



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Cherokee Nation Complex
17675 S. Muskogee Ave.
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Meeting Minutes - Final HEALTH COMMITTEE

Dr. Mike Dobbins, Chair

*Recording Secretary, Shelli Brittain Coke
Phone: 1-800-995-9465,
E-mail: council-public@cherokee.org*

Monday, November 15, 2021

10:00 AM

Tribal Council Offices

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dobbins called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Legg gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Councilors Austin and Vazquez attended remotely.

Present 17 - Keith Austin; Julia Coates; Shawn Crittenden; Joe Deere; Rex Jordan; Daryl Legg; Dora Patzkowski; Wes Nofire; Mike Shambaugh; Mike Dobbins; Candessa Tehee; Victoria Vazquez; E. O. "JR." Smith; Joshua Sam; Melvina Shotpouch; Danny Callison and Johnny Kidwell

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Councilor Deere moved to approve the October regular session minutes.
Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

REPORTS:

Claremore Service Unit - George Valliere

Mr. Valliere gave highlights from the report provided and offered to answer any questions. Councilor Deere commended them on the quick process for getting the booster shot. Councilor Callison requested an update on a contract health issue. Chair Dobbins referred to the report stating all visits are up this month and inquired as to what it could be attributed to.

Cherokee Nation Health Services - Dr. Steve Jones

Dr. Jones gave highlights from the report provided along with COVID updates, community flu events, the Medicaid expansion, construction updates and President Biden's COVID vaccine mandate. He offered to answer questions from the report provided. Councilor Legg inquired about consequences if don't comply with the

mandatory mandate. Councilor Callison inquired about the policy for employees who don't get vaccinated and don't qualify for either exemption. He inquired if the Cherokee Nation has to abide by the No Patient Left Behind policy. Lastly he inquired if, a Cherokee citizen is completing medical school and wants to practice in the area, is there any assistance in starting their practice. Councilor Austin inquired about the current percentage of unvaccinated employees. Councilor Crittenden requested further clarification on the medical and religious exemptions. Councilor Shambaugh requested clarification on the President's vaccine mandate with us being sovereign. Councilor Nofire requested clarification on the neurology appointments and processes. He inquired if having COVID antibodies qualifies as an exemption. Chair Dobbins requested a list of medical exemptions and/or policy be provided. He inquired if they COVID test all dental patients. Councilor Deere inquired why they haven't moved forward with the 24-hour care and remote monitoring they had previously discussed. Councilor Kidwell followed up on the pilot program referred to by Councilor Deere.

Cherokee Nation Public Health - Lisa Pivec & Dr. David Gahn

Ms. Pivec reported the staff is working hard on their public health accreditation as it comes up this December. She announced they are cross collaborating with Cherokee Nation Departments on community wellness. She reported they continue to work with CDC and how they can work better with tribes. Beginning December 1st community members will be able to look at data including wellness numbers in their area. She is working on a project for first language speakers and community health work. She reported they had \$3.5ml for fiscal year 2021 going into local communities. She offered to answer questions from her portion of the report. Councilor Callison inquired if we are doing any public education in the schools for HIV. Councilor Nofire inquired if they are working with agriculture to do community gardens in schools. Councilor Coates inquired about food sovereignty collaborations with Northeastern State University or the University of Arkansas. Councilor Nofire suggested creating a Cherokee Nation WIC farmers market. Councilor Crittenden voiced some concerns with the upkeep of school and community gardens and inquired about job creation to manage them.

Dr. Gahn gave an update on COVID-19 and then offered to answer any questions. Councilor Coates requested an update on kids in the 5-12 age range.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

1. [21-105](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE 2021 FTA CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT (CRRSA) PROGRAM

Councilor Patzkowski made a motion to approve. Councilor Legg seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Smith announced he is thankful to be with us today as one year ago today he was in the hospital with COVID and wasn't sure he would come home.

Chair Dobbins provided information to the Councilors pertaining to mental health and suicide prevention.

Chair Dobbins announced an update from the OSU Medical School would be on the agenda next month.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Legg made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried at 11:23 a.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

*Taralee Montgomery
Camerin Fite James*

*Steve Jones
David Gahn*

*Lisa Pivec
Corey Bunch*

VISITORS PRESENT:

John Young

George Valliere

Teddye Snell