

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee! I realize that this is a strange request, but if everyone would pray for the rain to stop, we will sincerely appreciate it. Perhaps you heard on the news about our heavy rains and flooding here in the Chickasaw Nation. We hope to get completely dried out by the end of summer.

Lots of Health Care news this month. The Health System is making application for additional grant monies. The grant is very competitive as only 2 are given in the U.S. However, with our excellent track record on utilizing grant funds, we hope to receive one. It would go a long ways in providing additional health care programs for our Indian people. Meanwhile, we continue to stay within the budget and look forward to next year's funding which begins in October.

The Oklahoma state legislature passed the All Kids bill and it has been sent to the Oklahoma Governor for signing. We supported the bill because it adds 18 to 22 year olds for coverage under Sooner Care, the Oklahoma state health care program. It will impact the Health System because every dollar we can recover from Sooner Care means better equipment and additional assistance through our health care programs.

Electronic Health Records have been implemented now in our Purcell and Tishomingo clinics. We continue to work on getting them up and running in Ardmore ad Durant.

If you live closer to Purcell than Ada, you should consider moving your records to the Purcell Clinic and become a patient there. Prescriptions are now also available at the Purcell Clinic. For more information and to transfer records, call Sandi Sanders at 580.436.3980.

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

there were 236 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 14,522. May Emergency Room visits were 1,034. May saw 265 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 2,562 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 4,639 patients in May. The Ardmore Clinic saw 3,416 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 2,149. The Durant Clinic saw 2,304 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 1,571 in May.

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.