



# OSMA News Now

The Latest News, Views, Updates, and Information for Physicians  
from the Oklahoma State Medical Association

August 22, 2008

## Laura Cross, Friend and Advocate for Organized Medicine

OSMA and physicians everywhere lost a true friend last week. Laura Cross, JD died Saturday, August 16, 2008. Laura had extensive expertise in health law and worked closely with OSMA on a number of complex legal issues that helped physicians and their patients. Laura, a registered nurse, was a graduate of the Oklahoma City University School of Law and partner of the Scoggins & Cross, PLLC law firm.

Laura was a featured speaker at the luncheon sponsored by OSMA's Women in Medicine and has been a tireless advocate for improving end-of-life care for all Oklahomans.

Laura's family is planning a memorial service after Labor Day and OSMA will provide details when they become available.

## Primary Runoff Elections Tuesday, August 26

Nearly every Oklahoma physician is an employer. Each of us has a vested interest in electing State Lawmakers who will keep Oklahoma competitive in the global marketplace. An essential competitive element for our state is quality, affordable and accessible health care. Oklahoma needs pro-patient and pro-physician Democrat, Republican, and Independent legislators who understand what it takes to create a high quality of life and to grow our state. Please vote and encourage your employees and your families to vote for the medicine and patient friendly candidates.

On Tuesday, August 26th, voters in five state legislative districts will decide runoff elections in these districts:

### Senate 35 - Tulsa Republicans Cason Carter vs Gary Stanislawski

#### Runoff Candidates for Oklahoma Senate District 35:

**Cason Carter (R)**  
PO Box 2355, Tulsa, OK 74101  
Phone: 918-744-8500  
Occupation: Attorney  
Website: [www.casoncarter.com](http://www.casoncarter.com)

**Gary Stanislawski (R)**  
2992 E 78th Street, Tulsa, OK 74136  
Phone: 918-779-2650  
Occupation: Certified Financial Planner  
Website: [www.garystanislawski.com](http://www.garystanislawski.com)

### Senate 45 - OK City Republicans Kyle Loveless vs Steve Russell

#### Runoff Candidates for Oklahoma Senate District 45:

**Kyle D Loveless (R)**  
2905 SW 92, Oklahoma City, OK 73108  
Phone: 405-692-7617; 405-640-0740  
Occupation: Business Manager  
Website: [www.kyleloveless.com](http://www.kyleloveless.com)

**Steve Russell (R)**  
10600 S Penn Suite 16-294, Oklahoma City, OK 73170  
Phone: 405-708-8562  
Occupation: Speaker / Writer / Self-Employed / Chairman of Vets for Victory  
Website: [www.steverussell.us](http://www.steverussell.us)

### House 57 - Republicans Lyle Miller (Clinton) vs Harold Wright (Weatherford)

#### Candidates for Oklahoma House District 57:

**(D) Lyle Miller (R)**  
344 S 13th Street, Clinton, OK 73601  
Phone: 580-331-8600  
Occupation: Farmer / Rancher  
Website: n/a

**Harold Wright (R)**  
PO Box 587, Weatherford, OK 73096  
Phone: 580-772-2383  
Occupation: Radio Broadcaster  
Website: [www.kwey.com](http://www.kwey.com)

### House 59 - Kingfisher Republicans Chris Cameron vs Mike Sanders

#### Runoff Candidates for Oklahoma House District 59:

**Chris Cameron (R)**  
Rt 1 Box 133, Kingfisher, OK 73750  
Phone: 405-368-5946  
Occupation: Insurance Agent  
Website: [www.okrep59.com](http://www.okrep59.com)

**Mike Sanders (R)**  
PO Box 861, Kingfisher, OK 73750  
Phone: 405-375-5442  
Occupation: Businessman  
Website: [www.votemikesanders.com](http://www.votemikesanders.com)

### House 72 - Tulsa Democrat Christie Breedlove vs Seneca Scott

#### Runoff Candidates for Oklahoma House District 72:

**Christie Breedlove (D)**  
PO Box 3584, Tulsa, OK 74101  
Phone: n/a  
Occupation: n/a  
Website: n/a

**Seneca Scott (D)**  
3271 E 2nd Street, Tulsa, OK 74104  
Phone: n/a  
Occupation: n/a  
Website: n/a

To find the candidates for State Legislature running in YOUR district, type in your zip code when prompted at this link: <http://www.capitolconnect.com/oklahoma/default.aspx>. You may be asked to provide your address if your district goes beyond zip code boundaries.

**Turnout is always low in runoff elections—your vote counts more than you think!**

## CMS and TrailBlazer to Meet with Physicians in McAlester

Congressman Dan Boren's office has recently become aware of the multitude of problems with the transitioning of Medicare Part B new Intermediary, TrailBlazer Health. In light of the many physicians that are faced with a much reduced money flow into their businesses because of these problems, Congressman Boren's office has scheduled a Medicare Provider meeting with Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), (Dallas Regional Office) and TrailBlazer Health to discuss the problems that are being experienced.

To allow CMS and TrailBlazer a preliminary look at the problems they are accepting by email or fax a narrative of the issues that physicians are experiencing with any direct questions they would like answered in the meeting. This will allow CMS to become aware of the scope of the issues and how many are common problems Medicare providers are having.

The meeting will be held September 3, 2008 at 1-3 p.m. at the Kiamichi Tech Center in McAlester, 301 Kiamichi Drive, McAlester, OK 74501. All Medicare providers from across the state are invited to attend. If you cannot attend the meeting but would like your issues and questions addressed or to get more information about the meeting please contact:

Vivian Loving at (Vivian.loving@mail.house.gov) or phone 918-423-1940. You can fax your concerns and questions to fax #1-918-686-0128 by close of business August 25th.

## Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Electronic Health Records (EHR) Demonstration Project

As you may know, Oklahoma was selected as one of 12 sites to be a part of a five year Medicare Electronic Health Records demonstration project. Oklahoma is in tier two of the project and recruitment of physician practices will begin in the fall of 2009. To find out more information regarding eligibility and practice requirements, please see the fact sheet below. You can download a copy of this fact sheet from OSMA's website at OKMED.org.

A National Medicare demonstration project that provides incentive payments to primary care practices for using certified electronic health records to improve the quality of patient care

### Who is eligible to participate?

- Small to medium-sized primary care practices (20 or less)  
*Primary care is defined as family/general practice, internal medicine, or geriatrics. Advanced Practice Nurses and Physicians Assistants who provide primary care and bill Medicare independently may be eligible for the demonstration.*

### Practice Requirements

- Practices must have a minimum of 50 "fee for service" Medicare beneficiaries for which they provide the greatest number of primary care visits.
- EHRs must be certified by the Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology (CCHIT)  
*Practices do not have to have an EHR at the time of application to participate in the demonstration; however practices will not be eligible for any financial incentives until they have implemented a CCHIT-certified EHR.  
To see a list of CCHIT-certified EHRs, go to [www.cchit.org](http://www.cchit.org).*

### Financial Incentives to Practices

No payments will be available to any practice until after it has implemented an EHR system and it is being used for core minimum functionalities.

Demo Year	Basis of Payment	Maximum \$ per Provider per year	Maximum \$ per Practice per Year
1	EHR Adoption (Office Systems Survey)	\$5000	\$25,000
2	EHR Adoption (Office Systems Survey) & Reporting of Clinical Measures	\$8000	\$40,000
3 - 5 (Annual payment)	EHR Adoption (Office Systems Survey) & Performance on Clinical Measures	\$15,000	\$75,000
Total Potential Demonstration Payment (All 5 years)		\$58,000	\$290,000

Recruitment of practices in Oklahoma will begin in the fall of 2009. CMS will have the final say regarding eligibility for participation in the demonstration. More information can be found at [http://questions.cms.hhs.gov/cgi-bin/cmshhs.cfg/php/enduser/std\\_alp.php?p\\_pv=4.988](http://questions.cms.hhs.gov/cgi-bin/cmshhs.cfg/php/enduser/std_alp.php?p_pv=4.988)