



# Council of the Cherokee Nation

Cherokee Nation Tribal  
Council  
17763 S. Muskogee Ave.  
Tahlequah, OK 74464

## Meeting Minutes - Final HEALTH SUB COMMITTEE - PUBLIC HEALTH

*Mike Dobbins, Chair*

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

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Thursday, June 24, 2021

11:00 AM

Tribal Council Offices

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### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dobbins called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

### INVOCATION

Chair Dobbins gave the invocation.

### ROLL CALL

*Councilors Shaw and Coates attended remotely.*

**Present** 13 - Mike Dobbins; Harley Buzzard; E. O. "JR." Smith; Janees Taylor; Victoria Vazquez; Canaan Duncan ; Daryl Legg; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Rex Jordan; Wes Nofire; Keith Austin and Julia Coates

**Late Arrival** 2 - Mary Baker Shaw and Shawn Crittenden

### REPORTS:

#### 1. CHEROKEE NATION PUBLIC HEALTH

Lisa Pivec, MS, Senior Director, Public Health

*Ms. Pivec gave highlights from the report provided. She offered to answer questions.*

#### 2. STATE OF THE CHEROKEE NATION'S HEALTH

David Gahn, MD, MPH, Medical Director, Public Health

*Dr. Gahn provided an update on COVID cases, including the variants, globally. He reported the cases in Oklahoma are slowly increasing. A handout was provided showing the rise in cases throughout the Cherokee Nation Health Services. Lastly, he gave an update on the vaccinations. He offered to answer questions. Councilor Nofire commented people are skeptical about getting the vaccine after the release of information that the virus was manufactured in a lab and so has the vaccine. He inquired about releasing media on how safe the vaccine is to okay. He questioned side effects of children taking the vaccine. He inquired about tracking the people who are vaccinated. Councilor Smith inquired about needing a booster shot. Chair Dobbins requested advice for those who are naturally immune to the virus or have had the virus as to if they should be vaccinated. Dr. Gahn reported there are currently*

*forty-one cases in Oklahoma of the gamma variant. Councilor Buzzard inquired about the symptoms of the variants. Councilor Vazquez inquired how a variant is determined.*

*Chair Dobbins asked Chief of Staff Enlow when the 7.5% wellness funding for substance abuse/preventative measures would be available for projects. Mr. Enlow shared with the committee his personal experience with COVID.*

OLD BUSINESS

*None pending.*

NEW BUSINESS

*None pending.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Legg made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried at 11:34 a.m.**

STAFF PRESENT:

*Lisa Pivec*

*David Gahn*

*Todd Enlow*

VISITORS PRESENT:

*Tim Brown*

*Teddye Snell*