

It is truly a blessing to be Chickasaw and celebrate our heritage each and every day. Our struggles throughout history have caused us to become resilient, tenacious, and community centered, while equipping ourselves for future successes. I often think about Mission as well as Vision statements of various organizations and businesses and I realize that we, as a Nation, are truly living our Mission by *enhancing the quality of life for the Chickasaw People by achieving superior results in our businesses and to be the recognized leader in our businesses. We strive for excellence in everything we do.* I think that the aforementioned Mission and Vision statement is impressive and indicates to anyone that reads them that the Chickasaw Nation is centered on its people and that with the solid leadership that we are blessed with throughout the Nation, that we will continue to prosper and use our resources wisely.

This has been demonstrated in the exceptional healthcare delivery models that we have in place and that we will improve upon with the addition of our new hospital. Positive Progress on the construction of the hospital continues and we will soon be the recipients of a premier hospital and healthcare system that will serve our people for many years to come. The “system” continues to move patients through internal medicine programs, emergency care, pediatrics, same day clinic services and family practice. The comparative analysis of these services is impressive when comparing encounter numbers through January 2010 as compared to the same period in 2009. There were 437 internal medicine visits, 991 emergency visits, 885 pediatric encounters, 2617 same day clinic visits, and 3006 family practice encounters inclusive of all satellite clinics.

There were 48 Obstetric/gynecological deliveries as compared to 57 for the same period last year. There were 255 general surgery cases for the month of January and 377 general surgery visits. These numbers are indicative of the busy practices and services that are in place within our healthcare system and why we are thankful to our positive leaders within all service units. Truly, we are living our Mission through enhancing the quality of life for the Chickasaw People.

Thank you for the privilege that you have given me so that I may serve and together we will continue to *strive for excellence in everything we do.*

Connie Barker, Pickens District