

Committee: Health Committee
Date: 12-31-25 Committee Date: 1/12/26

Author: Chuck Hoskin, Jr.
Sponsor: Johnny Kidwell, Kevin Easley, Joshua Sam, Dora Patzkowski, Sasha Blackfox-Qualls, Candessa Tehee, Lisa Hall, Uriah Grass, Daryl Legg, Codey Poindexter, Clifton Hughes, Melvina Shotpouch, Kendra McGeady, Joe Deere, Danny Callison, Ashley Grant, Julia Coates

RESOLUTION No. 02-26

COUNCIL OF THE CHEROKEE NATION

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CERTAIN SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN VINITA AND TAHLEQUAH UTILIZING OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS PURSUANT TO THE PHWFA

WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation (“Nation”) since time immemorial has exercised the sovereign rights of self-government on behalf of the Cherokee people;

WHEREAS, the Nation is a federally recognized Indian Nation with a historic and continual government to government relationship with the United States of America;

WHEREAS, the Nation has exclusive tribal jurisdiction over the Cherokee Nation Reservation, the geographic scope of which is defined in federal and Cherokee Nation law;

WHEREAS, the Council enacted the [Public Health and Wellness Fund Act, as amended \(PHWFA\)](#) which includes earmarked funds resulting from certain settlements agreements with firms involved in the opioid industry for the purpose of constructing behavioral health, substance use disorder and related infrastructure, the “Behavioral Health Capital Fund” more fully described in section 4, subsection 1005(A) of the PHWFA;

WHEREAS, the Principal Chief is authorized under the PHWFA to execute construction plans for the aforementioned infrastructure;

WHEREAS, in or about August 2024, Cherokee Nation commenced construction on an inpatient substance use disorder facility in Tahlequah, located on approximately 30 acres at 16670 West 820 Road, Tahlequah, OK 74464, further defined in Exhibit A, construction of which is in progress with an estimated budget of \$41,500,000;

WHEREAS, the Principal Chief has advised of the need for an outpatient substance use disorder facility to be constructed adjacent to the aforementioned inpatient facility in Tahlequah, located on the same acreage at 16670 West 820 Road, Tahlequah, OK 74464, for an estimated cost of approximately \$18,000,000;

WHEREAS, the property described in Exhibit A is designated for purposes of this resolution as the “Cherokee Nation Tahlequah Behavioral Treatment and Recovery Campus”;

WHEREAS, the Principal Chief has further advised of the need an additional outpatient substance use disorder facility to be located at a Cherokee Nation owned facility in Vinita, located on 5 acres at 269 South Seventh Street, Vinita, OK 74301, further defined in Exhibit B, for a remodel construction of cost of approximately \$5,000,000;

WHEREAS, the property described in Exhibit B is designated for purposes of this resolution as the “Cherokee Nation Vinita Recovery Center”;

WHEREAS, the Principal Chief, by his designee, has briefed the Council on construction plans for the aforementioned construction projects, most recently at the Council’s January 2026 Health Committee;

WHEREAS, the aforementioned construction projects fall under the authority of, and within the authorized and appropriated budgets relating to, the PHWFA;

WHEREAS, the Council can better ensure its oversight of facilities constructed with opioid settlement funds under the PHWFA with status reports as to such facilities communicated by the Principal Chief or his designee on no less than a quarterly basis, in addition to any statutory reporting requirements under the PHWFA.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CHEROKEE NATION, that the Council of the Cherokee Nation affirms its support of the construction of substance use disorder inpatient facility located in Tahlequah, substance use disorder outpatient facility located in Tahlequah and substance use disorder outpatient facility located in Vinita, all under the authority of the PHWFA, and requests status reports from the Principal Chief or his designee on all such projects on at least a quarterly basis, in addition to statutory reporting requirements.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the Cherokee Nation at a duly called meeting on the 12th day of January, 2026, having 16 members present, constituting a quorum, by the vote of 16 yea; 0 nay; 0 abstaining.


Johnny Jack Kidwell, Speaker
Council of the Cherokee Nation

ATTEST:

Joshua Sam, Secretary
Council of the Cherokee Nation

Approved and signed by the Principal Chief this 14th day of January, 2026.



Chuck Hoskin, Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation

ATTEST:



Shella Bowlin, Secretary of State
Cherokee Nation

EXHIBITS A & B

Exhibit A – Legal Land Description of Cherokee Nation Tahlequah Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery Campus

The SE SW SE and N2 SW SE of Section 30, Township 16 North, Range 22 East, Cherokee County Oklahoma, containing 30 acres more or less.

Exhibit B – Legal Land Description of Vinita Recovery Center

The South Half of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (S/2 SE/4 NE/4 SE/4) of Section Twenty-two (22), Township Twenty-five (25) North, Range Twenty (20) East of the Indian Meridian, Craig County, Oklahoma, according to the United States Government Survey thereof.

ADMINISTRATIVE CLEARANCE

Dept/Program:

Signature/Initial Date

Executive Director:

Signature/Initial Date

Treasurer (Required:
Grants/Contracts/Budgets):

Signature/Initial Date

Government Relations:

Signature/Initial Date

Administration Approval:



12/30/25

Signature/Initial Date

LEGISLATIVE CLEARANCE:

Legal & Legislative Coordinator:

Stace 12/31/25

Signature/Initial Date

Standing Committee & Date:

Health 11/12/20

Chairperson: *Lox-Durilla*

**Cherokee Nation
Act/Resolution Proposal Form**

Act Resolution

TITLE:

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CERTAIN
SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS IN VINITA AND TAHLEQUAH
UTILIZING OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS
PURSUANT TO THE PHWFA**

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Chuck Hoskin Jr.

RESOLUTION PRESENTER: Canaan Duncan

Johnny Jack Kidwell, Kevin Easley, Josh Sam, Dora Patzkowski, Sasha Blackfox-Qualls, Candessa Tehee, Lisa Hall, Uriah Grass, Daryl Legg, Codey Poindexter, Clifton Hughes, Melvina Shotpouch, Kendra

COUNCIL SPONSOR: McGeady, Joe Deere, Danny Callison, Ashley Grant

NARRATIVE:

This resolution supports the construction of a substance use disorder inpatient facility in Tahlequah, a substance use disorder outpatient facility in Tahlequah, and a disorder outpatient facility located in Vinita and requests status reports on such projects on at least a quarterly basis.