

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee! It's hot in Ada as Summer has settled in. Thank goodness we received a lot of rain recently. The construction crew on the new hospital is making up for time lost due to weather and the construction is now 66.7% complete.

The Health Care Committee met with new Health Administrator Dr. Judy Goforth Parker and out going Administrator Bill Lance. It was Dr. Parker's first meeting with us as Administrator and Mr. Lance's last meeting with us as Health Administrator. They gave us good news, of course.

I reported last month that the Choctaw Nation will be remodeling the Durant Clinic. The clinic will gain an additional 1,300 square feet for exam rooms. The Durant Clinic serves all Native Americans in the Durant area. The health care team met with the architect for the Ardmore Clinic remodel. Ardmore Clinic is seeing many more patients than was expected so it needs to be larger. The plan is to work on weekends and evenings so the clinics do not have to close during business hours. Please bear with us while we complete the remodels.

At Carl Albert Hospital, Dr. Earnest Nelson began working in the Dental Clinic on May 26. Dr. Richard Orr is a psychiatrist working under a 6-month contract with options for renewal. Dr. Jose Alvarez is an ear/nose/throat specialist working 2 days a month. Dr. Philip Hartgraves is a pediatric dentist working 2 days a month. Dr. Jerry Morgan will be full time at the Family Practice Clinic beginning June 29. Dr. Mauri Thomas will be a full time dentist in Tishomingo starting on July 13. Welcome aboard to all the new doctors and dentists!

Connie Barker, Legislator for Seat 2 Pickens District, has been appointed to replace Dr. Parker on the Healthcare State Council. We know that Connie will continue the excellent work begun by Dr. Parker. The new mission statement for the Health System is "To protect, preserve and

enhance health care for all Indian people.”

The following are statistics: for the month of May, 2009, there were 227 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 20,452. May Emergency Room visits were 1,227. May saw 231 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 2,478 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 1,962 patients in May. The Ardmore Clinic saw 3,286 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 2,137. The Durant Clinic saw 3,150 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 2,577 in May.

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 time, I wish God’s blessings on all of our people. Thank you.