

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee! After almost 3 weeks of rain, we are blessed to see the sun again. Everything is growing like gang busters now.

The Health Care Committee met on May 4 with Health Administrator Bill Lance. Judy Goforth Parker also attended her last Committee meeting as a Legislator. Dr. Parker assumes the duties of Health Administrator on June 1. She has promised to continue the tradition of monthly reports to the Committee.

Mr Lance reported that 80% of the exterior walls of the new hospital are now in place. He also gave us news of several physicians. Optometrist Dr. Mark Gibson will be at the Purcell Clinic twice a week. Dr. Stephen Francen of the Dean McGee Eye Clinic in Oklahoma City will be at Carl Albert Hospital twice a month to help treat diabetic retinopathy. Dr. Augustin Shi in the emergency room will be joining the internal medicine staff until Dr. Jerry Morgan comes on board on June 29th. Dr. Morgan recently retired from private practice here in Ada and we are very fortunate to get a doctor with his qualifications to join our hospital staff. On a sad note, Dr. Syed, a psychiatrist, has completed his internship at Carl Albert and will be leaving us. A local doctor will be filling in while we search for a replacement.

The Durant Clinic is going to be enlarged by the Choctaw Nation. The addition will contain more exam rooms which are sorely needed. The Durant Clinic serves all Native Americans in the Durant area.

We are happy to report that a Chickasaw, Kevin Meeks, has been installed as the Director of the Indian Health Service. Director Meeks was born and raised in Byng, near Ada, and his parents and siblings still live in the area. Congratulations, Director Kevin Meeks!

Reminder - the toll free number to get on the Dental Clinic waiting list is 1.800.851.9136.

The Health System provided the following statistics: for the month of April, 2009, there were 212 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 21,654. April Emergency Room visits were 1,233. March saw 275 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 2,744 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 1,835 patients in April. The Ardmore Clinic saw 3,475 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 2,007. The Durant Clinic saw 2,938 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 2,453 in April. For the first quarter of 2009, the Health System has treated 97,910 patients.

Until next time, I wish God's blessings on all of our people. 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.