



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Meeting Minutes

Health Committee

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

10:00 AM

Head Start Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION

Councilor Soap gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 16 - Bill John Baker; S. Joe Crittenden; David Thornton Sr. ; Don Garvin; Meredith Frailey; Cara Cowan Watts; Buel Anglen; Jack D. Baker; Tina Glory Jordan; Jodie Fishinghawk; Janelle Fullbright; Harley Buzzard; Curtis Snell; Chris Soap; Bradley Cobb and Julia Coates

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Anglen made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 16th regular session. Councilor Jack Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Claremore Service Unit:

Jim Cussen

Jim Cussen stated they will be hosting the JCC meeting at the Southern Hills Hilton on December 4th and the 5th. The primary meetings will be held December 3, 2007. They are in the process of changing their financial system to the Unified Financial Management System. The Claremore Indian Heath directors met in Wyandotte and talked about the jurisdiction issue to designate the facility and surrounding land as Indian Country. The resolution was tabled pending clarification. Councilor Cowan Watts announced currently Claremore Indian Hospital is under exclusive Federal jurisdiction which creates a situation where only Federal marshal service or the Federal Bureau of Investigation can respond which in reality causes a delay in security for both the staff and patients. They have not been willing over the past 8 years to allow the Cherokee Marshal Service or other security agencies to respond. The original solution was thought to be concurrent jurisdiction however when it went to Washington D.C. several congressional folks questioned why they would want to divulge the jurisdiction to the state it should be divulged to the tribe or to Indian Country. She stated they now believe this qualifies under a certain Federal law section as a dependant Indian Community. This would not transfer ownership or title but would evolve the jurisdiction to us to allow us to increase the available security. She announced she would be coming to this body with a resolution requesting to withdraw the concurrent support and request it become a dependant Indian community. She announced they do have the Sheriff's and city police chief's supports to cross deputize. Mr. Cussen stated they continue to work on their business plan for the revitalization of their OBGYN department. Mr. Cussen stated they are close in getting approval for their business plan. They have the annual Combined Council National Meeting which will be in February in San Diego. They had a drive thru Flu clinic which lasted for 4 days. They learned a lot of lessons and hopefully be better

next time. Their approvals for CHS collections were 456 approvals at \$550,000. They are seeing success in 3rd party collections.

Hastings Indian Medical Center:

Ed McLemore

Ed McLemore stated they are seeing success in their 3rd party collections. In October they have collected \$3.1ml. Last year in October they collected \$33.5ml for the year. He announced 60% of the staff is paid through alternate resources. The drive thru flu clinic ran for 3 ½ days. They provided over 2,100 shots. Last year there were 1,500 flu shots given. They have been using electronic health records on outpatient components for the last 2 years. They will be using an inpatient components starting on November 27. They will be kicking off a mail order pharmacy for prescription refills starting in January. They are working out the details for payment of postage. It should reduce the Pharmacy traffic area by 2/3. Mr. McLemore stated there has been a lot of discussion in the news regarding MRSA.

Chair Cobb inquired if the mail in pharmacy would only be available to Cherokee citizens. Mr. McLemore stated it will be available to all patients who are provided services and is not limited to geographic service areas. Councilor Cobb inquired about any MRSA cases being identified at W.W. Hastings. Mr. McLemore stated there has been 2 cases identified both on staff members. They routinely see cases on patients that have been transferred in.

Councilor Soap inquired about the diabetic strips being included as a prescription. Mr. McLemore stated if it was considered a prescription, then it could be included. As of right now, it is considered as supplies, but could be looked into. Chair Cobb requested discussion of this being included in the mail out options.

Cherokee Nation Health Services:

Melissa Gower

Melissa Gower provided a calendar showing the dates flu shots would be given. They have their RFA out for school for health grants. They have distributed to all schools in the jurisdiction areas and have been posted on the website. She attended an Oklahoma Town Hall Academy for State Health Goals. There were 5 recommendations for health. The goals were 1) Use the Cherokee Nation PACE Program as model 2) Better partnership with Medicaid and Sooner care 3) Recognize the under funding in the Oklahoma area for IHS 4) Review the Health Benefit Task Force 5) Coordinate prevention health effort through schools. Ms. Gower stated they have scheduled their grand opening for the Nowata Clinic on December 18 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. They will be moving into the clinic on December 6 and 7. They will be scheduling and seeing patients December 10, 2007 in the new building. The new clinic in Muskogee grand opening is January 3, 2008 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. They will be moving December 26-28. They will be seeing patients on December 31, 2007. There will be a lunch and pre tour provided for the Council, Chief, and Deputy Chief for the Muskogee Clinic on December 19 from 11:00 to 1:00 p.m. The council will get invitations.

Councilor Buzzard inquired about the status of the roof at the Jay Clinic. Ms. Gower stated they received bids on various types of roofs.

Councilor Fullbright voiced concern about the unavailability of drop in slots at both the Wilma P. Mankiller and Redbird Smith clinics. Ms. Gower stated she will check in to the situation. She stated the best option is to schedule an appointment. There is a no show rate at Sallisaw Clinic at 30%. Councilor Fullbright stated the patients are calling in beginning at 7:30 a.m. and by 8:00 a.m. the slots are full. She stated some of the people she has spoken to have called everyday for a week and still don't get an appointment. She questioned if there were enough providers available. Councilor Fishinghawk stated

she has experienced the same problem. Ms. Gower stated they have appointments available and only so many slots available for walk ins. She stated each provider has 22 slots. Councilor Fishinghawk inquired as to how may providers. Ms. Gower stated she was unsure of the number at each clinic but knew the total of all clinics. Councilor Fishinghawk requested a break down of providers at each clinic.

Councilor Frailey inquired about an estimate time frame for the Salina dental clinic. Ms. Gower stated it is next.

A Resolution Requesting the U.S. Congress to Declare the Claremore Indian Hospital and Surrounding Parcel of Land as Indian Country under 18 U.S.C. § 1151(b)

Sponsors: Councilor Cowan Watts

Councilor Cowan-Watts moved the resolution on dependent on Indian country at the Claremore Indian Hospital to rules this month. Councilor Jack Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. McLemore invited the Council to Thanksgiving dinner at W.W. Hastings Hospital from 11:00 to 1:00 on December 15th.

Councilor Soap announced a diabetes awareness event at the Ribbon Baptist Church in Spavinaw this Saturday at 11:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Anglen moved for adjournment. Councilor Jack Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried at 10:47 a.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

Melisa Gower Ginger Brown

VISITORS PRESENT:

Jim Cussen Ed McLemore Mitch Thornbrugh
Jim Ketcher Charles Dry

APPROVAL / DISTRIBUTION

Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Recording Secretary

Motion to approve minutes made by: _____

Minutes attested and concurred by: _____

Date: _____