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Office of the Principal Chief

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EXECUTIVE ORDER ESTABLISHING THE TASK FORCE ON THE CHEROKEE NATION AUTISM INITIATIVE


2023-01-CTH

1. **AUTHORITY:** The Constitution and Laws of the Cherokee Nation
2. **POLICY:** The Cherokee Nation is committed to advancing autism awareness both on and off the Cherokee Nation Reservation and enhancing our health care system to provide screenings, diagnosis, treatment, treatment, and social care to citizens on the autism spectrum. To address this, the creation of the Task Force on the Cherokee Nation Autism Initiative is warranted.
3. **TASK FORCE ON THE CHEROKEE NATION AUTISM INITIATIVE;
COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND GOALS:**
 - A. **COMPOSITION:** The Task Force shall consist of five to seven members and chosen by the Office of the Principal Chief. Meeting frequency is not prescribed, but encouraged to meet on a monthly basis. Upon its creation the task force shall consist of:
 1. **Member 1:** Roger Montgomery, Executive Medical Director or *Designee*
 2. **Member 2:** Rebecca Shepherd, Senior Director of Nursing or *Designee*
 3. **Member 3:** Hannah Labounty, Behavioral Health
 4. **Member 4:** Amber Tiehen, Senior Director of Rehab Services
 5. **Member 5:** One additional member selected by the aforementioned members who is not a Cherokee Nation employee and who has a demonstrated interest and / or professional background in autism treatment, awareness and/or advocacy.

B. SCOPE OF REVIEW AND GOALS:

1. The Task Force should engage all relevant internal staff and external partners and experts to inform its work.
 2. The Task Force should review existing services and resources that are currently available to patients and families.
 3. The Task Force should gather information to make further recommendations to the Principal Chief to enhance the Nation's autism initiatives
 4. Although the task force is not a public body within the meaning of Cherokee Nation law and its meetings are not conducted under Freedom of Information Act. It is an internal executive branch work group designed primarily to inform the Principal Chief and Council on the relevant subject matter. However, in the interest of transparency any interim reports and any final report shall be made publicly accessible.
- C. Report: The Task Force shall complete its work and issue a final report no later than March 1, 2024.

4. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** This Order is effective on April 4, 2023.



Date Signed: 4/4/23

Chuck Hoskin, Jr.

Cherokee Nation, Principal Chief