



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,
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Monday, January 11, 2021

1:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

CALL TO ORDER

Co Chair Dobbins called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Taylor gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Councilors Shaw, Coates and Deere attended remotely.

Present 15 - Mike Dobbins; Harley Buzzard; Joe Byrd; Mike Shambaugh; E. O. "JR." Smith; Janees Taylor; Victoria Vazquez; Keith Austin; Julia Coates; Shawn Crittenden; Joe Deere; Rex Jordan; Daryl Legg; Dora Patzkowski and Wes Nofire

Absent 1 - Canaan Duncan

Late Arrival 1 - Mary Baker Shaw

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Taylor moved to approve the December 2020 regular session minutes with the note that Pfizer is misspelled. Councilor Vazquez seconded the motion. The motion carried.

REPORTS:

Claremore Service Unit - George Valliere

Mr. Valliere provided an update from the report provided. He gave an update of their COVID numbers. Councilor Byrd inquired about the number of different tribes to be vaccinated at the Claremore facility. Councilors Taylor and Austin gave appreciation for how they are handling the vaccine. Councilor Buzzard inquired when they would receive additional vaccines. He also inquired about the number of initial vaccines received. Councilor Coates requested confirmation that it is now age fifty-five and up that are currently being vaccinated. She inquired what to do if the COVID number isn't

answered. Chair Dobbins inquired what they will do if they need a 7th bed for COVID. He inquired the total number of beds in the hospital. Councilor Buzzard inquired what system they were changing too.

Cherokee Nation Health Services - Dr. Steve Jones

Mr. Jones gave highlights from the reported provided. The OSU Medical building is complete and has received their occupancy license. Today is the first day of classes in the new school. They have been approved for six residents per year for the family practice program. The new GaDuGi clinic will soon be complete and ready for patients on the 20th. He provided an update on the COVID testing and vaccines. He commented he would be sending a memo to the Chief and Speaker to recommend the Cherokee Nation Government officials get vaccinated. He offered to answer questions from the report. Councilor Crittenden inquired about the percentage of positive cases who end up hospitalized versus positive cases who stay home. He requested clarification on a test coming back stating "detected". Chair Dobbins inquired if recovered COVID patients should be vaccinated. He also inquired if teachers were going to be considered essential to get vaccinated earlier. Councilor Shambaugh inquired if there is a native elder who has a nonnative in the household if the nonnative could get the vaccine. He also inquired if they are behind on giving the vaccine and if so by how much. Councilor Austin inquired if there is any way to keep record of the elders getting the vaccine through the county or Claremore Indian Hospital. He also inquired if there is a plan to send out a robocall to those in the system who are eligible. Dr. Jones gave appreciation to Howard Paden and his tireless effort to get the first language speakers vaccinated. Councilor Shambaugh inquired about the three clinics getting the vaccines. Currently it is only Muskogee and Vinita and once the supply chain opens up the vaccines will also be available at Redbird. Councilor Buzzard inquired about employees leaving and the provider vacancy rate. He also inquired how many people are equal to 2.5% to 5%. Mr. Enlow gave appreciation to Mr. Jones and all of the medical staff.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

None pending.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Legg made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried at 2:07 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

*Taralee Montgomery
Joe Rainwater*

Todd Enlow

Shannon Buhl

Remote:
Steve Jones Roger Montgomery

VISITORS PRESENT:

Tim Brown Teddye Snell

Remote:
George Valliere