



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Meeting Minutes Health Committee

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

10:00 AM

Legislative Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cobb called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Snell gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 14 - 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

Late Arrival 2 - Bill John Baker and S. Joe Crittenden

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Anglen made a motion to approve the May 13th regular session minutes. Councilor Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

1. Claremore Service Unit - Marty Smith

Ms. Vicki Snell reported in the absence of Dr. Marty Smith. Ms. Snell gave an overview of the report provided. Councilor Buzzard inquired as to the type of changes that have been implemented for the appointments. Mr. Travis Scott stated they were experiencing a bottle neck in the morning with numerous 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. appointments and numerous walk ins. He stated they have spread the appointments out throughout the day to allow more time for the providers to see the walk ins. Councilor Buzzard inquired as to how many providers were at the Claremore facility. Ms. Snell stated as a facility there are approximately 35 positions but not all are filled. The clinic has 7 positions total.

2. Hastings Indian Medical Center - Ed McLemore

Mr. Ed McLemore announced as of yesterday they broke \$24ml in collections for this year. Mr. McLemore gave an overview of the report provided. Councilor Fishinghawk inquired as to the percentage of visits to Hastings that are from Adair County. She requested information to pass along regarding the procedure for the mail order pharmacy. Mr. McLemore stated there is a half page form that needs to be completed. Councilor Fishinghawk requested a copy of the form to provide to constituents as requested. Chair Cobb announced a public forum would be held on June 26th at 6:00 p.m. regarding to the negotiations between Cherokee Nation and IHS pertaining to W. W. Hastings Hospital. He stated some of the details are still

being worked out but all Hastings employees are invited to attend. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired if once all the information is confirmed if the employees of Hastings could be notified by email as well as post the information. Mr. McLemore stated he would be able to comply with these requests. Councilor Glory-Jordan announced a community meeting hosted by herself and Councilor Bill John Baker tonight at the Tahlequah Community Building that everyone is invited to attend. Councilor Buzzard requested a breakdown of employees at Hastings by tribal and non tribal. Mr. McLemore stated he is unsure if this information can be released publicly from the federal system.

3. Cherokee Nation Health Services - Melissa Gower

Ms. Melissa Gower announced her report is included in the packet. She recognized the health services staff who received awards at the annual employee appreciation day as follows: Cynthia Sturgis - Employee of the Year award, Cheryl Keel - Respectful award, Mary Peters - Cherokee Way of Life award, Rhonda Cochran - Leadership award, Rodney Sumner - Self Confident award and Lori Hogner - Responsibility award. She announced the Oklahoma City area Indian health service gave out awards in which several Cherokee Nation health service employees were recognized. For Cherokee Nation tribal awards were given to Cathy Smithson - Salina Health Center, Cynthia Sturgis - Bartlesville Clinic, Dr. Cheryl Gann - Red Bird Smith Clinic, Vickie Modda - Jay Clinic, Ann Jones - Three Rivers Health Center, Mary Becky Chaney - Vinita Health Center, Debra Ketcher - Wilma P. Mankiller Health Center and Katie Brannon - Will Rogers Health Center. Karissa Kifmyer of Cherokee Nation received a tribal merit award. The exceptional performance award for non clinical went to Shawn Terry of the Cherokee Nation. George Long of Cherokee Nation received the area directors life time achievement award. J. T. Pathrick from the Cherokee Nation Health Legislative Officer received the area directors national impact award. She provided an update on the Hastings negotiations process by stating they have completed eight days of negotiations in Oklahoma City. She stated almost all information that was outstanding has been received. A conference call is scheduled this Thursday to discuss the three remaining items. She gave appreciation to the Council and Doug Evans for participating. In regard to human resources the current staff at Hastings was provided with 3 options. Commissioned Officers remain with federal employment and benefit systems through a MOA. They have had 45 employees sign a MOA. Civil Service employees were offered an interpersonal agreement. There are 240 of these employees have signed an intent for an IPA. There are 189 employees who have accepted a Cherokee Nation tribal hire. Ms. Gower stated all of the funding tables have been updated. They are close to a funding agreement on contract support cost. Ms. Gower announced after their conference call if all information isn't received they will hold another meeting then they will submit a final offer. She provided the chart requested last month showing third party collections by clinic. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired as to the total number of employees at Hastings. Ms. Gower stated 594 approximately. Councilor Glory-Jordan stated only 474 have accepted offers. She inquired as to the status of the remaining employees. Ms. Gower stated they have not received feedback from 4 commissioned core officers. There are 34 permanent civil service employees that haven't made a decision at this time. These were offered an IPA but requested a tribal offer as well. There are 5 permanent civil service employees who are requesting additional information from IHS. There are 29 permanent civil service employees who they haven't heard from at this time. There are 18 temporary employees who have received a tribal offer and are yet to make a decision. She stated there were 30 permanent civil service employees who chose to take a tribal offer instead of remaining with the federal government. They are in the process of trying to convert the approximate 176 temporary employees to permanent so they would have the option of remaining with IHS. The human resource department in Oklahoma City has expressed the possibility of converting

approximately 140 of these temporary employees. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired if the conversion had to be complete by the 1st of July. Mr. McLemore stated the July 1st deadline is a self imposed deadline. Councilor Glory-Jordan requested within a week by email to Shelli the 120 outstanding positions be listed by position and status. Councilor Buzzard inquired as to the differences in 3rd party collections with the Jay and Ga Du Gi clinics in comparison to the others. Ms. Gower stated there are differences on billing issues between an inpatient hospital and an outpatient clinic. She stated they do pursue 3rd party collections vigorously. Councilor Buzzard voiced concern for the leaky roof at the Jay clinic and the possibility for mold issues. Councilor Fishinghawk inquired about the status of the OBGYN staff. Dr. Doug Nolan, Chief of Staff at Hastings, stated he has spoke to the 4 obstetricians currently staffed and they all have indicated they are staying. Councilor Fishinghawk inquired if there is a recruiter in the budget. Ms. Gower stated they currently have a peron not in a recruiter position that is doing the recruiting part time. They did submit for a recruiter in the FY09 budget. Councilor Fishinghawk requested an updated list of the 34 items previously provided. Ms. Melanie Knight stated she could provide an updated task list by email to Shelli. Speaker Frailey inquired if they had met with Callie Catcher, Jack Baker, Doug Evans, and Bradley Cobb in regard to the financial planning. Ms. Gower stated Mr. Baker and Mr. Evans were both part of the negotiations where they reviewed all of the funding tables in detail. She stated they have met with Callie Catcher numerous times. They have submitted a draft budget. Speaker Frailey inquired if the financial tables were ready to be viewed by the Council. Ms. Gower agreed they could be presented to the Council. Ms. Knight suggested they speak to Mr. Evans before the comprehensive budget is submitted. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired if they are addressing the list of needs for the facility in terms of improvements She stated it is her understanding that the facility would remain a federal facility therefore there are limitations on what can be done to the facility itself. Ms. Gower stated it is a long process to transfer title from federal facilities. She stated the Sallisaw and Stilwell clinics are federal facilities. Chair Cobb inquired if these clinics have been upgraded. Ms. Gower stated yes they have. She stated IHS is currently in the process of a chiller replacement and the removal of underground storage tanks. She stated once these projects are finished they complete a full estimate of needs. She stated in the past they have done equipment and facility upgrades through MNI funds received through Indian Health Services or through carry over third party revenue. She stated there is a list of equipment they provide the Cherokee Nation with every year that they need assistance with. Councilor Glory-Jordan requested by email a list of equipment needs and cost for the next five years as well as the possible funding source. Councilor Soap requested year to date operating cost for each facility. Ms. Gower stated the information is listed in the budget book but if additional information is needed she would be happy to provide.

Councilor Jack Baker commended the negotiation team for their hard work and long days. Councilor Cowan Watts stated the team did an exceptional job. She believes this is the right direction to take. Mr. Doug Evans commented on the negotiations. He stated watching the Cherokee Nation team negotiate with IHS was very enlightening when it comes to obtaining the necessary information needed to make decisions. He stated there are a lot of assurances this team will be bringing before this body that were not easily obtained. He stated he is still trying to digest and process the information. He stated this was a very educational experience and gave appreciation for the opportunity to be included. He commented the Administration put together a very competent team. Speaker Frailey inquired if Mr. Evans was comfortable with the financial planning process of the negotiations. Mr. Evans stated he is still processing and obtaining answers to questions.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 23-90 RE-NAMING THE SAM HIDER COMMUNITY CLINIC TO THE SAM HIDER HEALTH CENTER

Sponsors: Councilor Buzzard

Councilor Buzzard stated this resolution is in effort to stay with the health departments naming sequence. This resolution would change the name from the Sam Hider Community Clinic to the Sam Hider Health Center.

Councilor Buzzard made a motion to approve. Councilor Bill John Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Bill John Baker reminded everyone of the community meeting tonight at the Tahlequah Community Building.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Jack Baker made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Crittenden seconded the motion. Motion carried at 11:30 a.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

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| <i>Melissa Gower</i> | <i>Melanie Knight</i> | <i>Ida Webber</i> |
| <i>Vickie Hanvey</i> | <i>Doug Evans</i> | |

VISITORS PRESENT:

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|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Vicki Snell</i> | <i>Raymond Vann</i> | <i>Charles Dry</i> |
| <i>Todd Hembree</i> | <i>Ed McLemore</i> | <i>Jim Ketcher</i> |
| <i>Mitch Thornbrough</i> | <i>Travis Scott</i> | <i>Dr. Doug</i> |
| <i>Nolan</i> | | |

APPROVAL / DISTRIBUTION

Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Legal & Legislative Coordinator

Motion to approve minutes made by: _____

Minutes attested and concurred by: _____

Date: _____