



The Southern Pulse

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Public-Private Partnership Boosts Hospital In Becoming Baby Friendly

The Black River Hospital in St. Elizabeth is now qualified to become a 'baby-friendly' hospital following infrastructural and equipment support from Sagikor Jamaica, which Health Minister, Dr. Christopher Tufton says underscores the significance of corporate citizenship.

As one of three beneficiaries of the 2016 Sagikor Sigma Run, the hospital received on Thursday, December 15, a refurbished Paediatric Lounge and furniture to facilitate the privacy and comfort of mothers while they breastfeed, an arterial blood gas analyzer to test or measure the oxygen and carbondioxide levels in babies and children and signage for the hospital. The other beneficiaries are the Jamaica Cancer Society and kids with cancer across the island.

Dr. Tufton who was the keynote speaker pointed out that to date Sagikor Sigma Run has raised and donated over \$160 million to a range of charities "which is significant and underscores the need for stakeholder participation in aiding critical means of development, health and education being absolutely key."

"Public health in Jamaica cannot survive without stakeholder involvement because of how our public healthcare is structured and because of how it is financed and the limited resources. We have to engage the wider society as part of the thrust" the Health Minister added.



Left to right (back row): Paediatrician at the Black River Hospital (BRH), Dr. Aggrey Sejab, BRH CEO, Mrs. Diana Brown-Miller; Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information and Member of Parliament for South West St. Elizabeth, Senator Floyd Green; Executive VP Employee Benefits & Actuary, Sagikor Group Jamaica, Mr. Willard Brown; Minister of Health, Dr. Christopher Tufton; (front row) Director of Nursing Services at the BRH, Ms. Novellette Robinson; Parish Manager, St. Elizabeth Health Services, Mr. Sean Brissot; Regional Director of the Southern Regional Health Authority, Mr. Michael Bent and Acting Senior Medical Officer of Health, BRH, Dr. Sheriff Imoru are seen here at the donated signage by Sagikor Jamaica.



A section of the refurbished Paediatric Lounge which will facilitate the privacy and comfort of mothers while they breastfeed.

Dr. Tufton explained that the need for more ease for philanthropic activities to take place has prompted the Health Ministry to review its Health for Life and Wellness Foundation in an effort to strengthen the Foundation to work with charitable entities in providing support.

"We are saying to the Diaspora and local groups like Sagikor and others, look at health as an important imperative to supporting the growth agenda, to supporting health and wellness for our country, the productivity of our people and we can work with you to create a gap that you can fill because it is needed" Dr. Tufton said.

The Baby-Friendly Initiative is a global effort to implement practices that protect, promote and support breastfeeding.

In The News: Southern Regional Health Authority

Appeal for Greater Recognition for Healthcare Workers



Member of the Mandeville Regional Hospital Management Committee, Mr. John O. Minott presents a special award to Ms. Rose Marie Anzel for going above and beyond the call of duty to assist a colleague.

A call is being made for greater recognition and understanding for the work being done by healthcare workers against the background of the outcomes compared to the demands and challenges the health sector faces.

Regional Director of the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA), Mr. Michael Bent who made the call explained that for the period June 2015 to October 2016, 1.2 million visits were made to the five hospitals and 72 health centres within the southern region with a mortality figure of 2, 750. This, he said is a success rate of 99.9 percent.

Mr. Bent was speaking at the 11th annual Staff Awards and Appreciation ceremony for some 62 persons from the Mandeville Regional Hospital on Tuesday, December 13 at the Golf View Hotel in

Mandeville. He added that also during the period fewer than 50 formal complaints have been received by the Authority, of which more than 75 percent have been resolved.

“Many times the workers in the public health sector in Jamaica are not given the level of recognition that they deserve. Many persons take the public health service for granted. Of the 1.2 million visits that we received, if I were to share the budgetary allocation over the period, June 2015 to October 2016 without taking out any salaries, just those visits, you would realize that you have been working miracles because you would have spent \$10, 600.00 per visit. How many organizations can produce the level of output with that figure, you are miracle makers” Mr. Bent told the employees.

“Many times persons do not understand the nature of the significance of healthcare workers. I am not saying we are perfect; there is room for significant improvement, however persons should look at the output of the staff members and the circumstances and the environment in which we work” Mr. Bent added.

The Regional Director also appealed to the public to take greater responsibility on the roads and in decreasing violent activities which are creating more challenges for the health sector. “Some of these things are avoidable, we don’t have to have this high level of violence or trauma cases impacting the health sector” Mr. Bent said.

The Awards and Appreciation ceremony was held under the theme, “Recognizing Performance and Promoting Excellence” and recognized retirees in addition to employees for service of up to 22 years and for exceptional service.



The awardees in high spirits.

Facilities on the Move

Jamaica Teacher's Association Brings Christmas Cheer to Lionel Town Hospital Patients

On Tuesday, December 13, patients at the Lionel Town Hospital in Clarendon received early Christmas cheers and goodies from the Jamaica Teacher's Association, Vere District Association. In addition to the patients receiving gifts and enjoying an evening of entertainment, the Hospital also received three Blood Pressure Machines. Acting CEO for the facility, Ms. Nadine Preddie expressed gratitude to the Association for its donation on behalf of the staff and patients.

See below photographic highlights.

Credit: Ms. Nadine Preddie, Acting CEO, Lionel Town Hospital



Chairman of the Lionel Town Hospital Management Committee, Ms. Josephine Coleman and Actg. CEO, Nadine Preddie along with nursing staff and members of the JTA-Vere District Association share a kodak moment.



Mrs. Rosemarie Morgan, President of the JTA, Vere District Association presents Actg. CEO, Ms. Nadine Preddie with three Blood Pressure Monitors.



A patient on the Female Ward receives a gift.



Little Etana Francis from the Watson Primary School performs a cultural piece "Teacher Stress" for the patients.

Facilities on the Move

Awards Dinner Delights Staff

The Southern Regional Health Authority Regional Office staged its annual Awards Dinner on Thursday, December 22 at the St. John Bosco Auditorium in Manchester which was well received by staff members. The event also recognized retirees in addition to employees for long service and exceptional service.

SRHA Regional Director, Mr. Michael Bent, in his remarks noted that the Authority is blessed to have a committed cadre of employees who go the extra mile to meet goals despite the challenges. Please see below highlights.



SRHA Board Chair, Mr. Wayne Chen (left) presents an award to retired Regional Environmental Health Officer, Mr. George Staley for 40 years of distinguished service.



Senior Projects Manager, Mr. Richard Allen presents the departmental award to Procurement Manager, Mrs. Stacey-Ann Edwards.



A section of the Management Information Systems "Dream Team".



Facilities on the Move

May Pen Hospital Conducts Inaugural Staff of the Year Competition

The May Pen Hospital in Clarendon conducted its first Staff of the Year competition which culminated with a grand function at the hospital on Friday, December 30. Spearheaded by the hospital's Deputy Director of Nursing Services, Mrs Nancy Davis-Williams, the event was held under the theme: "Teamwork with Positive Attitude Gains Fulfilment and Success."

The selection process for the employees of the year entailed the submission of at least two nominees from the departments staff and supervisors. They were judged from a criterion developed internally.

Over 48 employees and two departments were lauded for the service they displayed for the year 2016 and approximately 38 employees were bestowed with the title "Staff of the Year" in the form of a trophy. All nominated employees received a Certificate of Participation.

The keynote speaker, Senior Director of Strategic Human Resource Management at the Ministry of Health, Ms. Gail Hudson delivered an insightful and motivational message which encouraged the staff to continue the good work. Ms. Hudson also lauded the staff members for their valuable contribution and encouraged them "to always own their job with pride."



Senior Medical Officer, Dr. Bradley Edwards (right) presents an award for dedicated and committed service in the Consultants category to Dr. Vincent Williamson.



Accident & Emergency Nurse of the Year Awardee, Mrs. Charmaine Russell-Francis is all smiles.

A section of the enthused audience.



Credit: Mrs. Nancy Williams-Davis, Deputy Director of Nursing Services, May Pen Hospital.



Karen Nelson

Non-Communicable Diseases Surveillance Officer
SRHA Regional Office

“A Winning Personality”



Many have described Karen Nelson as dependable, a go getter, industrious and an achiever but if you were to spend less than five minutes with this nurse, you would realize that she is creative, vibrant and has a winning personality. These are some of the attributes that have landed her countless professional and personal opportunities to emcee programmes and give motivational charges.

A nurse for some 22 years, Karen describes her experience as challenging but rewarding and fulfilling as it allows her to “transform lives and lift the spirits of persons”. In fact, when asked what inspired her to choose this profession, she recounted that her father had a vision of her being a nurse and he was determined to make it a reality. She admits that if she had not chosen this profession, she would have been an educator because she simply enjoys educating others. Mrs. Nelson has worked in several capacities including Registered Nurse, Specialist Nurse, Public Health Nurse, Regional Nursing Supervisor and now as a Non-Communicable Diseases Surveillance Officer where she has core responsibility of managing the regional cancer registry.

Not only is Nurse Nelson active professionally, but she leads quite a dynamic personal life which is indicative of her numerous awards and recognition. Some that readily came to mind was the 2011 Mother of the Year Award from the Ministry of Education, Region 5 and several awards for Outstanding Parenting from the Jamaican Association on Intellectual Disabilities and also recognition for having served as Parent Teachers Association President for several schools.

Some of her professional achievements and involvement include Best Student Oral Presentation at the Ministry of Health’s 6th Annual National Research Conference in 2015, Northern Caribbean University Supervisor Award for 2014-2015 and recipient of the Kathleen Alberta Scholarship in 2009 to study for the Masters degree in Public Health. In 2008 she received the Worker of the Year Award for the Mandeville Health District and also copped the 1st runner up spot for the Manchester Health Services Worker of the Year Award. She was also instrumental in assisting the Lincoln Health Centre to secure 1st place in the Jamaica Social Investment Best Kept Competition in 2006. She shared that while pursuing the Bachelor of Science degree in Public Health Nursing she received the Nurses Association of Jamaica Award for Outstanding Leadership in 2003 and also the Dr Eva Lewis –Fuller award for Community Involvement during her Clinical Practice in 2004.

A past Chairman of the Mandeville Regional Hospital Nursing Group for 2 years, Karen served as Chairman for the Public Health Nurses Special Interest Group for 5 years. She is also a member of the Southern Regional Health Authority Staff Interest Committee and notes that she loves singing, drama and writing which led her to compose a breastfeeding jingle which placed first in the Parish and Regional Breast Feeding Competition in 2011.

One other notable achievement that Nurse Nelson shares with *The Pulse* was her weight loss journey which resulted in her losing 26 pounds over a six month period and which also placed her 5th in the female individual category of the National Health Fund’s “Work it Out Weight Loss Challenge for the Workplace”. As team captain, she explained that the team “hit the ground running” with an intense programme of physical activities, altered diets and lifestyle changes. She explains that she enjoyed the journey because “it has transformed my life to actualize my goal” which now allows her to boast her “summer body”.

The philosophy, “If you can use anything Lord, you can use me” is what guides Karen as she believes that “life is really about making things better for persons we are caring for. When our goals benefit others we are truly pushed to go above and beyond what would normally be acceptable of us.” She is encouraging her colleagues to make a positive move in rekindling the fire of dedication and “and keeping the flame going as we ignite others to share the spark in delivering high standards of care”.

Her favourite actor is Steven Segal because of the positive roles he plays and her favourite singer is her husband Richard who simply takes her breath away.

Staff Highlight

Staff Members Saluted

Held under the theme, “Recognizing Performance and Promoting Excellence”, the Mandeville Regional Hospital staged its 11th annual Staff Awards and Appreciation ceremony to recognize and salute some 62 persons including retirees in addition to employees for service of up to 22 years and also for exceptional service.

The ceremony was held at the Golf View Hotel in Mandeville on December 13 in Mandeville. See below photos.



Awardees in high spirits



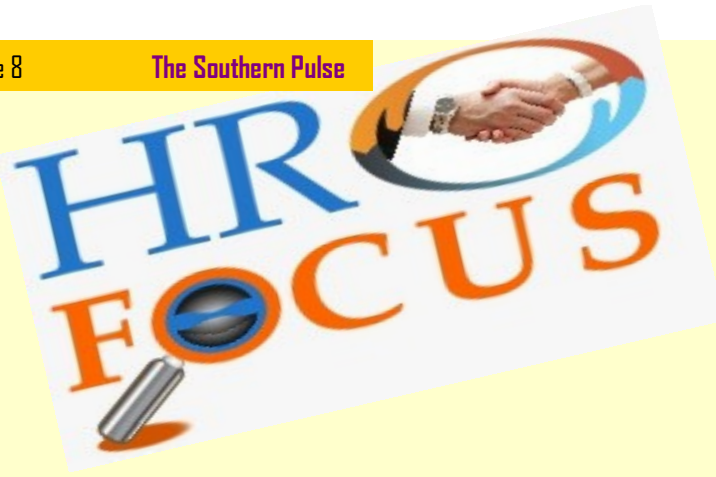
Mrs. Suzell Lewis Swaby (left) receives an award for 22 years of valuable contribution to the Hospital from SRHA Human Resources Management Director, Mrs. Nicolette Thomas-Edwards.



Staff members share a kodak moment.



Senior Secretary, Mrs. Yvette Pinkney-Johnson is serenaded before receiving her award.



HR And You:

“TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE”

11.1 AUTHORITY

The authority for the administration of the Government's travelling and subsistence policy, including the setting of rates, is vested in the Ministry with the responsibility for the Public Service.

11.2 PURPOSE

Travelling and substance allowances are granted to meet expenses actually incurred in the performance of official duties. Holders of posts requiring travel should neither be out of pocket, nor should they derive financial benefits beyond their direct costs.

On the
Lighter Side



11.3.1 Eligibility

When the functions of a post include travel as an essential requirement, the holder of the post may, subject to the applicable provisions, be eligible for either one or a combination of travelling allowances.

11.3.2 Upkeep Allowance

When the functions of a post make it essential for the holder to possess his/her own means of transport, an allowance for its upkeep may be paid. In addition, he/she will be paid for the actual distance (kilos) at the rate prescribed.

11.3.3 Commuted Allowance

In cases where it may be expedient and desirable that the officer possess his/her own means of transport, he/she may be granted a contribution toward the upkeep and running expenses in the form of a commuted travelling allowance. In addition, he/she will be paid for the actual distance (kilos) for travel outside a radius of ten (10) kilometers from his/her place of work.



We welcome your input, please submit your articles and feedback to:

Latoya Laylor Brown, Public Relations & Advocacy Officer

Email: latoya.laylor@srha.gov.jm

Deadline: January 31, 2017



PUBLIC RELATIONS CORNER

"The deliberate, planned and sustained effort to establish and maintain a favourable public image of an organization"

"The Jamaican Coat of Arms"



The Jamaican national motto is 'Out of Many One People', based on the population's multi-racial roots.

The motto is represented on the Coat of Arms, showing a male and female member of

the Taino tribe standing on either side of a shield which bears a red cross with five golden pineapples.

The crest shows a Jamaican crocodile mounted on the Royal Helmet of the British Monarchy and mantling.

Credit: The Jamaica Information Service

Wellness Bytes:

"Malaria Symptoms & Prevention"

Credit:
Ministry of Health



Malaria is caused by Plasmodium parasites. The parasites are spread to people through the bites of infected female *Anopheles* mosquitoes, called "malaria vectors." There are 5 parasite species that cause malaria in humans, and 2 of these species – *P. falciparum* and *P. vivax* – pose the greatest threat.

Symptoms of Malaria

The symptoms of Malaria include fever, chills, headache, sweats, fatigue, nausea and vomiting. Some population groups are at considerably higher risk of contracting malaria, and developing severe disease,

than others. These include pregnant women, infants, children under five years of age, patients with HIV/AIDS, as well as non-immune migrants, mobile populations and travelers.

Prevention

Malaria prevention medications are available in Jamaica. You should start taking anti-malarial drugs before you travel, take them during your travels, and continue to take them for up to one month after your return.