

Greetings and Happy New Year from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Chairman of the Health Care Committee! 2005 has certainly started out with a bang and we Legislators are working hard to provide a year even more successful than last year. It is a big chore, but I'm certain that, working together with you, we will succeed!

Bill Lance, Administrator of the Chickasaw Health System has provided the following information for this month's report. Please note that the information contains the figures for the entire year of 2004. The number of hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility for December was 210 and for 2004 was 2,641. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 13,386 for December and 170,690 for 2004. Emergency Room visits were 988 in December and 11,928 in 2004. The number of surgeries for December was 225 and 2,832 for 2004. The Same-day Clinic saw 2,808 patients in December and 32,982 in 2004.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 2,915 patients in December and 54,185 in 2004. The Ardmore Clinic saw 3,063 for December and 36,178 in 2004. The Tishomingo Clinic saw 2,471 patients in December and 30,616 in 2004. The Durant Clinic saw 2,651 patients in December and 30,763 in 2004. The Purcell Clinic saw 310 patients in December and a total of 1,451 since it opened its doors (3 month total).

Mr. Lance also reported that several Health System projects are underway in Ada. Those projects include an Outpatient Pharmacy and Refill Center; Imaging Center, Ambulatory Practice Center, Women's Pavilion and Hospital Renovation and Expansion. Health Center projects are underway for the communities of Ardmore, Duncan, Durant, Purcell and Tishomingo. During the January Legislative Session, Wayne Scribner, Administer of the Housing Division, also announced that other projects are also slated for the Duncan area.

Mr. Lance explained that the health programs funded with tribal dollars are currently at the rate of \$5,153,500. This figure is up from the 2002 level of \$1,000,000. Those programs include Medical Assistance Program, Elders' Prescription Program, Eye Glasses Program, Hearing Aid Program, Dental program, Denture Program and Orthodontia Program. The third party collections for the Health System totaled \$22,740, 766 for 2004 which is almost a tenfold increase over the \$2,600,000 collected in 1994.

Mr. Lance also reported that the Indian Health Service (IHS) issued \$824 per user in Oklahoma for FY 2000. That amount is the lowest of any IHS service unit. He also reported that the number of users in Oklahoma is 310,555, which is the largest number of users of any IHS service unit. The estimated number of users for Carl Albert Indian Health Facility is currently 78,241, which makes the facility the most used in the State. That statement is reflected in the number of ambulatory visits in the entire Health System of 323,883 for 2004. I have pledged to do all I can do to increase the amount of per-user funds issued by IHS for Oklahoma Indians and I know that you will join me in that endeavor.

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! For your information, my articles are now located on the internet at www.chickasaw.net. Until next month, thank you.