



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*

Monday, December 13, 2021

12:30 PM

Tribal Council Offices

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dobbins called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Kidwell gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 17 - Keith Austin; Julia Coates; Shawn Crittenden; Joe Deere; Rex Jordan; Daryl Legg; Dora Patzkowski; Wes Nofire; Mike Shambaugh; Mike Dobbins; Candessa Tehee; Victoria Vazquez; E. O. "JR." Smith; Joshua Sam; Melvina Shotpouch; Danny Callison and Johnny Kidwell

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Jordan made a motion to approve the November minutes as submitted. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried.

REPORTS:

Claremore Service Unit - George Valliere

Mr. Valliere provided an update from the report including the COVID testing and positivity rate. He offered to answer questions from the report provided. Councilor Austin inquired as to the number of COVID test performed a day. He inquired if they have completed the move to the building next door. Chair Dobbins inquired what they could attribute the increase in revenue too with the patient load down. He inquired about the vacancy rate at Claremore.

Cherokee Nation Health Services - Dr. Steve Jones

Dr. Jones gave highlights from the report provided. Up to date highlights were given on the COVID testing and vaccinations. An update was given on the injunction filed on the vaccine mandate. Dr. Jones wanted to publically give appreciation to Chief Hoskin and Deputy Chief Warner for the employee appreciation lunches provided to each

clinic. He offered to take questions from the report provided. Councilor Patzkowski requested clarification on the premium pay for health care employees. Councilor Callison announced they welcomed a new grandbaby at Hastings last week and commented on the wonderful care provided. Councilor Nofire requested a copy of the EMS evaluation recently performed once complete. He inquired about EMS transports and the vacancy rate of providers due to the vaccine mandate. He requested a copy of the religious exemption policy pertaining to vaccinations. Councilor Smith inquired if the youth could get the booster and flu shots at the same time. Councilor Legg inquired if Physicians Assistants are eligible for all incentives and if not why differentiate. Councilor Vazquez requested a breakdown off what Cherokee Health Partners is, how they receive funds from the Cherokee Nation, and do they have any type of financial relationship with CNB. Councilor Shambaugh inquired about the federal mandate and our funding. Chair Dobbins requested clarification of the status of the vaccine mandate and policy as of right now. Councilor Nofire requested clarification that all types of vaccinations meet the requirements to qualify for the mandate.

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

Ms. Pivec gave highlights from the report provided including the Tribal Health Assessment, the Public Health Accreditation and a cross collaboration. Dr. Gahn gave an update on the COVID cases and the new variant. Councilor Shambaugh inquired about the differences of the first cases of COVID versus cases now. Councilor Nofire inquired about comparisons within the variants. Councilor Crittenden inquired about the flu. Councilor Legg inquired if they were able to differentiate between the variants at the Cherokee Nation. Councilor Callison inquired about providing hard facts to the public. Chair Dobbins inquired about the vaccination rate within the Cherokee Nation currently. He also inquired about natural immunity.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

1. [TMP-398](#) REPORT/COMMUNICATION: OSU MEDICAL SCHOOL UPDATE AND ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Dr. Doug Nolan - Associate Dean of Tribal Health Affairs - OSU Medical School

Dr. Nolan provided a background of this time with Cherokee Nation Health Services and his current role at the OSU Medical School. He provided statistics from the medical school including the number of Native Americans and the number of Cherokees. He provided an overview of medical school requirements and provided a handout. He spoke of the recruitment efforts. He offered to answer questions from the information given. Chair Dobbins commented on students taking AP classes and the ACT score as a marker. Councilor Smith inquired as to the process for someone who is sophomore or junior in college. Councilor Legg inquired if there is a special tuition rate for Cherokee Nation citizens.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Crittenden made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried at 1:41 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

*Doug Nolan
Steve Jones
Corey Bunch
Chad Harsha*

*Lisa Pivec
Chrissi Nimmo
David Moore*

*David Gahn
Taralee Montgomery
Camerin Fite James*

VISITORS PRESENT:

John Young

Teddye Snell

George Valliere