

What's next for Healthcare in the Chickasaw Nation?

Now that construction on the new Medical Center is complete and the ribbon cutting is behind us, plans are being finalized for the next healthcare projects within the Chickasaw Nation.

In Ardmore, the renovations on the Chickasaw Nation Health Clinic are well under way with plans for an adjoining facility being laid out. The new addition will be adjacent to the existing building and ground breaking should begin in November 2010.

The Chickasaw Nation was selected to participate in the Indian Health Services Joint Venture Construction Program which will let the Nation benefit from IHS resources to operate the newly built clinic.

Due to the increasing outpatient healthcare needs of the Indian citizens, the Ardmore Clinic was not capable of providing adequate health services in the existing building. With a completion date of July 2012, the total cost of renovation and expansion will be approximately \$32,400,000.00 In addition to a new facility; the Nation expects to fill approximately 60 new positions in the clinic.

In Tishomingo, plans are being finalized for a new clinic to be built there also.

The project is to build a new health center facility to replace the existing clinic. The facility will be approximately 54,175 square feet and will include expanded ambulatory medical care services, laboratory services, diagnostic imaging, dental services, and behavioral health services. The building will be located on the site of the current facility grounds. The estimated cost for the new facility will be \$25,944,000.00. The Tishomingo project is also an IHS Joint Venture Construction Program project and will receive additional funding and should be completed in January 2013.

New providers have joined the medical staff. Carol Rhoades, CRNA has been in practice for 13 years. She is board certified and will be working in the Anesthesia department. Nani Parsons, PA-C is board certified and will be working in the Same Day Clinic in Ada.

Statistics for the month of July 2010 were Internal Medicine 526 patients. Emergency room patients 1,132, Pediatric patients 1089, Same Day Clinic patients were 2530, and Family Practice including the satellite clinics were 3946 patients.

There were 45 deliveries in July with 214 general surgeries performed and 435 general surgery visits.

Thank you, and hope everyone had a great summer.

Connie Barker

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