

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee! We have returned from Washington where we attended the inauguration of President Obama. It was, to say the least, an exciting time and I'm very blessed that I was able to attend the festivities. The new President certainly has my prayers and support as he tackles all the problems of the Nation and the world.

We have had some very cold weather here which I'm sure has been hard on the construction workers. However, progress continues on our new hospital and the new Legislative and Judicial buildings.

Unfortunately, we have been experiencing a rash of the stomach flu this year. The Health System has treated a lot of patients for the 3-day virus, including many seniors.

The big news here is that Health System Administrator Bill Lance has been reassigned to Chickasaw Enterprises. Therefore, we will be announcing a new Administrator soon. While we will certainly miss working with Bill on health issues, we congratulate him on the successes he gave us in our Health System and wish him all good things in his new endeavor. We will, of course, continue to give our full support to him in his new position and to the new Health System Administrator, whoever that may be.

Due to bad weather, the Health Care Committee was not able to meet this month. However, we received the following statistics: for the month of December, 2008, there were 223 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 20,047. December Emergency Room visits were 1,145. December saw 263 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 2,807 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 1,937 patients in December. The Ardmore Clinic saw 3,133 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 2,053. The Durant Clinic saw 2,526 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 2,376 December. These monthly totals are the highest that I can

remember, maybe due to the stomach virus I mentioned earlier.

It was also reported that the 2008 total number of ambulatory visits for the Health System is 378,904 with 233,271 of those visits to Carl Albert Hospital. Wow, that is a lot of health care! It is almost a miracle that we can care for that many patients especially with Carl Albert being so small and out of date. Thank you again, Bill Lance, and God speed.

I would love to hear from you! Please contact me through my email address [mary.green@chickasaw.net](mailto: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.