

Cherokee Nation Tribal Council

Community Services Committee Report

Group: **Human Services**
(355 Employees)

Report For: **May 2010 for July 2010 Meeting**

Group

Leader: **Norma Merriman**

Contact Info: **453-5787** or nmerriman@cherokee.org

Program Highlights for May 2010

- 1. Office of Veterans Affairs:** The Tribal Veteran's Representative received 50 calls for services in May. He also met with 30 veterans in person. The Veterans Office donated a flag to Oaks Indian Mission; they will be displaying flags of each individual tribe represented there. Readjustment Counselor has been hired and his numbers will be included on next month's report.
- 2. Healing to Wellness Court Program:** The HTWCP currently has five program participants. One recently completed the program. The HTWCP now has a counselor located in the Human Services area, who is solely dedicated to drug and alcohol counseling of Healing to Wellness participants. This is due to a partnership with Jack Brown Treatment Center and the Juvenile Drug Court.
- 3. Bright Futures (Truancy Prevention):** The Bright Futures program received 2 new referrals in May. Both have agreed to services. One participant has improved her grades and was able to move on to the 9th grade. Another passed all of his classes and won State through the vo-tech program and is competing at Nationals this June. He was the only student that made it to Nationals from Adair Co. As part of his experience he will go to the Kansas City Royals stadium and learn about laying the turf.
- 4. Child Care & Development:** The Child Development Center staff presented workshops on Play and Learn, Cherokee Language Incentive Program and Monitoring Child Care Homes at the American Indian and Alaska Native Child Care conference in Anaheim, CA. Marsha White, Amy Thilges, Dianna Guffey, Phyllis Yargee and Lisa Turtle presented workshops at this national conference. Phyllis Yargee was asked to present at the Oklahoma Language Summit on "Tribal Language in Child Care Programs" at Bacone College on May 21 & 22, 2010.
- 5. Office of Child Support Enforcement:** We have approximately 4500 cases. We have interviewed and hired 2 people, both to fill intake positions as we begin to expand our initial holistic assessments of our applicants. The goal is to begin assisting clients not only for what child support needs they have, but also to determine other possible service referrals we can make for the clients utilizing CN services or other outside services that meet their family's needs. The new director started on May 10 and transition of leadership occurred during May. Some of the admin staff also attended a training at Catoosa Hard Rock hotel on the Model Tribal System which is a database system that Federal Government built for all tribal child support systems to use if tribes determine that system will work for their child support programs. CN director has been researching this system and trying to make decisions as to what is best for CN OCSE.
- 6. ICW Child Protective Services (CPS):** There were 97 referrals of abuse or neglect from Indian Country in May. Only one child was removed from his family and placed in Cherokee Nation Foster Care.

Cherokee Nation Tribal Council

Community Services Committee Report

- 7. ICW Court Advocacy and Permanency (CAPS) Units:** There are 924 Cherokee children with assigned ICW workers across the U.S. ICW workers were in court 195 times in May. These children and cases are from the Tribal, State, and Out-Of-District Units.
- 8. ICW Mayes County Prevention Program:** The MCPP provided services to 93 children and 78 adults in May. There were 12 community presentations attended by 324 community members.
- 9. John Ketcher Youth Shelter:** 27 youth spent time at the John Ketcher Youth Shelter in May. Out of 27 youth 25 were successfully placed back in the home. 2 remained at the shelter awaiting placement.
- 10. Family Assistance (Food Distribution):** 9,288 individuals received Food Distribution in May.
- 11. Family Assistance (Elderly Nutrition):** 3,654 hot meals were served at Elderly Nutrition Sites.
- 12. Family Assistance (LIHEAP):** 0 LIHEAP payments were processed in May and 808 have been processed so far this year. This is 90% of our completion target.

Success Stories:

We picked up two children last year (May 29, 2009) due to domestic violence and drug use by the natural parents. The father disappeared and is in and out of jail. The success story is the mother. She was 19 years old at the time and had been with the children's father since she was 14 and he was 24. He introduced her to marijuana and meth. Within a couple weeks, this mother had taken a drug & alcohol assessment and within two weeks had found an open bed at an inpatient rehab treatment facility. Once she had been at the facility for a month ICW placed her children with her. They spent a total of 55 days in foster care – less than two months and they were able to be reunited with their mother! While this mother was inpatient she completed a parenting class, a parent/child interactive bonding class, and domestic violence classes. When she reached an upper level at the inpatient facility and was able to leave their campus, she found a job and attended outside AA & NA meetings. In January of this year the mother successfully completed her inpatient treatment program. She found an appropriate home for herself and her children. She continues to attend AA & NA meetings as well as individual drug counseling and a relapse prevention program. She also still takes monthly domestic violence classes, although she completed she likes to remind herself. She took a third parenting course through Cherokee Nation ICW and successfully completed it. All this time she has had placement of her children and met all their needs. This mom is now 20 years old and her court case was closed last Friday. Her children are doing extremely well and are so young they don't really remember being in foster care. This might not sound like a huge success, I don't know what all you get to hear about, but this young mother just really didn't know any other way of life. There's no way for me to describe how much she loves her children and the nightmares she experienced while going through this process of creating a safe environment for her them, but she did everything asked of her to get her children back and she completed in record time, never complaining, only asking what else she can do to make sure her children are taken care of. This is a real success story for ICW.

Group: Community Services

Month/Year of Report:

June 2010

Group Leader: Charlie Soap

Phone: 453-5707

E-mail: Charlie-soap@cherokee.org

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Water & Sanitation

- Cherokee Co. RWD #3 Vance Springs ARRA project approximately 90% complete
- Work underway on waterline for Fairfield housing addition, (Adair County)
- Bids open for Bradley and Ross Acres projects
- Four ARRA projects (Muskogee, TPWA Tenkiller WTP, Delaware WTP & Adair 2) underway
- Non ARRA project (Johnson Prairie) complete. District working on service lines which is nearly all complete; 4 more weekends of clean up work to do. Awaiting final water tests before setting meters

Youth Development

- Cherokee Heights had three activities which the youth finished up incomplete crafts, played marbles, made dream catchers and reviewed their Cherokee language. There were 23 youth that participated and 3 staff in attendance
- Rocky Ford Youth had one activity where they played Cherokee marbles. Had 9 youth, 6 parents and community members and 2 staff in attendance
- Kenwood had one youth activity where they played Cherokee marbles. Had 9 youth, 5 adults and 3 staff in attendance
- Belfonte had one activity but no youth showed up. One community member and 3 staff in attendance

Cherokee First/Community Youth

- Processed 170 Community Youth Fund, 3 Adult, 5 sport applications
- Assisted approximately 1122 clients through walk in or phone calls
- Gave tour of the Cherokee Nation

COTTA

- Completed review of 26 Formal Technical Assistance plans
- Held three At Large events on May 15th and 16th in Portland, Eugene Oregon and Seattle Washington
- Held events in Los Angeles, Riverside and San Diego

Community Work/Community Buildings

District 1

- Park Hill Community Organization (Owen School Renovation) - funded for last phase of the renovation of the Owen School Building. Project is 95% complete
- Four Mothers Society Ceremonial Grounds - funded to construct cookhouse and bathrooms for ceremonial stomp grounds. Bathrooms are complete and cookhouse is 85% complete
- Tailholt Community Organization – funded for installation of one emergency generator which is complete. The community building is used for emergency situations and natural disasters
- Legacy Cultural Art Center – funded for completion of a cultural arts facility. Facility will focus on activities toward the youth with an emphasis on cultural teachings. Project is 75% complete
- D.D. Etchison Indian Methodist Church – funded for construction of a community building. Facility will offer a venue for Cherokee language and culture classes, young mother's preparedness classes and youth activities. Project is 15% complete

District 2

- Oak Ridge Baptist Church – funded to replace electrical wiring, installation of heating and air, window replacement and flooring for the fellowship hall. Project is 85% complete
- Christie Community Building Association - funded for installation of one emergency generator which is complete. The community building is used for emergency situations and natural disasters
- CC Camp – funded to construct a concession stand, bathrooms and eating area for their ballpark. Project is 90% complete
- Greasy Community Fellowship Organization – funded to construct a cook arbor for their community organization grounds. Organization has not started on construction; they have been notified of their obligations

District 3

- Vian Community Charitable Trust – funding for completion of their community building. Building will offer health education and facilities, cultural teachings, youth activities. Project is 20% complete
- Redbird Smith Nighthawk Keetowah Society – funded for renovations to their cook house and eating area located on the ceremonial grounds. Project is 25% complete
- Muldrow Cherokee Community Organization – funding to enhance their existing facilities with emergency equipment. Project is complete
- McKey Cherokee Community – funded for renovations to their existing community building. A handicap ramp, windows and some electrical repairs will be done. Project is 90% complete
- Brent Community Organization – funded for construction of a community building. Project is 10% complete

District 4

- Project “A” Prevention Program – funded to continue constructing their facility. Heating and air, exterior siding, bathroom fixtures and interior floor coverings were items they needed for completion. Project is complete

District 5

- New Green Baptist Church – funded for renovation of fellowship hall. Heating and air, electrical and plumbing and expansion of room are the scope of work. Project is 50% complete
- Twin Oaks Baptist Church – funded for renovation of fellowship hall. Project is 80% complete

District 6

- Community Outreach Center – funded to make improvements to their shelter. Shelter provides temporary housing for displaced families. Project is complete

District 8

- Victory Cherokee Community Organization – funded to expand community building. Project is 95% complete

District 9

- Loyal Shawnee Cultural Center – funded to complete the construction of the community building. Project is complete

FUTURE PLANS/NEW INITIATIVES

Administration

The next Veterans appreciation activity will be July 17 at 1:00 pm at Claremore Veterans Center. The facility is having a band that will be playing at 1:00 pm so we will serve watermelon at this time. All Veterans are invited to attend.

Water & Sanitation

- Working with DOI-Bureau of Reclamation on Water Planning Study for the Southern Delaware County area

Roads

- Greasy Rehab-Adair County; project is complete
- Nicut North Rehab-Adair County; project awarded to Glover and Associates; should be completed by September 2010

Youth Development

- Continue working with Rocky Ford, Cherokee Heights, Greasy, Briggs, Belfonte and Kenwood youth activities
- Work with Mayes County Prevention team to teach Cherokee language and cultural crafts at Camp Gadu-gi at Cherokee Heights

Cherokee First/Community Youth

- Send letters to participants needing to complete leadership and financial literacy workshops, these will be held on Saturday, July 19th and July 17th

STATUS ON REMAINING PROJECTS:

ROADS

Adair County Projects:

- Following projects are still under design- Lyon Switch, Malloy/Smith/Pumpkin Hollow

Delaware County Projects:

- Twin Oaks/Bull Hollow Road-Plans and Right of Way acquisition is complete. NEO Electric is acquiring Right of Way for utility relocation.
- Daytown/Dry Creek-Construction of cross drain will begin May 24th and is to be completed within 30 calendar days

Mayes County Projects:

- Cedar Crest Bridge -Mayes RWD#7 received notice to proceed with waterline relocation. This should be completed by July 10, 2010

CHEROKEE NATION COMMUNITY SERVICES SELF HELP HOUSING AND BUILDING PACKAGES

06/14/2010

District 1

- Project 100-1 (start date 10/09) House is complete (04/2010)
- Project 100-2 (start date 11/09) all work on the house is complete, waiting on waste water system to be installed, before water can be hooked up to do a final inspection on the home. House is at 97%
- Project 100-3 (start date 04/2010) Floor has been poured and framing is to begin during the week of June 14 weather permitting. House is at 23% complete
- Project 100-4 (start date 05/2010) pad is complete and passed compaction test, footing are poured, under slab plumbing has been installed and forms are built. House is at 17% complete
- Project 100-5 construction mortgage has been signed and site prep is scheduled to begin with in 3 weeks, weather permitting.
- Project 100-6 (start date 06/2010) equipment has been moved to the site and site prep work has been started. House is at 2% complete
- Project 100-7 (start date 03/2010) exterior of the house is nearly complete, plumbing, electrical and HVAC rough ins are complete and sheet rock is being installed. House is at 49% complete
- Project 100-8 background check and financial review came back favorable, title work has been started.

District 2

- Project 200-1 (start date 06/09) slow progress on this home this month carpet and pad have been delivered, cabinets and countertops are complete. House is at 83% complete
- Project 200-2 survey work has begun on new site, road is currently being built for access.
- Project 200-3 (start date 09/09) House is complete (04/2010)
- Project 200-4 environmental review has been ordered on this property
- Project 200-5 title opinion is still not favorable, additional title work to be done on abstract. We are having to get a quiet title done on certain pieces of the abstract in order to meet attorneys opinion requirements before we can proceed on this property
- Project 200-6 house is in development stage having to do a quiet title on property

District 3

- Project 300-1 (start date 04/2010) Framing is complete, house is nearly dried in, plumbing and electrical rough ins have been started. House is at 41% complete
- Project 300-2 (start date 01/2010) interior painting is complete, interior doors and trim have been installed, plumbing and electrical trim outs have been started, cabinets and countertops have been installed and floor covering has been delivered to the site. House is at 81% complete

- Project 300-3 updating and re-verifying application

District 4

Project 400-1 (start date 07/09) House is complete (03/2010)

District 5

- Projects 500-1 (start date 08/09) House is complete (04/2010)
- Project 500-2 (start date 06/2010) pad is built and has passed compaction. House is at 7% complete
- Project 500-3 (start date 06/2010) site has been cleared and pad is built, waiting on compaction test and results. House is at 5% complete

District 6

- Project 600-1 (Start date 02/2010) Permanent electric has been installed, sheet rock is installed and taping has been started. House is at 62% complete
- Project 600-2 (start date 11/09) all taping/mudding is complete, interior painting has been started and permanent electric has been installed. House is at 66 % complete
- Project 600-3 (start date 12/09) sheet rock is installed and taping and mudding have been started, permanent electric has been installed. House is at 63% complete

**CHEROKEE NATION TRIBAL COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT**

Group: Housing Services **Month/Year of Report:** July-10

Group Leader: David Southerland **Phone:** (918) 453-5248

I. Budget Highlights

Housing Services Employees:

	12	Administrative
	53	Housing Management
	47	Low Rent
	70	Rehab
Total	182	

Housing Authority Board meeting is July 16, 2010 in the Alyene Hogner Conference Room. The meeting will be at noon.

II. Program Highlights

a.) Foreclosure Report

COUNTY	FORECLOSURE NOTICE RECEIVED	DATE ASSISTANCE RECEIVED	TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	AMOUNT DUE CHEROKEE NATION
Adair	02/11/10	12/21/07	MAP	\$ 11,638.00
Adair	03/22/10	07/01/05	MAP	\$ 4,637.13
Cherokee	10/26/09	03/23/07	MAP	\$ 6,763.00
Cherokee	12/28/09	06/01/08	MAP	\$ 12,513.00
Cherokee	01/20/10	08/01/07	MAP	\$ 11,263.00
Cherokee	12/30/09	12/19/07	MAP	\$ 11,888.00
Cherokee	03/15/10	01/08/08	MAP	\$ 11,763.00
Cherokee	03/29/10	04/18/07	MAP	\$ 10,513.00
Cherokee	03/29/10	12/26/07	MAP	\$ 11,513.00
Cherokee	04/15/10	09/12/08	MAP	\$ 12,625.00
Cherokee	03/15/10	06/01/08	MAP	\$ 12,125.00
Cherokee	05/03/10	03/28/08	MAP	\$ 11,763.00
Cherokee	05/03/10	03/07/08	MAP	\$ 11,763.00
Craig	05/01/10	11/01/05	MAP	\$ 4,183.83
Delaware	03/29/10	11/08/07	MAP	\$ 11,388.00
Mayes	02/16/10	12/29/06	MAP	\$ 10,263.00
Mayes	02/26/10	10/03/06	MAP	\$ 10,013.00
McIntosh	12/08/09	03/27/07	MAP	\$ 10,888.00
Muskogee	02/10/10	06/07/07	MAP	\$ 10,888.00
Ottawa	04/29/10	01/10/08	MAP	\$ 11,513.00
Rogers	10/27/2009	7/1/2001	MAP	\$ 3,333.25
Rogers	2/16/2010	10/2/2007	MAP	\$ 11,250.00
Rogers	2/24/2010	9/28/2007	MAP	\$ 11,263.00

**CHEROKEE NATION TRIBAL COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT**

Rogers	4/22/2010	11/1/2007	MAP	\$	11,263.00
Sequoyah	10/22/2009	2/1/2008	MAP	\$	12,388.00
Sequoyah	12/14/09	08/14/07	MAP	\$	11,388.00
Sequoyah	01/27/10	01/24/08	MAP	\$	13,013.00
Sequoyah	04/05/10	07/07/06	MAP	\$	6,666.67
Washington	10/13/2009	1/2/2009	MAP	\$	13,763.00
Washington	2/2/2010	3/30/2006	MAP	\$	6,013.00
Washington	3/16/2010	4/28/2005	MAP	\$	5,013.00
Washington	4/6/2010	7/26/2006	MAP	\$	9,375.00
Washington	5/1/2010	9/1/2007	MAP	\$	10,888.00

b.) Accomplishments/Current Events

<i>Program</i>	<i>Families Participating at October 1, 2009</i>	<i>New Participants</i>	<i>New Participants this Month</i>	<i>Total Families Served</i>
Community Shield	2,594	179	16	2,789
Mutual Help	1,613	32	2	1,647
Low Rent	971	143	15	1,129
Title VI	292	2	-	294
Assumable Mortgage	21	3	-	24
Total	5,491	359	33	5,883

Rehab/Emergency/Handicap Assessability/LBP

<i>County</i>	<i>Projected FY 2010</i>	<i>Completed Since October 1, 2009</i>	<i>Completed this Month</i>	<i>Total Completed FY 2010</i>
Adair	53	48	9	57
Cherokee	82	42	7	49
Craig	15	0	1	1
Delaware	53	23	12	35
Mayes	39	29	0	29
McIntosh	5	0	0	0
Muskogee	24	11	2	13
Nowata	10	2	1	3
Ottawa	10	3	0	3
Rogers	49	3	4	7
Sequoyah	53	78	14	92
Tulsa	58	4	0	4
Wagoner	5	1	0	1
Washington	29	5	0	5

**CHEROKEE NATION TRIBAL COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT**

Total	485	249	50	299
-------	-----	-----	----	-----

III. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

As required by 24 CFR part 1000.30, services provided to Cherokee Nation Housing Services Employees and Employee relatives from funds received pursuant to the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, shall be publicly disclosed.

HOME REHABILITATION:

The following employee and/or relatives were chosen to receive services for Home Rehabilitation pursuant to guidelines set forth in the Housing Services Policy as approved by the Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation.

James and Leola Lee Sister to Housing Services Employee Benny Bush

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE/HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY:

The following employee and/or relatives were chosen to receive services for Emergency Assistance pursuant to guidelines set forth in the Housing Services Policy as approved by the Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation.

MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE

The following employee and/or relatives were chosen to receive services for Mortgage Assistance pursuant to guidelines set forth in the Housing Services Policy as approved by the Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation.

LOW RENT APARTMENT

The following employee and/or relatives were chosen to receive services for Low Rent Apartment pursuant to guidelines set forth in the Housing Services Policy as approved by the Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation and/or the Housing Authority of the Cherokee Nation.

**CHEROKEE NATION TRIBAL COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT
HOMEOWNERSHIP**

The following employee and/or relatives were chosen to receive services for Homeownership pursuant to guidelines set forth in the Housing Services Policy as approved by the Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation and/or the Housing Authority of the Cherokee Nation.

Alyssa Shade
Chad Allen

Niece of Housing Services Employee Stephanie Carroll
Son of Housing Services Employee Leona Allen

Group: Commerce

Month/Year of Report: June 2010

Group Leader: Anna Knight

Phone: 453-5532

Email: aknight@cherokee.org

Budget Highlights

None

Program Highlights

a. **Balanced Scorecard Measures**

Objective	Metric	2010 Goal	Year to Date Achievement Notes/Comments
Families Housed	# of Families Obtaining Homeownership	300 Housed	256 families have been housed
Homeownership Training	a. # of Families Attending Homeownership Training	a. 800	a. 636
	b. % satisfaction	b. 95%	b. 100%
Families Increasing Financial Management Skills	a. # of Families Increasing Skills	a. 450	a. 96
	b. % satisfaction	b. 95%	b. 99.95%
Self Sufficiency Counseling – Household Budgeting, Debt Reduction, & Credit Coaching	# of Families Actively Pursuing Goals or Achieved Goals	750 Families	521 Families
		a. Actively Pursuing b. Achieved Goals	a. 433 Families actively pursuing goals • 0% mortgage ready • 21% short-term • 67% long-term • 5% AMP • 6% credit counseling b. 88 families have completed self sufficiency counseling and obtained a non-predatory mortgage
Attrition Rate	% of Families Abandoning Counseling	< 20% Attrition Rate	35% Attrition Rate
Market Rate Qualifiers	% of Families Qualifying for Market Rate Loans	75% Market Rate	82.03% Market Rate Qualifiers – does not include mobile home purchases
Families Housed	MAP Foreclosure Rate in Relation to Oklahoma	Within 3%	State Foreclosure rate (2Q 2009) 4.3% MAP Foreclosure rate 5.2%
Match Savings Program	# active participants	200	265

b. **Notable accomplishments**

1. Program to date, **256 families unable to obtain a non-predatory mortgage on their own** have completed self-sufficiency counseling and obtained a non-predatory mortgage.
2. YTD, Self Sufficiency Staff have **worked with 46 clients facing foreclosure**. Staff **obtained loan modifications, repayment plans, or refinances for 7 families** thus saving their homes from foreclosure. Staff is **still working with 31 clients** to help them avoid foreclosure if at all possible. Seven families will lose their home to foreclosure because they were either unable to obtain a loan modification, did not have the income to support a mortgage payment, or owed more on the home than it was actually worth. Self Sufficiency staff worked with a lender for 1 family to get the lender to agree to a short sale as opposed to foreclosure.
3. Commerce staff organized the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program providing free tax preparation in 17 locations. **2,118 tax returns** were prepared during the 2009 tax season resulting in **\$855,686 in Earned Income Tax Credits** obtained by families.

4. Commerce MAP staff performed **3,394 community outreach hours** since October 1, 2009.

c. Future plans/new initiatives

1. Commerce is working with Career Services to outline a **financial education schedule for summer youth workers.**
2. **Renewed marketing effort to engage “at risk” homeowners** – if they contact us before they get into a crisis situation with their mortgage companies we have a better chance of helping them save their homes.

Workshops and Classes			
Date	Location	Time	Workshop
July 6 & 8	Tahlequah Housing Offices	10 am to 5 pm	Homeownership Training
July 6, 7, & 8	Jay Housing Offices	5 pm to 9 pm	Homeownership Training
July 10 & 11	Tahlequah Housing Offices	10 am to 5 pm	Homeownership Training
July 19, 20, & 21	Claremore Housing Offices	5 pm to 9 pm	Homeownership Training
July 19, 20, & 21	Sallisaw Housing Offices	5 pm to 9 pm	Homeownership Training
July 26 & 27	Claremore Housing Offices	10 am to 5 pm	Homeownership Training
July 26 & 27	Sallisaw Housing Offices	10 am to 5 pm	Homeownership Training