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Office of the Principal Chief

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Executive Order Directing a Review of Accessibility of Public and Work Site Facilities, Programs and Services for Individuals with Disabilities

2024-05-CTH

- 1. AUTHORITY: The Constitution and laws of the Cherokee.
- 2. POLICY: To ensure access to facilities, programs and services to individuals with disability or other access barriers, Cherokee Nation should periodically and comprehensively evaluate such barriers to access with respect to its publicly accessible facilities, work sites as well as transportation and access to Cherokee Nation programs and services in the interests of individuals with disabilities. Such evaluation should take place across the entirety of Cherokee Nation, including its entities, but most notably the government of the Cherokee Nation and the Housing Authority of the Cherokee Nation. Accordingly, this Order establishes the Task Force on Evaluating and Improving Access to Cherokee Nation Facilities, Programs and Services for Individuals with Disability, also described herein as the Task force on Accessibility.
- 3. ESTABLISHING THE CHEROKEE NATION TASK FORCE EVALUATING AND IMPROVING ACCESS TO CHEROKEE NATION FACILITIES, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITY ("TASK FORCE ON ACCESSIBILITY")

A. Objectives: The Task Force shall-

- 1. Conduct a review of physical access to all Cherokee Nation and HACN owned public facilities and offices for individuals with disabilities.
- 2. Conduct a review of transportation and remote access to Cherokee Nation or HACN programs and services for individuals with disabilities.
- 3. Present recommendations to improve disability access based on the foregoing reviews.

B. Composition of Task Force-

- a. Corey Bunch, Chief of Staff (chair)
- b. Shella Bowlin, Secretary of State (co-chair)
- c. Todd Enlow, Senior Advisor to the Principal Chief and Director of Housing Programs
- d. Canaan Duncan, Deputy Secretary of State
- e. David Moore, Executive Director of Cherokee Nation Facilities
- f. Samantha Hendricks, Executive Director of Human Resources
- g. Jonathan Asbill, Senior Administrator of Construction

C. Conduct of Task Force

The Task Force should engage the following experts and internal stakeholders for input, without limitation to engaging others:

- a. Health Services
- b. Human Services
- c. Career Services
- d. Dept of Transportation and Infrastructure
- e. Cherokee Nation Community and Cultural Outreach
- f. A qualified outside consulting firm to evaluate accessibility to major Cherokee Nation and Housing Authority of the Cherokee Nation owned facilities by individuals with disabilities.

4. REPORTING

A. Report Due December 1, 2024: The Task Force shall issue a report to the Principal Chief by December 1, 2024, or by that date such interim report as the Task Force is prepared to produce along with a request for an extension of time to complete the final report, subject to approval by the Principal Chief.

5. EFFECT ON OTHER CHEROKEE NATION ENTITIES

A. Cherokee Nation entities not named above, including all business entities operating within the Cherokee Nation reservation, should undertake comparable internal reviews of their respective facilities and operations to identify barriers to access by individuals with disabilities, confirming in summary fashion to the Principal Chief that the reviews have been done and that each entity will develop a remediation plan to address any deficiencies by December 1, 2024.

6. TRANSPARENCY OF PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

- **B.** Although the Task Force is an internal work group advising the Principal Chief and not a "public body" within the meaning of Cherokee Nation law, any interim or final report issued by the Task Force will be disclosed, by action of the Principal Chief, to the Council of the Cherokee Nation and to the general public by placement on the Cherokee Nation website, within 30 days of issuance of such reports.
- 7. **ORDER:** The Task Force Evaluating and Improving Access to Cherokee Nation Facilities, Programs and Services for Individuals with Disability ("Task Force On Accessibility") is hereby created and directed as set forth herein.
- 8. EFFECTIVE DATE: This Order is effective today, July 26, 2024.

Chuck Hoskin, Jr.

Cherokee Nation, Principal Chief