



Established 1972

By and For the People of Love County

**Richard Barker,
Administrator**

**Ambulance Emergency
911**

**Clinic Appointments
276-2400**

**Hospital Information
276-3347**

**Adult Day Center
276-1542**

**Community Resources
211**

**Domestic Violence Help
276-2042
Hotline - 226-6424**

**Growers Market
276-9410**

Medical Clinic Director Builds Impressive Leadership Record

Been to a doctor in Marietta any time within the past 37 years? You've met Connie Barker, Clinic Director. In days past, she might have prepared your exam room, your lab/x-ray order, your prescription, your bill, your insurance filing, and your next appointment. Or, as now, she manages the coworkers who perform these services.

In 1981, Barker went to work for Dr. Vergil Smith and Dr. J.T. O'Connor at their clinic in downtown Marietta. The hospital acquired the doctors' practices on behalf of the people of Love County in 1990 and Drs. Smith and O'Connor practiced in the clinic and hospital for many more happy years.

Barker moved to the hospital as manager of the new clinic on the hospital campus, serving simultaneously from 1990-1997 as business manager of the hospital. She is a certified medical coder. She holds an associate's degree in history from Murray State College and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in government and political science from Ottawa University.

The clinic now employs a total of six primary providers. Three more primary providers serve fulltime in the emergency room, and there is a visiting heart specialist. The scope of the clinic practice extends to the nursing home, where three of the doctors make visits. Beyond routine care, the clinic performs Department of Transportation employment physicals and provides immunizations.

"My goal is to grow the practice and continue to make the clinic as much of a one-stop site for medical care as possible," Barker said.

The clinic is a certified Rural Health Clinic. Its market area includes Love, Carter, Jefferson and Cooke (TX) Counties. "The appeal to our patients is the extensive one-on-one care they receive here, which is the special touch of our providers and support staff," Barker said.

Connie Barker, Medical Clinic Director

Outside of work, Connie Barker's public service record is extensive. She has been an elected member of the Chickasaw Nation Legislature since 2008 and has served two-year terms in the elective offices of President of the Legislature and Secretary of the Legislature. She is on the Board of the National Foundation of Women Legislators. She is one of 12 tribal members nationwide on the Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee of the Indian Health Service. The committee advocates priorities for diabetes prevention and treatment for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Locally, she has been an elected member of the Marietta Board of Education since 2004; chair of the Love County 911 Board since 2010; and president of the Love County Chamber of Commerce in 2017. She is a member of the Marietta Lions Club.

Barker was born and raised in Love County. She is a graduate of Marietta High School.



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