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CHEROKEE NATION®

Cherokee Nation Public Health Journey to Accreditation & Beyond

Lisa Pivec, M.S.
Executive Director, Public Health

“Especially in the context of tribal people, no individual’s life stands apart and alone from the rest. My own story has meaning only as long as it is part of the overall story of my People. For above all else I am a Cherokee woman.”

Wilma P. Mankiller

Cherokee Nation Reservation





***TOTAL Population**	462,060
Living within CN Reservation	139,409
Living within Oklahoma	281,490

CN **total** Tribal lands specifically:
72,878.70 +/- acres

Cherokee Nation Mission and Vision

Mission:

The Cherokee Nation is committed to protecting our inherent sovereignty, preserving and promoting Cherokee culture, language and values, and improving the quality of life for the next seven generations of Cherokee Nation citizens.

Vision:

Together…Community, Family, Culture

Cherokee Community Values



ᏍᏚᏚᎩ ᎯᏍᏃᏀᏛᏍᏗ
sgadugi dikanowadvsdi
Cherokee Community Values

CHEROKEE NATION
Community & Cultural Outreach



ᏍᏚᎩ gadugi
People coming together as one and working to help one another.

ᏚᏀᏣᎠᏍᏆᏂᎪᏩᏘᏴᏫᏍᏓᏁᎲᏍᎪᎢ detsadatlanigohisdodidegesdi
Strengthen one another with encouraging words in all that you do.

ᎬᎩᏟ ᎯᏀᏓᏍᏛᏁᎩ ᎢᏤᏢᏍᎩ gvwalitsv ditsadayohisdi itsehesdi
Live and never give up on what you start.



ᏚᏀᎶᎦᏛᏍᎩ detsadageyusesdi
Be stingy with one another's existence, like a mother with child.

ᏚᏀᏓᏉᏕᏍᎩ detsadalvquodesdi
Like one another without conditions, admire one another.

ᏚᏀᏟᏰᏛᏍᎩ detsadatliyvsesdi
Struggle to hold on to one another or cling to one another.



ᎤᏢᏍᏆᏂᎩ ᏚᏀᎧᏔᎦᏛᏍᎩ ulisgedi detsadayelvsesdi
Treat each other's existence as being sacred or important.

ᎯᏀᏓᏚᎵᏍᏛ ᎢᏤᏢᏍᎩ ditsadasdelisgi itsehesdi
You all live, helping one another.

ᏂᏚᏣᎢᏎ ᏍᏚᎩ ᏂᏣᏁᏍᎩ nigaya'iso gadugi nitsvnesdi
In the mind and heart always have the thought of working together.



ᏚᏀᏙᎵᏍᏛᏍᎩ detsadadohiyusesdi
You all have a strong conviction for and believe in one another.

ᏚᏀᏓᎻᏅᎯᏩᏘᏴᏫᏍᎩ detsadaligenvdisgesdi
You all take responsibility for one another's wellbeing.

ᏚᏀᏕᎢᏧᏍᎩ detsadagtiyesdi
Watch over and wait for one another.



ᎯᏀᏆᏍᏊᏂᏙᎯ ᎢᏤᏢᏍᎩ ditsadagusdanidohi itsehesdi
Live and support each other in all that you do.

ᏑᏂᏧᏆᏀᏍᏘᏴᏫᏍᎩ ᎯᏕᎻᏍᏊᏁᏗᎩ ᎠᎾᏅᎪᏙ
yetsilequalosgesdi digalvwisdadi ganavgoquo
You all gang up on work whenever and wherever it arises.



ᎯᏀᎵᎯ ᎢᏤᏢᏍᎩ ditsaligohi itsehesdi
Live united, work as a team with one another.

ᏚᏀᏩᏛᎯᏙᏢᏍᎩ datsadawatvhidohesdi
Visit one another with love, locate and find one another.

ᏚᏀᏓᎾᏍᏛᏍᎩ ᎢᏤᏢᏍᎩ detsadasmasdi itsehesdi
Live and be very skilled in all areas of life, be resourceful.



ᏗᏓᎯᏣ ᏚᏀᏓᎾᏂᏍᏘᏴᏫᏍᎩ nudantiyu detsadanvwidisgesdi
Encourage and instruct one another in a gentle & thoughtful way.

ᏂᎤᏆ ᎠᏓᏙᎵᏙᎯ ᏚᏀᏓᏔᏂᏍᏘᏴᏫᏍᎩ
nvwoti adadolisdodi detsadadanvtadisgesdi
Think of one another in spiritual prayer and healing with medicine.

ᎾᏂᎥ ᏰᎾ ᏚᏩᏣᏍᎪᏘᏴᏫᏍᎩ nani'v yvwi detsatloyasdisgesdi
Include everyone, all human kind; however many.

ᏚᏀᎯᏭ ᎢᎯᏢ ᏚᏀᏓᏢᏍᏕᏍᎪᏘᏴᏫᏍᎩ duyugtv idltv datsadasehesdesdi
Direct one another in the right way, without confining or pushing.

All mistakes are mine, but the words and ideas were initially shared by Benny Smith (2009). They are owned by all Cherokee people and it is our responsibility to maintain them. ~ GS ᏭᎷᏂᎾ Ryan B. Mackey

CHEROKEE NATION PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS
Division of the Cherokee Nation

- Monitoring, Surveillance, & Evaluation
- Community Health Promotion
- Wellness Centers & Spaces
- Performance Management
- Food Sovereignty
- Clinical/Community Linkages
- Working Together: Cross Collaborative Work on Social Determinants of Health

Cherokee Nation Public Health Accreditation Journey

1993:Community Health Promotion foundation – 2 staff
2004: First CDC grant
2007: Introduced to idea of PH accreditation
2008: NACCHO self-assessment project
2009: PHAB beta test site
2011: CDC National Public Health Infrastructure Funding
2014: Applied for PHAB Accreditation
2016: PHAB Accreditation



Cherokee Nation Public Health Accreditation Journey

2019: Tribal Legislative PH subcommittee
2021: Cherokee Nation Public Health & Wellness Act
2022: Cherokee Nation Public Health Division
2023: PHAB Reaccreditation
2024: Assessment of Foundational Capabilities & Update of Strategic Plan

STRENGTHENING CHEROKEE COMMUNITIES:

Working Together for Our Health and Wellness



TRIBAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT REPORT 2021

By Cherokee for all. People living happy and healthy for this and future generations.

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GWYᏬ DᏯᏢ

CHEROKEE NATION®
Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

PREPARED BY:
REDSTAR INTERNATIONAL

CHEROKEE NATION PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2021-2025

Together: Community, Family, Culture



By Cherokee for all. People living happy and healthy for this and future generations.

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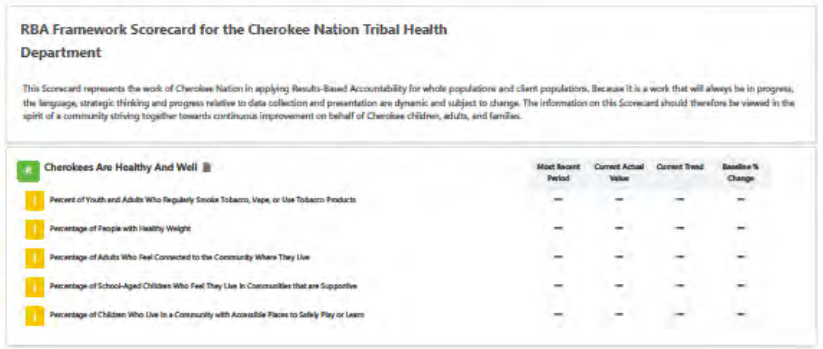
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Healthy Cherokee People, Families, & Communities

Health Improvement Results and Performance Indicators
2021 – 2026 (DRAFT)

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	CURRENT MEASURE	TARGET	DATA SOURCE	FREQUENCY	PROGRAM LEAD
Result 1: Improve health by promoting healthy eating and making nutritious foods available.					
1.1. Improve the Food Security Index of Sequoyah, Adair, Ottawa, Nowata, Cherokee, Muskogee, and Craig counties.	These counties have an FSI >80	All 14 counties <80	Conduent	Annual	Epi Team
1.2. Increase the consumption of fruits and vegetables	18.2% consumed <1 vegetable daily 54.6% consumed <1 fruit daily (AI 2018-2020 NE OK)	<10% for vegetables <20% for fruits	State BRFSS	Annually	Epi Team
Result 2: Reduce overweight and obesity by helping people get physically active					
2.1.Increase the percent of people who exercise	70.5% report leisure time physical activity (AI 2018-2020 NE OK)	79% (HP 2030)	State BRFSS	Annually	Epi Team
2.2. Decrease the percent of people who are sedentary	12 of 14 counties are >25%	All 14 counties <25%	Conduent	Annually	Epi Team
Result 3: Reduce illness, disability, and death related to cancer, tobacco use and secondhand smoke					
3.1. Reduce the prevalence of commercial tobacco use in the Cherokee Nation	30.0% (2019-2020)	16.2% (HP 2030)	State BRFSS	Annually	Epi Team
3.2. Increase the percentage of adults age 51-75 years who had received a colorectal cancer screening	Range is 50%-63% (2018)	74.4% (HP 2030)	Conduent from CDC-Places	Annually	CNCCC
3.3. Increase the percentage of women aged 21 to 64 years who have received a cervical cancer scre	21% (2021)	84.3% (HP 2030)	Cerner EHR	Annually	CNCCC


RBA Framework Scorecard for the Cherokee Nation Tribal Health Department

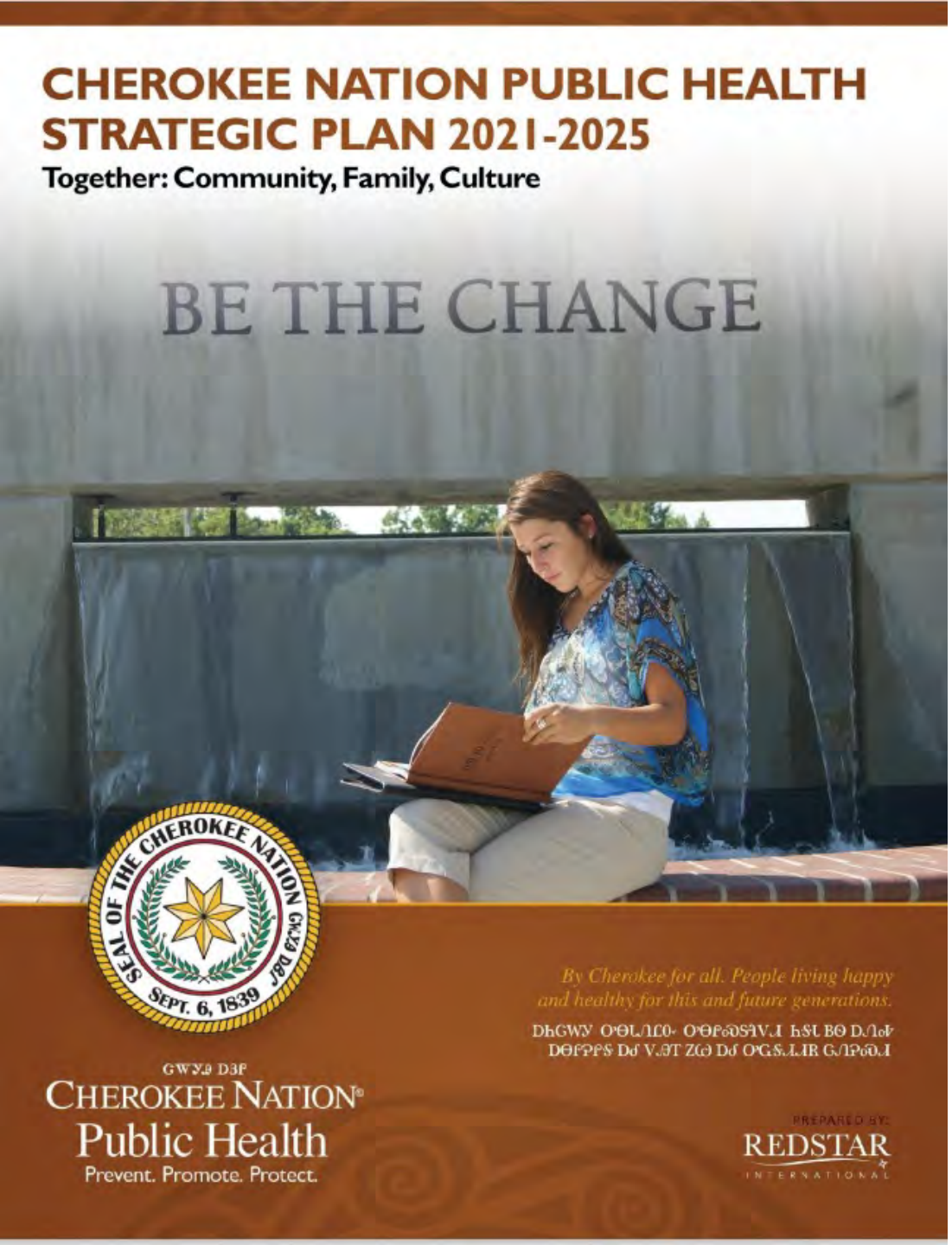
This Scorecard represents the work of Cherokee Nation in applying Results-Based Accountability for whole populations and client populations. Because it is a work that will always be in progress, the language, strategic thinking and progress relative to data collection and presentation are dynamic and subject to change. The information on this Scorecard should therefore be viewed in the spirit of a community striving together towards continuous improvement on behalf of Cherokee children, adults, and families.

Cherokees Are Healthy And Well

Most Recent Period | Current Actual Value | Current Trend | Baseline % Change

- Percent of Youth and Adults Who Regularly Smoke Tobacco, Vape, or Use Tobacco Products
- Percentage of People with Healthy Weight
- Percentage of Adults Who Feel Connected to the Community Where They Live
- Percentage of School-Aged Children Who Feel They Live In Communities that are Supportive
- Percentage of Children Who Live In a Community with Accessible Places to Safely Play or Learn





STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	
Public Health Governance	Establish a Cherokee Nation Public Health Code.
Community Engagement	Use strategies for communication with community members toward the shared goal of wellbeing and strengthening Cherokee community health.
Public Health Data and Information Systems	Develop a robust, modern, interoperable, and secure public health information system that delivers real-time, accurate, and actionable data.
Public Health Workforce	Build the capacity of the Cherokee Nation Public Health Workforce to deliver foundational public health services to Cherokee communities.
Public Health Financing	Ensure sufficient, predictable, and flexible funding to support Cherokee Nation Public Health.



Cherokee Nation Public Health

- Focus on Foundational Capabilities
- Public Health and Wellness Fund
- Cherokee Indicators of Wellness: *ga du gi*
- Cherokee Speaker Advocates
- Tribal Public Health Lab
- Community Screening
- Tribal Public Health System
- Relationship with Oklahoma State Health Department



The Public Health and Wellness Fund Act of 2021, amended most recently in 2023, dedicates $100 million in settlement funds from opioid and e-cigarette lawsuits for a variety of public health programs.

The Act established by Principal Chief Hoskin and Deputy Chief Warner also dedicates 7% of the tribe's annual third-party health insurance collected to physical and mental wellness programs, generating millions of dollars per year for these efforts.

STRENGTHENING OUR CHEROKEE

CHILDREN, FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES

DSW SME DᎴ ᎯᏕᎾᏍᏓᏁᎯ

INCOME & JOBS

EMPLOYMENT
EDUCATION
HOUSING

DSGᏆᏍᎫ

EDUCATION

EARLY CHILDHOOD
K-12 PROGRAMS
YOUTH LEADERSHIP

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HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS

SAFE HOUSING
CLEAN AIR AND WATER
RADON-FREE HOMES

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LANGUAGE & CULTURE

LANGUAGE SPEAKERS
CONNECTION
CEREMONIALS
ARTS AND GAMES



V.ᏐT DS.ᏗT

QUALITY OF LIFE

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
SAFE PLACES TO PLAY
CULTURE AND TRADITION

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HEALTHY FOODS

WIC
SCHOOL LUNCHES
FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS
FARM TO TABLE PROGRAMS

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MENTAL HEALTH

COUNSELING SERVICES
PREVENTION PROGRAMS
SKILL BUILDING

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ACCESS TO CARE

TRANSPORTATION
HEALTH PROMOTION
DISEASE PREVENTION

THEME	CHEROKEE NATION	LANGUAGE, CULTURE & CONNECTIVITY	INDIVIDUAL WELLNESS	COMMUNITY SYSTEMS
Definition	Cherokee Nation's inherent sovereignty enhances the well-being of the land and people today and future generations.	Cherokee Lifeways: language, knowledge, values, and cultural practices are thriving intergenerationally	Cherokee people are safe, grateful, and balanced in all aspects of well-being.	Community systems support community, family and individual wellness and quality of life.
TOPIC	SELF-DETERMINATION	LANGUAGE & CULTURE	MENTAL HEALTH	LANGUAGE & CULTURE
	- Full control of Cherokee land - Self-sufficient - Strong structure/ foundation - Natural resources protected & healing - Wellness atmosphere	- Tsalagi/ Cherokee fluency - Cultural awareness - Cultural connectivity - Cherokee identity - Living cultural practices & beliefs	- Self-sufficient - Mental health needs met - Substance abuse needs met - Nurtured relationships	- Language speakers - Arts and games - Ceremonials
				EDUCATION
				- Education for all - Elders teaching children
TOPICS continue		FAMILY CONNECTION	PHYSICAL HEALTH	ACCESS TO CARE
		- Intergenerational family gatherings - Strong family connections - Supportive family - Families helping families	- Healthy eating - Active people - Elders living longer - Safe, happy, healthy	- Public Health Infrastructure - Culture & Health Care Integration - Health - Transportation
		COMMUNITY CONNECTION	EMOTIONAL HEALTH	SAFE COMMUNITIES
		- Supportive community - Neighbors helping neighbors - Community connection	- Sense of security - Kids happy & smiling - Smiles & laughter - Healing	- Safe - Law enforcement / public safety - Sense of security
			SPIRITUAL HEALTH	INCOME & JOBS
			- Grounded in the present - Prayer - Fellowship	- Financial security - Community economy - Employment
				HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT
				- Clean water & air - Environmental needs met - Outside spaces for enjoyment - Wellness atmosphere
				HOUSING
				- Housing for all - Safe housing
				HEALTHY FOODS
				- Gardens - Healthy food for all

CHEROKEE INDICATORS OF WELLNESS EXAMPLES

Know the Tsalagi language
Maintain a strong sense of Cherokee identity
Maintain family connection
Maintain community connection
Upholds Cherokee lifeways -iyundvnelidasdi- as the foundation
Exercises self-determination in governance and policy decisions
Protects and sustains the land and natural resources; Healthy environment; Clean air and water
A Healthy Start; Youth leadership
Safe, Affordable, Quality, Hazard-Free Homes
Educational Attainment; Employability; Economic stability
Access to Care; Access to healthy foods
Access to Technology
Reliable Transportation; Safe Road Systems;
Safe spaces to live, work and play; Wellness Activities



CHEROKEE SPEAKER WELLNESS ADVOCATES

- **Cherokees discovering ways to help other Cherokees which helps to restore hope.**
- **Focuses on helping, visiting ,talking, listening, and laughing with families, communities, and tribal citizens where they are comfortable which is and always has been a powerful medicine for us.**
- **Connect tribal members to resources and attempt to improve health and communication between the professional and traditional worlds to become the very essence of Ga-Du-Gi.**



"Everybody working together(CHW, tribal members being helped, other CN departments, and Administration) has made us all better Cherokees and Humans."
Charles Stilwell, Cherokee Program Manager & Citizen

Lessons Learned

- Cherokee Values in Action
- Foundation: Tribal Sovereignty
- PHAB provides structure – we provide specificity
- Governance -Public Health Code
- Foundational Plans – exercising strengths
- Cross-Collaboration
- Performance Management System
- Engage National Organizations

Lessons Learned

- Tribal Networking
- Tribal Public Health Systems in Areas
- Community Support
- Share & Borrow
- PHAB framework as communication tool
- Emi's Analogy "Be a Mosquito"
- Flexibility: Jargon of the Day


We Are Cherokee Public Health…
SEAL OF THE CHEROKEE NATION
SEPT. 6, 1839
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CHEROKEE NATION©
Public Health
"We must trust our own thinking.
Trust where we're going.
And get the job done."
Chief Wilma P. Mankiller