



# 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 13, 2021

1:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

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### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dobbins called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

### INVOCATION

Chair Dobbins gave the invocation.

### ROLL CALL

*Councilors Callison, Dobbins, Kidwell, Sam, Shambaugh, Shotpouch, Smith, Tehee, and Vazquez confirmed their membership to this committee.*

**Present** 16 - Keith Austin; Julia Coates; Joe Deere; Rex Jordan; Daryl Legg; Dora Patzkowski; Wes Nofire; Mike Shambaugh; Mike Dobbins; Candessa Tehee; Victoria Vazquez; E. O. "JR." Smith; Joshua Sam; Melvina Shotpouch; Danny Callison and Johnny Kidwell

**Late Arrival** 1 - Shawn Crittenden

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Councilor Vazquez made a motion to approve the August regular session and the Health Sub minutes. Councilor Callison seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

### REPORTS:

Claremore Service Unit - George Valliere

*Mr. Valliere followed up from questions raised last month about testing variants and transferring of children with COVID. He provided highlights from the report provided and offered to answer questions. Chair Dobbins inquired about the number of shares at the Claremore Service Unit, the Creek Nation pulling their shares and the Cherokee case load. Councilor Legg inquired about cancer patients at the Claremore hospital.*

Cherokee Nation Health Services - Dr. Steve Jones

*Dr. Jones gave highlights from the report. Prior to answering questions he requested a few moments to talk about some irresponsible inaccurate information being put out on social media. He requested both Registered Nurse, Michelle Marshall, and Hospitalist, Dustin Beck, to discuss the effects of the inaccurate information on the staff and citizens. Following their comments Councilors gave appreciation to them for all of their hard work and dedication. Councilor Tehee stated for the record the irresponsible and inaccurate information posted should be removed with an apology. Dr. Jones offered to answer questions from the report provided. Councilor Smith inquired about elders getting a flu shot followed by the booster of COVID. Councilor Legg inquired if the positive COVID cases can be determined to be the delta variant. Councilor Nofire commented on his discussions with doctors and nurses on how to get additional beds, staffing issues and additional funding. Councilor Coates inquired about the staffing other than the shortage of nurses and contract renewals. Councilor Legg requested clarification on the difficulty in hiring registered nurses. Councilor Tehee inquired about the contracting process. Chair Dobbins inquired about a shortage of COVID rapid tests.*

#### OLD BUSINESS

*None pending.*

#### NEW BUSINESS

*None pending.*

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Chair Dobbins announced a report for Cherokee Elder Care has been provided in the packet. He announced the Dean, Dr. Pettit, of the Cherokee Nation OSU Medical School has retired.*

*Chair Dobbins announced the October meeting would be held on a Tuesday due to Monday being a holiday. Starting next month he would be bringing in Public Health in to report each month during Health Committee and suspend the subcommittee at this time. Health Committee start time will change to 12:30 during this change.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Callison made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Coates seconded the motion. The motion carried at 2:18 p.m.**

#### STAFF PRESENT:

*Todd Enlow  
Ginger Reeves  
Steve Jones*

*Taralee Montgomery  
Chad Harsha*

*Camerin Fite James  
David Moore*

VISITORS PRESENT:

*George Valliere*

*Teddye Snell*

*Tim Brown*