

Greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Chairman of the Health Care Committee! September is the last month of the fiscal year and we are looking forward to beginning 2005. Health Administrator Bill Lance attended our committee meeting and gave us his usual comprehensive report. Governor Anotubby also dropped by and we always enjoy seeing him.

The Imaging Center and emergency room renovation project is proceeding with the project and costs estimates to be submitted to the governor's office this month. The project will include provisions for CT scans, mammography, tele-radiology equipment, MRI and new fluoroscopy equipment.

The prescription refill center project is progressing and the floor plans have been completed. An architect is currently being sought for the project. The grand opening date for the Purcell Clinic is October 6 at 10 am. The electronic health record project is also proceeding along and the types of necessary equipment are being identified.

The Health System will have collected over \$21,000,000 in third party payments by the time FY 2004 closes. That is a record in collections as is the \$2,170,836 collected in August. Third party collections are important because they allow more funds to be spent on health care for our citizens and Native American neighbors. Congratulations and a hearty "thank you" are sent to the collections department.

The total number of hospitalizations at Carl Albert for August was 224 and a 6 month total was 1,308. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 14,972 for August and 84,768 for the last 6 months. Emergency Room visits were 1,012 in August and 6,051 in the last 6 months. The number of surgeries for August was 255 and 1,420 for the last 6 months. The Same-day Clinic saw 2,980 patients in August and 16,439 in the last 6 months.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 4,694 patients in August and 27,940 in the last 6 months. The Ardmore Clinic saw 2,985 for August and 17,613 in the last 6 months. The Tishomingo Clinic saw 2,742 patients in August and 15,102 in the last 6 months. The Durant Clinic saw 2,515 patients in August and 15,161 in the last 6 months.

The total number of patients seen in the last 6 months for all clinics is 160,584. That number is staggering to me and I am so thankful that we are able to provide health care for so many citizens and Native Americans.

The Education Department reported that, for the Fall Semester, clothing grants, graduate scholarships, undergraduate scholarships, tribal supplemental grants and tribal grants have been awarded to approximately 800 Chickasaw students in 143 colleges and universities in 27 states. Of those students, 162 attend East Central, 50 attend Southeastern Oklahoma State, 108 attend the University of Oklahoma, 20 attend Murray State, 13 attend Seminole State and 7 attend USAO in Chickasha. Another 176 students attend colleges and universities outside of Oklahoma. Those numbers are up 15% from last year.

Congratulations to all those students!!

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.