



# Council of the Cherokee Nation

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

## Meeting Minutes - Final HEALTH COMMITTEE

*Mary Baker Shaw, Chair*

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

---

Monday, December 14, 2020

1:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

---

### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Shaw called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

### INVOCATION

Councilor Patzkowski gave the invocation.

### ROLL CALL

*Councilors Deere and Coates attended remotely.*

**Present** 15 - Mary Baker Shaw; Harley Buzzard; Joe Byrd; Mike Shambaugh; E. O. "JR." Smith; Janees Taylor; Victoria Vazquez; Canaan Duncan; Keith Austin; Julia Coates; Shawn Crittenden; Joe Deere; Rex Jordan; Dora Patzkowski and Wes Nofire

**Absent** 1 - Daryl Legg

**Late Arrival** 1 - Mike Dobbins

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Taylor moved to approve. Councilor Vazquez seconded the motion.  
The motion carried.

### REPORTS:

Claremore Service Unit - George Valliere

*Mr. Valliere was not present to report.*

Cherokee Nation Health Services - Dr. Steve Jones

*Dr. Jones gave highlights from the report provided, he gave a COVID update along with the receipt of 950 doses of the Fizer vaccine. He provided the criteria for the usage, storage and preparation of the Fizer COVID vaccine. They should get the Merderma COVID vaccine around Christmas. Councilor Crittenden requested clarification on the*

3rd tier of issuance of the vaccine to the Elder Care. He inquired what to tell elders in regard to them getting signed up for the vaccine. Dr. Jones announced the vaccine phases are 1 – front line health care workers, 2 – First Responders, 3 – Elder Care. Cherokee first language speakers are in phase 1B. Cherokee Speakers who want to get signed up for the vaccine need to contact Howard Paden in the Language Program. Councilor Crittenden inquired if the vaccine would be mandatory for health care workers. Chief of Staff Enlow gave information on the elders getting the vaccine. Councilor Vazquez inquired about the percentage of immunity to the COVID virus after both does. Councilor Shambaugh inquired on behalf of Councilor Deere if there will be any changes to the drive thru testing sites with the bad weather coming in and how is Human Resources doing hiring health care workers. Councilor Shambaugh inquired about ramification if employees don't take the vaccine. Mr. Enlow gave an overview of using administrative leave versus annual or sick leave. He announced they have suspended operations at Human Resources this morning due to a high number of cases in that office. Councilor Buzzard inquired if the vaccine we have currently is strictly for Cherokees. He inquired about the spouses of Cherokee Speakers getting the vaccine. He commented the press release regarding the vaccine only said WW Hastings, what about the other clinics. Councilor Dobbins inquired once they get to the phase of citizens sixty-five and older, how they will be notified. He inquired if the vaccine has been priced in the private sector. Councilor Shambaugh inquired if the Leadership is included in the frontline. Councilor Byrd commented on how blessed and grateful we should be as a tribe to get the vaccine this quickly. Chair Shaw inquired who set the freezer times for the vaccine. When do we expect to get more vaccine.

PACE - Thelma Pittman

Ms. Connie Davis reported the PACE center has had nine patients test positive and two patient deaths. They have had ten employees test positive and no deaths.

Cherokee Nation Home Health &  
Cherokee Nation Hospice - April Moore

Ms. Kristin Crawford reported on the COVID details of the report stating they have taken care of seventeen patients who have tested positive, two patient deaths, and seven employees tested positive. They are able to rapid test their employees.

#### OLD BUSINESS

*None pending.*

#### NEW BUSINESS

*None pending.*

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Taylor moved to adjourn. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried at 2:15 p.m.**

STAFF PRESENT:

*Taralee Montgomery*

*Todd Enlow*

*Remote:*

*Steve Jones*

*Roger Montgomery*

*Connie Davis*

VISITORS PRESENT:

*Teddye Snell*

*Remote:*

*Tim Brown*