

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee! It is budget time in the Chickasaw Legislature and our public hearing on next year's budget is June 26 at the Murray County Expo Center in Sulphur. Please come join us at 6:30 pm. Committee Chair Holly Easterling and the Budget Committee have been hard at work crunching numbers for Fiscal Year 2009.

At the June Committee of the Whole meeting, the Legislature was treated to a presentation of a program designed to assist Chickasaws who have been incarcerated to be reintegrated into the community. The reentry program assists the clients in learning life and work skills, provides a healthy living environment, provides a temporary full time work situation and placement assistance for a permanent work situation. The program hopes to be located in Sulphur with offices and dormitory or apartments. Sulphur is centrally located within the Chickasaw Nation and a lot of the work situations are located at the Chickasaw-owned Drake Farms right next door in Davis. The Legislature is enthusiastic about the program and certainly supports its intentions. The program appears to have assembled a quality and professional staff. We wish the best of luck to the program and especially its clients.

Health System Administrator Bill Lance reports the following statistics: for the month of May, 2008, there were 202 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 18,658. May Emergency Room visits were 982. May saw 268 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 2,668 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 2,192 patients in May. The Ardmore Clinic saw 2,784 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 1,881. The Durant Clinic saw 2,517 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 2,151 in May. We like it when the statistics go down

from the month before, because it means less health care services were required.

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.