

May 2004

Prescription refill center on the drawing board

Greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Chairman of the Health Care Committee! The Health Care Committee met on April 12 and received an informative report from Bill Lance, Health Systems Administrator, which brought us up to date on current happenings in our Health System.

We held the grand opening/ribbon cutting for our state-of-the-art Diabetes Center on April 6. The facility is everything we planned for and more. Now we can address the needs of our diabetic citizens in the most efficient and effective way possible.

The Health System was awarded an \$800,000 grant through HUD which will be used to begin construction of a prescription refill center in Ada. The planning phase of the project began on March 25.

The Health System is developing conceptual plans to enlarge the radiology area and add CAT Scan services at Carl Albert Hospital.

The projected completion date for the Family Life Center is in June 2004. The new facility will provide space for physical therapy, a wellness center, nutritional consultation and martial arts classes.

The Health System received a \$400,000 grant for construction of a new food distribution center in Ardmore. We are currently evaluating potential site locations for the facility.

Good news for our citizens in Texas! We have received verbal approval from Texas Medicaid officials to participate in their Medicaid program. The clinics which have been confirmed as designated provider sites are Durant, Tishomingo and Ardmore.

For the month of March we provided 254 surgical procedures at Carl Albert. The total was the most for a single month in the history of the Health System.

The Health System purchased an addition \$200,000 in drug inventory for the month of March. The drug prime-vendor contract is changing from AmeriSource to McKesson. We were anticipating some delays with drug orders so we ordered additional medications to eliminate such delays.

I hope that you are excited as we are about the state of our Health System. We are truly blessed to be able to provide the quality of care that we do through our hospital and clinics. However, we understand that our total needs are not yet met; therefore, we continually strive to add new services to our health care.

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*. 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.