

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee! We finally got some rain here in the Chickasaw Nation. It was much needed by the ranchers and farmers as the ponds and wells were very dry. The rain was a ground-soaker so the flowers and trees have been blooming and we can now start our gardens.

The Health Care Committee had a very good meeting with Health System Administrator Bill Lance. It was recently announced that his successor will be Dr. Judy Goforth Parker who was in attendance in her current capacity as Secretary of the Legislature. We conveyed our appreciation to Mr. lance for everything he has done to improve the Health System and our best wishes for his continued success in our business enterprises. Dr. Goforth Parker promised that she would continue the tradition of attending our committee meetings after she takes her new office on the first of June. We believe that Dr. Goforth Parker is a wise choice to be the Health System Administrator.

Construction continues on our new hospital which is now 60% complete. Work also continues on the new buildings for the Legislative and Judicial Departments. Those two buildings will expand our headquarters complex to the north.

Some federal stimulus funds are available for our use in our Health System. We provide health care to a large number of Native Americans and that number will determine exactly how much stimulus aid we will receive. The Legislature recently approved improvements to be made to the Ardmore Clinic. The Nation has applied for stimulus funds to make those improvements. Application has also been made for funds to remodel the Tishomingo Clinic.

The Health System provided the following statistics: for the month of March, 2009, there were 225 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl

Albert was 21,437. March Emergency Room visits were 1,254. March saw 275 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 3,094 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 1,975 patients in March. The Ardmore Clinic saw 3,715 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 2,142. The Durant Clinic saw 2,797 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 2,499 in March.

Until next time, I wish God's blessings on all of our people. Please contact me through my email address mary.green@chickasaw.net or through the address and telephone number listed elsewhere in this and every issue of the Chickasaw Times and on the Chickasaw Nation web site. My articles are also located on the web site. Until next month, thank you.