

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee! As I write this article, it is a cool 70 degrees and rainy in Ada which is highly unusual for the month of August. The last few weeks have been more typical with temperatures as high as 106. We truly appreciate the rain and the break from the high temperatures!

The Health Care Committee met with Health System Administrator Bill Lance on August 4. Mr. Lance told us that the steel framework for the new hospital is rising every day. We are so glad to see the construction continue. It is planned that the new hospital will have 2 water sources and 2 backup generators so that it will never have to shut down because of lack of water and electricity - the 2 most vital services.

Mr. Lance also asked that we welcome Dr. Karina Jandziszak as a new children's specialist at Carl Albert Hospital. The search for a new dentist continues and we will be very happy to get one onboard. We know that it has been an inconvenience to our patients to have to wait so long for a dental appointment.

The Health System has received another grant. Only 40 entities were selected to receive the grant for providing health services. Congratulations, Health System, and thank you!

Health System Administrator Bill Lance reports the following statistics: for the month of July, 2008, there were 285 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 19,557. July Emergency Room visits were 1,003. July saw 238 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 2,750 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 1,889 patients in July. The Ardmore Clinic saw 3,009 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 1,917. The Durant Clinic saw 2,468 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 2,114 in July.

I would love to hear from you! 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.