

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee! The election is over and I am truly humbled by the number of Chickasaws who helped me keep my seat on the Tribal Legislature. Thank you for your support and I pledge is to continue to assist Chickasaws everywhere in any way possible.

The Health Committee met on August 6 with Health Administrator Bill Lance. Mr. Lance reported that the Chickasaw Nation would soon receive a visit from Nancy Joiner, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He also reported that our nutrition sites are considered to be the best in the nation and we are one of the first programs to have a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables available for our Indian people. Other Indian tribes look to our nutrition and wellness programs as good examples when they design programs in their tribal areas. Our programs are emphasizing good diet and exercise which allow many diabetics to move from receiving shots to pills.

New members of our current medical staff include Dr. Jasmine Gaddy (Internal Medicine), Dr. Daniel Molina (Family Practice Clinic), Dr. Julie Dudley (Same Day Clinic) and Dr. Ryan Shaffer (Ardmore Clinic). Welcome to all!

The hospital is slowly but surely proceeding with plans for new equipment and more doctors and nurses with the ability to serve more Native Americans than ever before. Mr. Lance also explained how our in-house training programs are affecting our health care providers in a positive way. The Health System continually upgrades its employees and, thus, the quality of care in our Nation. It will certainly be wonderful to be able to expand the number of doctors and dentists in our new facility.

Administrator Bill Lance submits the following statistics: for the month of July, 2007,

there were 253 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 16,610. July Emergency Room visits were 1,129. June saw 251 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 2,575 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 2,823 patients in July. The Ardmore Clinic saw 2,405 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 2,086. The Durant Clinic saw 2,211 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 1,523 in July. The Family Practice clinic visits are considerably lower this month because the report includes pharmacy visits. During July, the Family Practice Clinic pharmacy switched most of their prescription pickups to the new pharmacy refill center.

May you all enjoy the best of health possible and may God bless each of you readers and the Chickasaw Nation. 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.