

February 2004

Health System focused on efficiency, exceptional patient care

Greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District!

It is my distinct honor and pleasure to serve as this year's Health Care Committee Chairman for the Tribal Legislature. The Administrator of the Chickasaw Health System, Bill Lance, attended the Committee's January meeting and gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Health System. I am delighted to inform you that the Health System continues to improve its efficiency and employ many improvements in technology, such as new equipment to monitor heart patients, in order to provide increased services to more Indian people.

Our Health System strives to give the best health care services of any Indian health facility in the United States with the vision of "Healthy American Indians through informed choices and excellent health services," and we are succeeding. Mr. Lance introduced us to Lisa Bumpus from Sulphur who now serves as the Director of Outcome Management for the Health System. We are truly fortunate to have an experienced director who works expressly to ensure that our services address our needs in the most efficient and effective manner that our budget will allow. The addition of Ms. Bumpus to the infrastructure of our Health System reinforces our belief that our Health System is second to none! The Committee invited Mr. Lance and Ms. Bumpus to work with us in our assessment of the feasibility to provide independent living and nursing facilities in the Chickasaw Nation. While we cannot promise such facilities in the near future, we want you to know that we are starting the long-term planning process now.

Mr. Lance reported that our hospital occupancy rate at Carl Albert for all wards including newborns, Medical/Surgical Unit, OB ward, ICU and Social Admissions is the highest of any Oklahoma Indian health facility which indicates our success at providing health care for a large number of American Indians. Specifically, the numbers of patient ambulatory visits and surgical procedures for Fiscal Year 2003 reported include Ardmore, 38,415; Durant, 30,756; Tishomingo, 28,011; Family Practice Clinic in Ada, 54,265 and Carl Albert Hospital, 164,918, for a total of 316,365. The number of patient visits and surgical procedures and the range of services provided are increasing each year of operation.

We are especially excited about our new diabetic clinic opening sometime in February and the healthy lifestyles center shortly after that. These two facilities will be very important for us to address major medical needs in the areas of diabetes and preventive medicine for Indian people.

I also serve on the Human Resources, Land Development and Education Committees of the Tribal Legislature this year and 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. I look forward to speaking with you! Thank you.