



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Meeting Minutes Health Committee

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

10:00 AM

Legislative Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cobb called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Crittenden gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 13 - Bill John Baker; S. Joe Crittenden; David Thornton Sr. ; Don Garvin; Meredith Frailey; Buel Anglen; Jack D. Baker; Tina Glory Jordan; Harley Buzzard; Curtis Snell; Chris Soap; Bradley Cobb and Julia Coates

Absent 1 - Jodie Fishinghawk

Late Arrival 2 - Cara Cowan Watts and Janelle Fullbright

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Bill John Baker made a motion to approve the March 17, 2009 regular session minutes. Councilor Garvin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

1. Claremore Service Unit - George Valliere

Mr. Valliere went over the written report and asked if there were any specifics the committee would like included. Councilor Cowan Watts inquired if the budget had been adjusted. Mr. Valliere stated they are operating month to month as they are experiencing problems with the UFMS financial management system software. Councilor Cowan Watts inquired as to the status of the stimulus package. Mr. Valliere stated they haven't received any information.

2. Cherokee Nation Health Services - Melissa Gower

Ms. Gower provided an update on Cherokee Elder Care by stating there are 23 enrolled participants. Two more participants will begin on May 1st and an additional two on the first of June. They are staying within budget and are expecting their first outside audit since beginning operation. CMS and the State will perform a technical audit which will provide direct feedback on the growth and provide direction in areas

of needed improvement. Hastings has three new ultrasound machines. The mammography machine is in and is being set up. Medicare Part A contract was received last week. They will begin billing in 7 days. Hastings has performed the first bariatric surgery. They are finalizing the Vinita program of requirements and justification documentations this week. They are working toward getting a mammography machine in Vinita as well. The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs had a staff member come and meet with members of the Health Group last Thursday. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired if the PACE program is still on track for not needing the \$750,000 at budget time. Ms. Gower stated they are on track. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired as to the number of dentures provided in a year period. Ms. Gower stated she could provide the information. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired how the denture program funding stands. Ms. Gower stated they are in the process of moving carry over funds to the denture program. Councilor Buzzard inquired in comparison to Salina why such a difference in the third party collection funding at Jay. Ms. Gower stated they have a meeting scheduled to discuss these issues. She stated part of the problem may be due to Hastings number for Medicare. Councilor Buzzard requested handicapped door openers at the Jay clinic. Councilor Jack D. Baker requested to show the total collection year to date for this year in comparison to last year. He inquired about exercise equipment at the nutrition centers. Ms. Gower stated they do work with some of the nutrition centers. Councilor Cowan Watts requested a nutrition class for elders in Rogers County.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

Employee Health Plan Briefing

Ms. Amy Brill the Health Benefits Manager for the Cherokee Nation provided a power point of information regarding the employee health benefits. Councilor Buzzard inquired as to why medical benefits aren't combined with the entities to lower the cost to the employee. Ms. Brill stated a couple of years ago all of the entities benefit committees got together and went to bid together and received a reduced rate. They plan to continue to use this method every three years. Councilor Buzzard inquired if the graphs in the power point have been shown to the employees. He felt it would have a great impact. Ms. Brill stated they do have health benefit presentations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Buzzard requested someone from Hunam Resources to come to the committee and discuss hiring issues and the length of time it takes. Speaker Frailey agreed to place it on the next Rules Committee agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Bill John Baker made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Garvin seconded the motion. Motion carried at 10:55 a.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

Melissa Gower
Dr. Gloria Grimm

Tamyse Leake

Amy Brill

VISITORS PRESENT:

George Valliere

Todd Hembree

APPROVAL / DISTRIBUTION

Minutes submitted by: **Shelli Brittain, Legal & Legislative Coordinator**

Motion to approve minutes made by:

Bill John Baker

Minutes attested and concurred by:

[Signature]

Date:

5/12/09