

Greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Chairman of the Health Care Committee! It is hard to believe that July and August have come and gone and the children are back in school already. It seems that each year moves by faster.

Bill Lance, Health Systems Administrator, met with the Committee on August 16 and reported on the Health System. The total number of hospitalizations at Carl Albert for July was 213 and a 3 month total was 636. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 13,238 for June and 40,574 for the last 3 months. Emergency Room visits were 1,070 in June and 3,073 in the last 3 months. The number of surgeries for June was 204 and 672 for the last 3 months. The Same-day Clinic (formerly known as Urgent Care Clinic) saw 2,633 patients in June and 7,794 in the last 3 months.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 4,268 patients in June and 13,719 in the last 3 months. The Ardmore Clinic saw 2,910 for June and 8,605 in the last 3 months. The Tishomingo Clinic saw 2,778 patients in June and 7,467 in the last 3 months. The Durant Clinic saw 2,564 patients in June and 7,354 in the last 3 months. The total number of patients seen in the last 3 months for all clinics is 78,355.

Other Health System News includes the following: The Health System was not able to renew its contract with Arbuckle Hospital in Sulphur to take patients subject to Emergency Orders of Detention. Those patients will now be admitted to Carl Albert Hospital in McAlester. An imaging center, including CTScan, MRI and flouroscope is in the planning stage. Fiscal Year 2004 has witnessed the most third party collections yet at the Health system. Dr. Glen Lytle has been added to the Carl Albert staff as a general surgeon. Dr. Kim Hill will be moving from the Tishomingo Clinic to Carl Albert and Dr. London will be practicing general dentistry in Tishomingo.

The Health System is trying to add joint replacement surgery at Carl Albert Hospital. If they are successful, Carl Albert will be the first Indian hospital to provide joint replacements.

The Education Department reported that a total of 18 students participated in JOM summer enrichment programs and 14 students attended the leadership conference. For the Fall Semester, 448 clothing grants have been issued along with 47 graduate scholarships, 343 undergraduate scholarships, 346 tribal grants and 254 supplemental grants. We are pleased that so many Chickasaw students are attending school and that the Chickasaw Nation is able to assist with grants and scholarships!

For your information, my articles are now located on Chickasaw.net web site. As always, I invite any comments or questions you may have. Please contact me through the address and telephone number listed elsewhere in this and every issue of the Chickasaw Times and on the web site. I look forward to speaking with you! May God bless our health care providers and also our Indian people that they may be in better health in the coming year. Thank you.