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Osage Nation Health Board Completes Loan Closing and Consolidation



(Left to Right: James Brasel, CFO, Dr. Kirk Shaw, COO, Timothy Shadlow, Board Member, Cindra Shangreau, Board Chairwoman, Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear, Michael Bristow, Vice Chairman, Dr. Lancer Stephens, Board Member, Mark Rogers, CEO, Dr. Melissa McIntosh, CMO; Hailey Kramer, Board Secretary, not pictured).

Pawhuska, OK – On May 22nd 2026, the Osage Nation’s Health Board Authority, **Si-Si A-Pe-Txa (SSAPT)** - translated as **“The Healing Place”** – completed its consolidated loan closing with BoK Financial. The existing loan rolled both the Pawhuska and Skiatook projects into a single loan product, securing the success and future of both projects. The original loan with the Wahzhazhe Clinic in Pawhuska came with a loan guarantee from the Osage Nation that was eliminated with the consolidated loan, removing risk from the Osage Nation and transferring it completely to the SSAPT Health Authority Board via collateral of Third Party Revenues and security of the Indian Health Services’ 105 (I) Lease program, which allows for costs to be covered for principle and interest of both projects, now in effect. The spectacular growth in Third Party Revenue over the past four years along with future projections made the decision to consolidate an easy choice. CEO Mark Rogers noted, “This is a tremendously huge and historic day for the Osage Nation, and for generations to come. With this program, the Osage Nation Health System (ONHS) has supported and assured a strong healthcare program and services for years to come with new, modern facilities, state-of-the-art equipment, information systems, greatly expanded specialty services, and good paying healthcare job opportunities within the reservation and region.” It is

anticipated that Skiatook alone will add another estimated 85 employment opportunities by itself, along with another estimated 15 employees with the Assisted Living Facility in Hominy that is projected to open in early 2027, growing the SSAPT employee umbrella to 360 total employees once completed and staffed. Chairwoman Shangreau stated, “We are incredibly proud and honored to have accomplished so much in such a short period of time with this board and executive team, as well as our strategic private sector partners. Their expertise in financing within Indian Country, along with the Indian Health Service’s guidance, has helped numerous Tribes in securing and expanding upon their sovereignty and self-determination goals in healthcare across the nation.” The Osage Nation Congress and Executive Branches originally structured the five member SSAPT Health Authority Board in line with national standards and recommendations for the size and number of experts that can rapidly react and respond to fluid, high-growth challenges and taskings that have been demanded of SSAPT in delivering much needed services to the Osage Nation. Over the past four years, every conceivable metric of business success, recognized and measured by the business world, has been achieved in spectacular fashion. SSAPT has attained consistent clean audits, spotless accreditation and governmental inspections at every turn, high patient satisfaction, overall strong employee morale with significant reduction in turnover, and has done so with an active and engaged board focused upon success – and achieving it. These factors also positioned the enterprise perfectly for securing favorable financing terms with the loan consolidation that was completed, as these are important factors that weigh into these complex transactions and loan structures during the arduous vetting and approval processes.

Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear attended the last SSAPT Health Board meeting before the upcoming Osage Nation elections to thank the board members, the executive team, and other strategic partners for achieving what many thought were impossible feats in such an incredibly short period of time. The board recognized Chief Standing Bear for his support and service to the Osage Nation and to the Health Board with a Pendleton Chief Joseph blanket (pictured above). The future continues to be extremely bright for SSAPT and the Osage Nation’s services and programs as well as its employees who do incredible work each and every day to make the health and wellness of the Osage Reservation their central priority.

About Osage Nation

Osage Nation is a strong, proud, resilient, and enduring sovereign nation as demonstrated by: A viable and sustainable economy driven by Osage Nation enterprises, with the income derived from which is responsibly reinvested and reserved for future generations. A flourishing Wahzhazhe culture, a revitalized Wahzhazhe language spoken at a basic level by a vast majority of Osage Nation members, and a unique and vibrant Wahzhazhe history taught to our children and fostered, promoted, and memorialized throughout our homelands. Conservation and responsible stewardship of natural resources are balanced with sound management practices and efficient production of the mineral estate within our established territory. Highly educated tribal members supported and promoted by the Nation at the pre-school level, continuing through the postsecondary level and beyond. Physical, mental, and spiritual vitality evident amongst our Wahzhazhe people, complemented by the ongoing development of health and wellness services. A self-determining, civically engaged society with ethically responsible government leaders who faithfully serve our Constitution and are accountable for their actions to Osage Nation members. <https://www.osagenation-nsn.gov/>