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Mosquito Operation Search and Destroy in Central Parishes



Minister of Health, Dr. Christopher Tufton (left) and Vector Control Coordinator at the St. Elizabeth Health Department, Michael Myles (right) along with team members from the St. Elizabeth Health Department inspect a drum of water at a property in St. Elizabeth on Friday, January.

The Minister and health teams from the Southern Regional Health Authority also visited communities in Clarendon and Manchester on January 7, in an effort to heighten awareness about destroying mosquito breeding sites in order to reduce the spread of dengue and other mosquito related illnesses.

The health teams in the southern region have ramped up activities to destroy mosquito breeding sites and educate residents in the parish about the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito and mosquito related illnesses.

In The News: Southern Regional Health Authority

Mandeville Hospital Receives \$4 Million in Equipment From Guardian Life



Acting CEO of the Mandeville Regional Hospital (MRH), Marcia Francis (3rd right) accepts a donation of equipment valued at \$4,052,000 from President of Guardian Life Limited, Eric Hosin (centre). The Guardian Group made the donation to the MRH in Manchester Monday, January 21 from proceeds of its 2018 “Keep it Alive” 5K Night Runs.

Ms. Francis noted that the donation includes two operating theatre stretchers, one desktop autoclave, six infusion pumps, one cardiac monitor and two vital signs monitors, which will greatly benefit more than 600,000 residents in the parishes of Manchester, Clarendon and St. Elizabeth. The 2019 night Runs will be held in Kingston on Saturday, May 18 and Saturday, May 25 in Montego Bay.

Photographed also are: (left to right) Regional Technical Director for the Southern Regional Health Authority, Dr. Vitillius Holder; Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Dr. Kevin Jones; Vice President, Individual Life Sales, Guardian Group, Glendon Gordon; Branch Manager of Guardian Life Mandeville, Winsome Singh and Manager of Physiotherapy Services at the MRH, Denzil Williams.



In The News: Southern Regional Health Authority

Residents Urged to Take Personal Responsibility in Fighting Dengue



Vector Control Officer from the Manchester Health Department Rose-Ann Larmond demonstrates how using sheets can be used as an alternative way of covering storage containers, which will prevent breeding of the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquitoes which transmit the Dengue fever.

The public health officials from the Manchester Health Services shared information on preventing dengue fever and eliminating mosquito breeding sites with scores of residents from Allison in Manchester at the Assemblies of the First Born Church in the community on Wednesday, January 23.

The health team also assisted the community members with establishing a health committee which will support spreading awareness about the dengue fever and eliminating mosquito breeding sites.

Chief Public Health Inspector of the Manchester Health Department, Charmaine Palmer-Cross encourages residents of the Allison community in Manchester to take personal responsibility for their health and to keep their environment clean, in an effort to help with the fight of the dengue outbreak. Mrs. Cross informed residents that tyres and drums are two of the primary breeding sites in Manchester for the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquitoes which transmit the Dengue fever.

The Chief Public Health Inspector was sharing information on preventing dengue fever and eliminating mosquito breeding sites with residents from Allison in Manchester at the Assemblies of the First Born Church in the community on Wednesday, January 23.

The vector control teams from Manchester, Clarendon and St. Elizabeth have ramped up its vector control activities and public education to assist with fighting the dengue outbreak.



In The News: Southern Regional Health Authority

Mandeville Regional Hospital Continues to Benefit From High Mountain Coffee Road Race



Organisers, sponsor representatives and staff members of beneficiary institution, the Mandeville Regional Hospital, at the High Mountain Coffee Road Race press and sponsors briefing held at the Mandeville Regional Hospital.

After more than three decades as a staple on the calendar of Manchester to foster camaraderie, the annual High Mountain Coffee Road Race was noticeably missing last year. The event, which is now in its 35th staging, is back on and is scheduled to be held on Sunday, January 27, as usual in Williamsfield.

However, the races will now be starting at 6:30am and not in the afternoon as had been done previously.

John O Minott, chairman of the High Mountain Coffee Road Race Committee, said at the press and sponsors briefing on Thursday, January 10 that over the years there have been concerns from some 'would-be' participants about having to do the event in the sun.

Michael Bent, Regional Director for the Southern Regional Health Authority, said that it is costing the hospital \$65.8 million annually to sustain the 58 patients and the support is necessary as in addition to replace and maintain equipment, there is a waiting list of patients that they do not currently have the resources and capacity to take in for treatment.

For people who are not able to participate but still want to contribute towards the development of the Renal/Kidney Unit, donations can be made to the High Mountain Coffee Road Race Wellness Fund at Scotiabank, Mandeville, account# 644311. Sponsors for the event include the Jamaica Observer, Manchester Co-operative Credit Union, Barita, Power Services Company Limited, Jamaica Drip Irrigation, Sun Island, Sanco's Trucking, Mandeville Hotel and Bullhead Mountain Spring Water.

Story Credit: The Jamaica Observer

Facilities on the Move

St. Elizabeth Intensifies Dengue Prevention Education



The Health Promotion team of the St. Elizabeth Health Department capitalized on report day at the St. Elizabeth Technical High School on January 30 to educate some 350 parents of grades 7 to 9 students on dengue fever. The team informed parents of the signs, symptoms, prevention and treatment of the dengue fever, in addition to encouraging the parents to take personal responsibility and keep their surroundings clean in order to prevent mosquito breeding sites.



The Health Promotion and Vector Control teams of the St. Elizabeth Health Department have been reaching residents through its 'high visibility booth' initiative in partnership with Councillors, to sensitize residents about dengue fever prevention and protecting themselves and their loved ones during the outbreak.

Staff Highlight

Helping Hands, Helping Communities: SRHA Gets 20 Foot Care Assistants



20 Community Health Aides from the Southern Regional Health Authority who have now graduated as Foot Care Assistants and who will go into the field to help combat the high incidence of foot ailments that can invariably lead to amputation.

“The number of people who are dying from communicable diseases (NCDs), including diabetes, is increasing at an alarming rate. Global figures show that 70 percent of the population of the world are dying from NCDs. In 1980, there were 108 million people living with diabetes but as at 2014, that number has risen to 422 million who now have diabetes.”

Those glaring statistics were quoted by the island’s Deputy Chief Nursing Officer, Karen Nelson as she delivered the main address at the graduation ceremony of 20 Foot Care Assistants, held on the lawns of the Southern Regional Health Authority on Friday January 11.

“Think carefully about yourselves, you might only be 20 in number but you have a purpose here and you must carry out your mandate and your mission. Diabetes prevalence has risen rapidly and it is affecting persons in middle and low income countries. It is a major cause of blindness, kidney failure, heart attack, strokes and lower limb amputation,” Nurse Nelson told the graduates.

Nurse Nelson noted that lower limb amputation has also become a problem in the hospitals so the early intervention of foot care assistants with persons in the communities they serve, would be vital and they would be able to reduce the number of cases of amputations resulting from diabetes now being seen at hospitals.

“In 2016, an estimated 1.6 million deaths were directly caused by diabetes and another 2.2 million were attributable to the increase in blood-glucose level in the body. Almost half of all deaths in the island are due to high blood glucose and this is happening before persons reach 70 years old,” Nurse Nelson said as she stressed the need to try to intervene early to help people live longer and reduce the rate of disability.

Nurse Nelson also encouraged the new foot care assistants to go into the communities where they will have an impact, use your hands as they were taught, to help the people, and be sure to find them, failing which many of them will not be able to function effectively. “Educate your patients about nutrition, curved nails, ingrown nails, trauma to their limbs, the obesity challenge, exercise and physical activity and staying away from harmful things that can cause diabetes,” she said.

Nurse Nelson told the graduates to be look out for persons with calloused skin, poor circulation, deformity and conditions for which no medical attention sought. The area eventually becomes dark, leading to poor circulation and amputation. “Be on the lookout for these cases because they will be at homes, alert no one, and seek no medical attention until they reach end stage which is amputation,” Nurse Nelson said, adding that the management of diabetes must be embraced.

Drawn from the parishes in the SRHA, the 20 community Health Aides received the training in foot care to boost their competency and knowledge about the appropriate care of the feet. The course was for Foot Care Assistant Level 1 and was held from August 7-13, at the Mandeville Parish Church in Manchester. The training was facilitated by the World Walk Foundation - Jamaica Chapter, with sponsorship by the Australian High Commission through the Council of Voluntary Social Services (CVSS). Executive Director of the Diabetes Association of Jamaica Outreach Project -Mr. Owen Bernard who is a United Kingdom trained Chiropodist/Podiatrist, was the facilitator of the course.

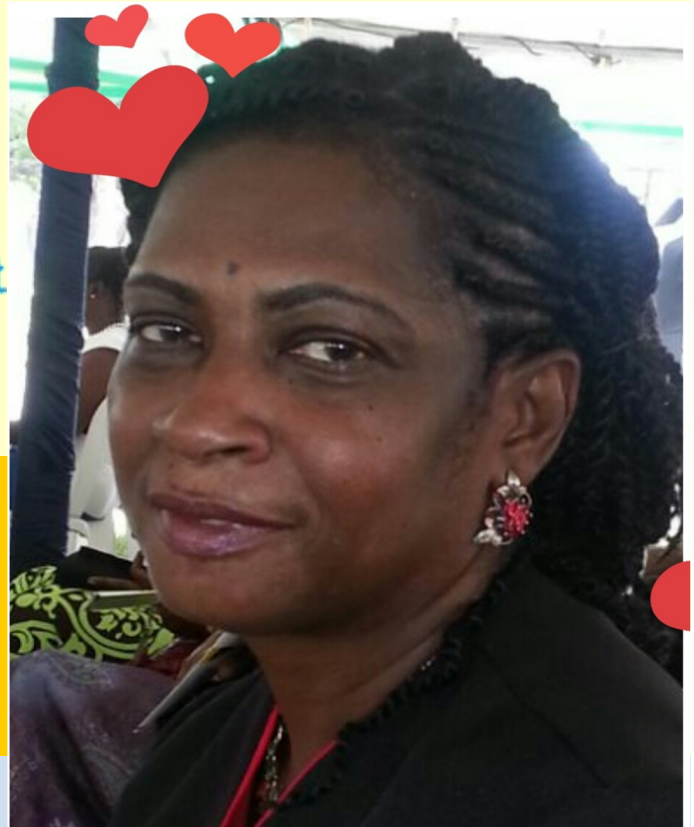
Credit: Resource Mobilization Officer, Barbara Ellington



Geva McIntosh-Scott

**Registered Midwife
Chapelton Health Centre**

“Provide Patients With the Best Care”



Geva McIntosh-Scott has spent 29 years in the public health sector giving remarkable service. She shares that she is not only grateful for the great experiences garnered, but for the opportunity to advance her career.

In 1989, she was employed as a Female Orderly but now functions as a Registered Midwife at the Chapelton Health Centre; a journey aptly described by her philosophy: “Never give up! The sky is the limit. Set goals and always try to achieve them and never settle for failure.”

While her experience in public health has had its challenges, she notes that she remains motivated, knowing that: “the work I’m doing will change and/or improve people’s lives and this gives me great satisfaction.”

As a Registered Midwife, Geva explains that her responsibilities include managing the maternal and child health clinics including home visits, home deliveries, family planning, prenatal care, antenatal care and immunization. “I also work on the maternity ward assisting with on-site deliveries at the hospital and transfer of patients to other facilities as needed” she adds.

Inspired by her mother and two children, Geva shares her greatest achievement as being able to work as a midwife, which she has always wanted to do. She adds that also being a great role model for her children is also one of her greatest achievements. “I’ve worked very hard over the past 29 years to provide for my children and to give them the opportunity to get an education to be the best they can be.”

Described as hardworking, ambitious, determined, humble and kind, Geva notes that believing in herself is the most important life lesson she has learnt. “If I don’t believe in myself chances are no one else will believe in me” she says.

“Do unto others as you’d like them to do unto you. Always be kind and thoughtful, think of your patients above self, providing them with the best care and/or experience you would want others to give to you” Mrs. McIntosh-Scott is advising her colleagues.

An admirer of music by Beres Hammond, Geva’s favourite actor is Jim Carey.

Wellness Bytes

"Dengue Alert"

Credit:
Ministry of Health



Health & Wellness



Adaptation of Original by
Produced by the
Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC)
in collaboration with PAHO/WHO
with the support of the Italian Government



Upcoming Events

MINISTRY OF HEALTH/SOUTHERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

WORLD CANCER DAY 2019

THEME: "I AM AND I WILL"

THREE (3) LOCATIONS IN (MANCHESTER)

- ROBINS HALL HEALTH CENTRE
- MANDEVILLE SDA CHURCH
- DOWN'S HEALTH CENTRE

FEBRUARY 21ST 9AM TO 5PM

FREE CANCER SCREENING FOR EVERYONE
NUTRITION COUNSELLING, FOOD DEMONSTRATION & MORE **#TAKEACTION**

WHOEVER YOU ARE, YOU HAVE THE POWER TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF CANCER FOR YOURSELF, THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE AND FOR THE WORLD. IT'S TIME TO MAKE A PERSONAL COMMITMENT.

Mandeville Police Youth Club Presents:

5K Run Walk For Charity

"Take a Step Buss a Sweat Save a Life."

FEBRUARY 24, 2019

WARM UP @ 2:30 START TIME: 4:00 PM
@ MANDEVILLE TOWN CENTER

PRE-REGISTRATION STARTS NOW!
CONTACT: 1876-428-1073, 1876-866-6103
OR 1876-349-4442.

REGISTRATION FEE:
\$1000 WITHOUT SHIRT \$1700 WITH SHIRT

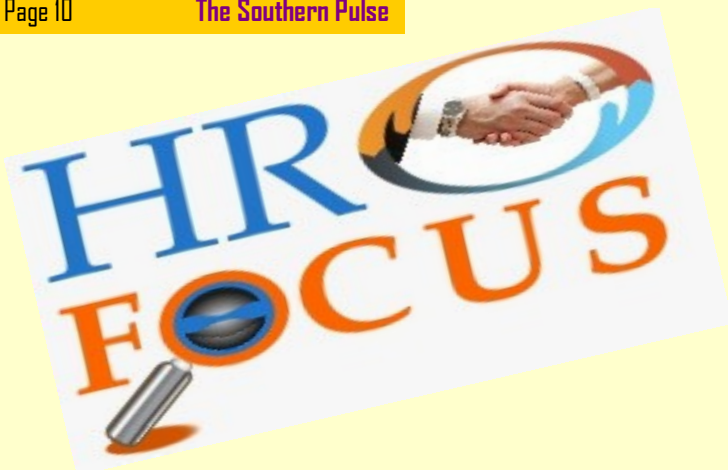
PROCEED GOES TOWARDS THE CHILDREN DEPARTMENT OF THE MANDEVILLE REGIONAL HOSPITAL AND EBENZER HOME FOR THE MENTALLY CHALLENGE.

**When your boss asks
for proof you're in hospital**



The Lighter Side





HR And You:

“SEPARATION”

14.4 SEPARATION FOR CAUSE

Due process must be followed for all cases of separation for cause:

14.4.1 Absence Without Permission

An employee may be dismissed if he/she is proven to be absent from duty without permission for five (5) consecutive working days from the first day of absence

14.4.2 Misconduct

The services of an employee may be terminated for misconduct if, following due process, he/she is found to have contravened any of the stated provisions of the established code of conduct.

14.4.3 Poor Performance

Following confirmation of permanent employment, an employee may have his/her services terminated if his/her performance on the job is assessed over two (2) consecutive years to be consistently below established performance standards or expectations.

14.4.4 Conviction For Criminal Offence

An employee who has been convicted of a criminal offence may have his/her services terminated.

14.4.5 In the Public Interest

- i) An employee may be retired in the public interest under the relevant Section of the Public Service Regulations.
- ii) The decision to retire an employee in the public interest may result from recommendation made to the appropriate Service Commission, or the Commission may make the consideration in its own right.

iii) Before an employee is retired in the public interest the Commission shall call for a full report on the employee from the Permanent Secretary/Head of Department of every Ministry/Department in which the employee has served during the last five (5) years immediately preceding the decision.

iv) The employee must be given an opportunity to submit a response to the grounds on which the retirement is contemplated.

v) The decision to retire the employee is made by the Governor General on the recommendation of the appropriate Service Commission.

vi) Any pension benefits accruing to the employee shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the applicable Pensions Act.



We welcome your input. Please submit your articles and feedback for the February edition to:

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Deadline: March 1, 2019