



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Meeting Minutes Health Committee

Monday, October 19, 2009

2:00 PM

Legislative Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cobb called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Thornton gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Councilor Hoskin Jr. is in attendance but doesn't serve on this committee.

Present 12 - S. Joe Crittenden; David Thornton Sr. ; Meredith Frailey; Buel Anglen; Jack D. Baker; Tina Glory Jordan; Jodie Fishinghawk; Janelle Fullbright; Harley Buzzard; Chris Soap; Bradley Cobb and Julia Coates

Late Arrival 4 - Bill John Baker; Don Garvin; Cara Cowan Watts and Curtis Snell

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Thornton made a motion to approve the September 15th regular session minutes. Councilor Anglen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

1. Claremore Service Unit - George Valliere

Mr. Valliere gave a review of his written report. Councilor Buzzard inquired about the flu and the H1N1 at Claremore. Mr. Valliere stated they have seen a couple and are treating like the H1N1 as recommended by the CDC. He announced they have had two weeks of the drive through flu shot for the regular flu.

2. Cherokee Nation Health Services - Melissa Gower

Ms. Gower offered to answer questions from her written report. Councilor Fishinghawk announced she has received several calls with concern about only being able to pick up prescriptions monthly instead of every three months. Ms. Gower stated they changed their policy about thirty days ago to go to a thirty day refill program for numerous reasons. She announced they will put robotics in at the Stilwell clinic and implement mail order. Ms. Gower stated they have received a limited supply of H1N1 shots and they must follow the CDC guidelines. The first one-hundred doses were set aside for residential students so the shots will be given to Sequoyah High School, parts of Job Corp and the Jack Brown Center. She stated

they will be receiving additional shots.

Councilor Bill John Baker voiced concern for people who have always used Hastings being told they have to go to Stilwell or Muskogee. Ms. Gower stated there is a waiting list for a primary care physician at Hastings. There isn't a waiting list at the clinics. Councilor Soap inquired as to the type of CPR we teach or endorse. He commented he read an article where in Arizona they are using an alternate type of CPR and having a dramatic increase in survival rates. Ms. Gower stated she is unsure but she would look into it. Councilor Fullbright asked about the policy for assisting someone in completing short term disability paperwork. Ms. Gower stated for short term usually a note from the doctor stating not to return to work for a certain period of time works. Ms. Gower offered to look into the situation further. Councilor Bill John Baker inquired why we don't complete the paperwork for disabled Cherokees. Ms. Gower stated it takes a specialty doctor with training for long term disability to determine the percent the person is disabled. She stated there are physicians that do just this specialty and we do not have one. She stated it is time consuming and our physicians are not trained to make these determinations. Councilor Bill John Baker stated these are usually people who are extremely poor and may not go to any other health care facility. Ms. Gower stated they will and they do cooperate and provide information, medical records or what ever is needed for a disability physician. Councilor Fishinghawk inquired if contract health would pay for a visit to a disability physician. Ms. Gower stated she was unsure. If their primary care physician refers them to a specialist and it goes through the process and is approved then it would be paid. Councilor Buzzard agreed with Councilor Bill John Baker that if people are applying for social security disability they don't have a lot of money. He stated it should be a policy to pay through contract health for these people. Councilor Bill John Baker inquired if it is a Cherokee Nation Health Department policy or a federal policy. He stated he never received a complaint before we took over. Ms. Gower stated Indian Health Service doesn't provide the service of determining the percentage of disability. Councilor Fishinghawk requested research to determine how much funding it would take to train a physician to provide this service. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired if when someone enters the emergency room and has self inflicted injury or drug issues if there is counseling provided. Ms. Gower stated the emergency room physician does a screening or an assessment and if it is determined they are in an immediate danger to themselves or others they can transfer them for immediate attention. If it is not an immediate danger a referral is sent to behavior health or they call the physiologist on call.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

1. A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENT OF LUCILLE MARIE WADLEY, A CHEROKEE OF GREAT DISTINCTION
Councilor Glory-Jordan stated she wants to honor Ms. Wadley but inquired if this is the proper committee placement. Councilor Garvin stated it was convenient to go through Health committee. Councilor Cowan Watts stated the ultimate determination of which committee is upon the Speaker. She requested Mr. Benge go through Education & Culture committee and then to Council the same night to have the process complete in time for his 100th birthday. Speaker Frailey commented she agreed to their placement due to time constraints. They do need to be honored. They should go through Rules committee.
Councilor Garvin made a motion to approve and forward to Council tonight.

Councilor Bill John Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2.

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SOLICITATION OF HEALTH CARE FACILITY LOAN PROPOSALS

Chair Cobb announced this resolution is to acquire financing for the Indian Health Service joint venture project for the Vinita Clinic and the Salina Dental Clinic. Speaker Frailey requested to be listed as a sponsor on the legislation as well. Councilor Jack D. Baker stated the loan proposal is for \$30ml however the two projects total \$32,971,000. He inquired where the other \$3ml would come from. Ms. Gower stated they are going to do the projects for \$30ml. Those estimates are IHS estimates which are usually high. Councilor Bill John Baker offered a friendly amendment to send this item to full Council tonight. Friendly accepted.

Councilor Bill John Baker moved to approve and forward to Council tonight. Councilor Frailey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chair Cobb announced Speaker Frailey and Councilor Hoskin Jr. are also sponsors of the resolution.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Garvin moved to adjourn. Councilor Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried at 2:48 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

Melissa Gower

VISITORS PRESENT:

Jim Ketcher George Vallerie

APPROVAL / DISTRIBUTION

Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Legal & Legislative Coordinator

Motion to approve minutes made by: _____

Minutes attested and concurred by: _____

Date: _____