



# 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*

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Monday, September 11, 2023

1:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

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### CALL TO ORDER

**Chair Dobbins called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.**

### INVOCATION

**Chair Dobbins gave the invocation.**

### ROLL CALL

*Committee membership was established.*

**Present** 17 - Mike Shambaugh; Mike Dobbins; Candessa Tehee; Victoria Vazquez; E. O. "JR." Smith; Joshua Sam; Melvina Shotpouch; Danny Callison; Johnny Kidwell ; Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Kevin Easley Jr. and Julia Coates

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Councilor Deere moved to approve as submitted. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

### REPORTS:

**Chair Dobbins took a moment to thank everyone and give appreciation for all of the prayers for him.**

Claremore Service Unit - George Valliere

*Mr. Valliere provided a copy of his report and touched on the highlights. He offered to answer questions from the report.*

Cherokee Nation Health Services - Dr. Steve Jones

*Dr. Jones gave highlights from the report. Brian Hail provided a copy of CONFIDENTIAL White Paper pertaining to our contract health services at Claremore Hospital. He gave an overview of the handout and then offered to answer any*

questions. Councilor Patzkowski requested confirmation on the approved and denied percentages. Councilor Shambaugh commented the approval rate seems low, he inquired as to how the funds are broken down over the year for usage. Councilor Deere inquired about the affect of the Creek Nation pulling their shares. He also inquired if the Cherokee Nation is a pass through to IHS. Councilor Callison requested clarification on the 21st North & Rogers County referred to in the report. Councilor Vazquez requested contact information. Councilor Callison inquired as to the reasoning for the increase in the third party revenues for the hospital and clinic. Councilor Blackfox-Qualls inquired about CMS indicators and requested additions to the monthly report.

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

Dr. Gahn gave highlights from the report and updated the COVID numbers. He also commented on the latest COVID vaccine and encouraged everyone to get vaccinated. Councilor Callison inquired about the virus only being able to mutate so many times. Councilor Tehee inquired when the new vaccine would be available and if the flu vaccine is recommended. Councilor Vazquez inquired if the low attendance at the Craig County Walking Group is due to the 6:00 a.m. time. Councilor Smith inquired if elders should get the COVID and flu vaccines together or separate.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. [23-054](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUSINESS LEASE(S) TO U. S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) INSIDE HEALTH CENTER(S) LOCATED ON LAND(S) HELD USA IN TRUST FOR CHEROKEE NATION  
**Councilor Vazquez moved to withdraw at the request of Administration. Councilor Legg seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
  
- 2. [TMP-404](#) REPORT/COMMUNICATION: UPDATE FROM OSU COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AT CHEROKEE NATION BY DR. NATASHA BRAY, DEAN  
**Dean Natasha Bray gave a PowerPoint presentation overview of the Cherokee Nation Medical School. She offered to answer questions following the presentation. Councilor Legg inquired about applications to Operation Orange. Councilor Smith inquired about tracking graduates who move to Arkansas.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Deere moved to adjourn. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried at 2:11 p.m.**

STAFF PRESENT:

Taralee Montgomery

Corey Bunch

Brian Hail

*Steve Jones*  
*Ashlei Ashmore*

*Ginger Reeves*  
*David Moore*

*David Gahn*  
*Christina Justice*

VISITORS PRESENT:

*Natasha Bray*  
*Teddy Snell*

*George Valliere*

*John Young*