

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee! It's beginning to feel like Spring in Ada, and we are sure ready for warmer weather!

The Committee met with several important people this month. Administrator Bill Lance and Deputy Administrator were in attendance and told us that the new hospital is about 50% complete and on schedule. When completed, the new hospital will be the largest Indian health facility in the United States.

They also asked the Legislature to approve a developmental budget amendment for upgrades to the Ardmore Clinic. We approved the resolution on February 20. The upgrades will enable the Health System to efficiently serve more people in that Clinic. The old Carter Seminary dormitories will also be torn down to provide space for apartments for senior citizens. The new apartments will replace those we are losing by tearing down the Washington Square apartment building. The Carter gymnasium will remain, however, and utilized as a community center.

Good news regarding the prescription refill center in Ada. It is now open 7 days a week instead of 5 and a half. This schedule will provide more user friendly hours of business.

Also at the Committee meeting, we met the Elder Case Manager for the Health System, Lori Dodson. Lori is able to assist senior citizens living within the Chickasaw Nation and can be reached at 580.272.5813. Amy Wampler is the Services At Large Case Manager for Chickasaw citizens living outside the Chickasaw Nation. Amy is located in Oklahoma City and can be reached at 405.767.8976.

Administrator Bill Lance provided the following statistics: for the month of January, 2009, there were 234 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 20,063. January Emergency Room visits were

1,050. January saw 261 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 2,786 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 1,766 patients in January. The Ardmore Clinic saw 2,946 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 1,914. The Durant Clinic saw 2,591 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 1,996 in January.

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.