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Office of the Principal Chief

Chuck Hoskin Jr.
Principal Chief
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Bryan Warner
Deputy Principal Chief
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EXECUTIVE ORDER 2026-04-CTH

EXECUTIVE ORDER ESTABLISHING PRINCIPAL CHIEF'S TASK FORCE ON WELLNESS CENTERS AND RELATED SUBJECTS

- 1. AUTHORITY:** The Constitution and laws of the Cherokee Nation and the Public Health and Wellness Fund Act, as amended.
- 2. HISTORY:** All progress realized to date is attributable to diligent and comprehensive analysis, including the findings set forth in the Cherokee Nation [Public Health and Wellness Fund LA12-21 Report.pdf](#) the [Task Force Report \(003\).pdf](#) recommendations of the June 2, 2022, Task Force on Physical Wellness, and the continued work undertaken by the Public Health Department.
- 3. POLICY:** It is in the interest of the Cherokee Nation to increase and improve access to physical wellness facilities and other infrastructure within reasonable proximity to the maximum number of Cherokee Nation citizens as is feasible. Since the enactment of the Public Health and Wellness Fund Act, Cherokee Nation has embraced a policy of prioritizing such access. PHWFA, as amended, has funded millions of dollars in facilities, programs, services and grants towards this end, along with funding from other sources. Investments include, but are not limited to, major "Wellness Centers" in Stilwell, Tahlequah (a replacement facility) and Salina, as well as smaller or less comprehensive "wellness spaces" in other communities. A wellness center is planned for the forthcoming Claremore health campus. For many Cherokee Nation citizens, as well as non-citizen users, access to these facilities are changing lives for the better. Elsewhere access is achieved by partnerships with non-profit gyms or grants to communities and non-profits, including Cherokee Nation Community and Cultural Outreach Participating Organizations. All of these investments increase access to programs and activities that can improve the health of our citizens outside of, and complimentary to, the hospital or health clinic setting. It is decidedly and demonstrably that the policy of the Hoskin / Warner administration that access to wellness centers and similar facilities, and infrastructure is indispensable to the achieving the vision of a world class system of wellness for the Cherokee people in this century. In that regard, future uses of wellness centers could also be supportive of our health system's physical rehabilitation programs, including aqua therapy. All of the progress to date was the

product of thoughtful study, including the June 2, 2022, Task Force on Physical Wellness. As well as ongoing work by our Public Health department. Future progress must put wellness centers within reasonably close proximity to all Cherokee Nation citizens within the Cherokee Nation Reservation. To achieve this goal, we must organize a new Task Force on Wellness Centers and Related Subjects with the aim of bringing wellness centers or spaces within reasonable distance of every Cherokee Nation citizen with. The reservation by the end of the decade.

1. **Principal Chief's Task Force on the Wellness Centers:** There is hereby established the Principal Chief's Task Force on Wellness Centers and Related Subjects, operating pursuant to the composition, objectives and other parameters set forth herein, and alternatively known as the Principal Chief's Task Force on Wellness Centers.

- a. **Composition:** The Principal Chief's Task Force on Wellness Centers shall be composed of the following members:

- i. **Canaan Duncan**, Cherokee Nation Deputy Secretary of State (Chair)
- ii. **Lisa Pivec**, Cherokee Nation Executive Director of Public Health (Co-Chair)
- iii. **Corey Bunch**, Cherokee Nation Chief of Staff
- iv. **Executive Director of Health** or his designee.
- v. **Member**, appointed by Chair Duncan with approval of Principal Chief
- vi. **Member**, appointed by Chair Duncan with approval of Principal Chief
- vii. **Member**, appointed by Chair Duncan with approval of Principal Chief

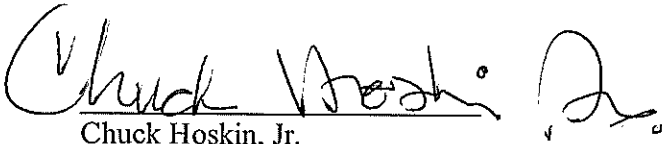
The Task Force may request the assignment of such clerical and administrative assistance as necessary to perform its work. Additionally, the Task Force is generally authorized administrative expense funds available under the Public Health and Wellness Fund Act, as amended, to fund its work, subject to approval of specific amounts.

Task Force members may be approved for reasonable and equitable compensation as recommended by the Chair and approved by the Principal Chief as is practical and based on the availability of funds. This may include extra duty contract assignments, overtime pay, adjustments to employment or service contracts and lump sum payments.

- b. **Objectives:** The task force should examine the following subjects:

- i. **Wellness Facility Designations, Definitions, Etc:** What is a “wellness center?” What is a “wellness space?” Are there other designations or definitions helpful in understanding and communicating with respect to the spectrum of facilities where participants can access physical fitness and nutrition equipment, infrastructure, programs and services. Are these various definitions, designations, etc, unhelpful distinctions without substantive differences?
- ii. **Citizen Input:** What do Cherokee Nation citizens expect with respect to wellness centers over the next decade?
- iii. **Elected Officials’ Input:** What do Cherokee Nation elected officials expect with respect to wellness centers over the next decade?
 - i. **Strategic Plan for Expansion:** Develop a strategic plan to put wellness centers, or some other “wellness” facility, within an approximately one-half hour drive of every Cherokee Nation citizen within the Cherokee Nation Reservation by 2036, such plan to include:
 - a. Recommended communities in which to locate such facilities.
 - b. A prioritization of communities based on need, with “need” as expressly defined by the Task Force.
 - c. Prioritization of minimum facility type, programs, services, equipment, etc.
 - d. Approximate budget for construction and annual operations.
 - e. Third party revenue opportunities.
 - iv. **Co-Usage by Health for Physical Therapy, Including Aqua Therapy:** Whether and what type of opportunities and barriers exist for future co-usage of wellness facilities for Cherokee Nation Health physical therapy services, such analysis to specifically to include opportunities to include aquatic facilities in wellness centers for shared use for recreation and aquatic therapy.
- c. **Deadline:** The Task Force shall complete its work and issue a final report by August 17, 2026, unless extended in writing by the Principal Chief.
- d. **Transparency:** Although the Task Force is an executive branch advisory group and not a public body within the meaning of the Cherokee Nation Freedom of Information Act, its final report shall be distributed to Cherokee Nation elected officials and to the general public via the Cherokee Nation website within 45 days of completion.
2. **ORDER:** The Principal Chief’s Task Force on Wellness Centers and Related Subjects is hereby created to achieve the purposes and policies set forth in this order.
3. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** This Order is effective immediately.

*EXECUTIVE ORDER ESTABLISHING PRINCIPAL CHIEF'S TASK FORCE ON WELLNESS CENTERS AND RELATED
SUBJECTS, EO 2026-04-CTH*

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chuck Hoskin, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chuck Hoskin, Jr.
Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation