

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NOMINATION OF ASSISTANT CHIEF JACK AUSTIN, JR.  
TO SERVE ON THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
TRIBAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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**IN THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE CHOCTAW NATION**

**JAMES DRY INTRODUCED THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

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**A COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**TO APPROVE** a Resolution supporting the nomination of Assistant Chief Jack Austin, Jr. of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for re-appointment to serve on the United States Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Tribal Technical Advisory Committee (SAMHSA TTAC) as a representative of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

**WHEREAS**, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration seeks nominations to the Tribal Technical Advisory Committee;

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Article VII, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (the "Nation"), the Chief has the power to "establish and appoint committees, members and delegates to represent the Choctaw Nation with the advice and consent of the Tribal Council.";

**WHEREAS**, Chief Gary Batton nominates Assistant Chief Jack Austin, Jr. for appointment to the SAMHSA TTAC to represent the Nation, our Choctaw tribal members, and mental health care provision across Indian Country;

**WHEREAS**, Assistant Chief's education and expertise make him a great fit for this role, as well as his ongoing commitment to serving all mental and healthcare needs of our tribal members;

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council of the Nation supports efforts to build and grow our relationship with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, other tribal nations and their healthcare systems and resources, and other mental health providers across the country;

**WHEREAS**, Assistant Chief Austin is highly qualified and equipped to serve on this committee. He has demonstrated a life of committed public service and daily strives to be a servant leader. He lives out the Choctaw Nation's values of Faith, Family, and Culture. Prior to serving as Assistant Chief, he directed the Choctaw Nation's Recovery Center, and assisted more than 1,000 patients during some of the hardest points in their lives. In his role now as Assistant Chief, he guides and directs many day-to-day governmental and business functions, ensuring this same level of care is provided to our tribal members in every way—from health, to housing, to economic development. He is able to take a well-rounded approach to help people achieve a high quality of life. His demonstrated leadership as a counselor, Army veteran, pastor, and leader of our tribal nation will serve him well on this national committee to be an excellent contributor; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council has determined it is in the best interest of the Nation to support the nomination of Assistant Chief Jack Austin, Jr. for appointment to the United States Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Tribal Technical Advisory Committee (SAMHSA TTAC) as a representative of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

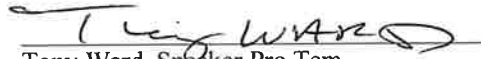
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**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma that this Resolution be cited as approval for supporting the nomination of Assistant Chief Jack Austin, Jr. for appointment to the SAMHSA TTAC a representative of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

**CERTIFICATION**

*I, the undersigned, as speaker of the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, do hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of twelve (12) seats. Eight (8) members must be present to constitute a quorum. I further certify that twelve ( 12 ) members answered roll call and that a quorum was present at a meeting of the Tribal Council in Tuskahoma, OK on March 14, 2026. I further certify that the foregoing Council Bill CR- 04 -26 was adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of twelve ( 12 ) members, zero ( 0 ) negative votes, and zero ( 0 ) abstaining.*

  
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James Dry, Secretary  
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council

  
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Tony Ward, Speaker Pro Tem  
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council

  
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Gary Batton, Chief  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Date 3/17/26