract Health Service processed 2264 referrals; they approved 2149 referrals and denied 115 referrals.

Council member Yargee inquired about the policy on cataract surgery. Dr. Gloria Grim stated they work with Northeastern State University on a partnership with an Ophthalmologist and Cherokee Nation employs his services two days a week. Currently they do most cataract surgeries at Tahlequah City Hospital. They have been working with Dr. Farris at Hastings to get surgery time there to allow the Ophthalmologist to start doing surgeries there.

Council member O'Leary requested a self-determination co-pay update. Melissa Gower stated she has no update and hasn't done anything with this since the last time it was discussed. She stated it's not that she ever considered a co-pay but that they are looking at various ways in their programs to implement the self-help legislation from 18 months to two years ago. They have various options of ways to do some of that in their programs. She is not at this point recommending or preferring any one particular option and have not worked on it in several months. She would be reluctant to do any of this because she has never come forward with any kind of recommendation for any kind of co-pay whether it was in our facilities or with Hastings but she has looked as part of self-help at lots of different mechanisms to be able to implement that tribal law. Council member O'Leary stated when she visited with Melissa the last few times she didn't hear about a lot of mechanisms, she only heard about one and that is the reason she asked for the update.

Old Business

None.

New Business

1. a resolution Authorizing the submission of an application for the 2007 National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Dr. Gloria Grim stated this program is aimed specifically at women looking at prevention and early detection of breast and cervical cancer.

Councilman Garvin moved for the approval. Council member Conner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. a resolution Authorizing the submission of an application for the 2007 National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Dr. Gloria Grim stated they are asking for \$300,000 from the grant and it looks at a comprehensive cancer prevention plan throughout the fourteen county area at preventing all types of cancers and this will hopefully allow them to get into more actual programmatic dollars for treatment.*
- Councilman Bill John Baker moved for the approval. Council member Conner seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

3. ACT RELATING TO
Amendment of L.A. 16-96, the Cherokee Nation General Corporation Act, as Amended by L.A. 2-03, L.A. 4-04, and L.A. 36-05
- Councilman Thornton stated he and Councilman Crittenden brought this Act forward to increase the monthly dividend of corporation in which the Cherokee Nation is the sole or majority shareholder by five percent (5%) with said percentage being set aside exclusively for health related matters. The five percent (5%) dividend will be set aside for exclusively for contract health services for Cherokee citizens, including but not limited to for eyeglasses, dentures, prosthesis and hearing aids.*

Callie Catcher stated she just became aware of the Act yesterday afternoon and this is something that is been discussed a lot on what level to set the dividends at and to Councilman Thornton's comment about being able to show they are using gaming money in health care, there is a Contract Health Back To Work Program that is funded through general fund and would not be possible if there was no gaming dividend. They do currently have a surplus in the 2007 budget and before they go and change the dividend act without some input from the business side she would like to see more analysis done. They came before this Council in January and laid out a very aggressive expansion plan for the gaming operations and it was approved by this Council in the form of an increased borrowing base for CNE. She would like to propose input from the business side and she would work with whomever from this committee and do some analysis before this is moved on.

A motion was made by Councilor Cara Cowan Watts and seconded by Councilor Buel Anglen, that this matter be Tabled. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yea: 6 - Jackie Bob Martin; Don Garvin; Meredith Frailey; Cara Cowan Watts; Buel Anglen and Jack D. Baker

Nay: 8 - Bill John Baker; Audra Smoke-Conner; S. Joe Crittenden; David Thornton Sr. ; Phyllis Yargee; Linda Hughes-O'Leary; Melvina Shotpouch and John F. Keener

Not In Room: 1 - Taylor Keen

A motion was made by Councilor David Thornton Sr. and seconded by Councilor Bill John Baker, that this matter be Approved and Referred to the Executive and Finance Committee, due back on 3/30/2007. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yea: 9 - Bill John Baker; Audra Smoke-Conner; S. Joe Crittenden; David Thornton Sr. ; Phyllis Yargee; Linda Hughes-O'Leary; Melvina Shotpouch; John F. Keener and Jack D. Baker

Nay: 5 - Jackie Bob Martin; Don Garvin; Meredith Frailey; Cara Cowan Watts and Buel Anglen

Not In Room: 1 - Taylor Keen

Callie Catcher requested the Chair to let her know who she needs to get together with on this group to work on this before the Executive & Finance meeting.

Announcements

Next months meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 17th, 2007 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Councilman Anglen moved for adjournment. Council member Conner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

STAFF PRESENT:

<i>Dr. Gloria Grim</i>	<i>Melissa Gower</i>	<i>Ida Webber</i>
<i>Jokay Dowell</i>	<i>Tom Elkins</i>	<i>Kim Cravatt</i>

VISITORS PRESENT:

<i>Jim Cussen</i>	<i>Ed McLemore</i>	<i>Charles Dry</i>
<i>Keith Barrick</i>	<i>Mitch Thornbrugh</i>	<i>Susan Ruckman</i>
<i>Jim Ketcher</i>	<i>Callie Catcher</i>	<i>Dr. Farris</i>

APPROVAL / DISTRIBUTION

Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Recording Secretary

Motion to approve minutes made by: _____

Minutes attested and concurred by: _____