



Scores of Staff Benefit From Support Health Fair



Southern Regional Health Authority healthcare workers visit one of the booths at the support fair, hosted to assist workers in replacing important documents damaged or lost during Hurricane Melissa.

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In the News: Southern Regional Health Authority

SRHA Staff Assisted in Replacing Documents Lost During Melissa



Healthcare workers of the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA) participating in a staff engagement activity during the healthcare workers support fair, held at the Newell Health Centre in St. Elizabeth on December 5.

Hundreds of health workers have benefited from assistance to replace their identification (ID), passports, birth certificates, property titles and other important documents that were damaged or lost during Hurricane Melissa.

The first in a series of healthcare workers support fairs, held at the Newell Health Centre on December 5, targeted health personnel from the parishes of St. Elizabeth, Manchester and Clarendon.

It was part of a staff welfare initiative spearheaded by the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health & Wellness to bring relief and show appreciation to the healthcare workers, many of whom were impacted

personally by the October 28 hurricane.

The all-day event brought together several government entities in one space to assist the workers in replacing their documents.

These include the Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA); National Land Agency (NLA), Tax Administration Jamaica (TAJ); Registrar General's Department (RGD) and the National Housing Trust (NHT). The day's activities, which included food, music, and motivational talks, was also an occasion for fun and relaxation for the health staff, many of whom have been working around the clock since the hurricane.

Among them is Public Health Inspector at the Black River Health Centre, Melesha Foster-Brown, who has been working in some of the most devastated communities. "Being here interacting with my co-workers and also co-workers from other parishes, it is just to free your mind and take you away from all the chaos that you have been seeing on a daily basis," she told JIS News.

Human Resource Officer from the Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA), Sheena Gordon, attended the outreach to observe the execution of the activity and support the SRHA team. She pointed out the importance of prioritising mental health after a traumatic incident and ensuring that employees have the support to prevent burnout.

For many, the support fair represented an important step in the recovery process. SRHA Regional Director, Michael Bent, told JIS News that the initiative was a direct response to the significant loss suffered by staff

"What [this event] does is take the stress from them so that they can get their documents replaced and processed. So far, it is going pretty well, and we expect that all our staff members who are here today and all members of the public will be satisfied when they leave, and they should be leaving much better than they were two or three weeks ago," Mr. Bent said.



In the News: Southern Regional Health Authority

UK Minister Pledges Support for Jamaica's Long-Term Recovery

United Kingdom (UK) Minister for the Caribbean, Chris Elmore, has pledged his Government's commitment to supporting Jamaica's long-term recovery and climate resilience.

The commitment comes in the aftermath of the devastating impact of category-five Hurricane Melissa on the island.

Speaking with JIS News during a visit to St. Elizabeth on Tuesday (December 2), which is one of the parishes most severely impacted by the hurricane, the UK Minister said that support and investment in resilience infrastructure in countries that are vulnerable to disasters is crucial.

"Part of that response is making sure that we take our responsibilities [seriously] around climate change and the impact it has on Jamaica and other countries around the Caribbean," he said.

The tour included a stop at the Santa Cruz Health Centre, a UK-funded SMART health facility that remained operational through hurricanes Beryl and Melissa. Mr. Elmore said he was impressed with the "fantastic facilities" at the Santa Cruz Health Centre, which has stood up to two hurricanes in the last 15 months. He noted that the UK continues to deliver assistance to the worst-affected areas of the island, including dispatching the HMS Trent.

The vessel carried specialist personnel and equipment for humanitarian aid and disaster relief. The crew assisted with infrastructure assessments and emergency repairs, particularly at locations like Falmouth Hospital, working in partnership with the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF).

For his part, Chairman of the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA), Wayne Chen, said he was pleased with the visit, and assured Mr. Elmore that the UK's investment in upgrading the Santa Cruz Health Centre as a SMART health facility, is "good value for money".

Credit: The Jamaica Information Service

United Kingdom (UK) Minister for the Caribbean, Chris Elmore (centre), is greeted by Chairman of the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA), Wayne Chen (right), on his arrival at the Santa Cruz Health Centre in St. Elizabeth on Tuesday (December 2). Looking on is UK High Commissioner to Jamaica, Her Excellency Alicia Herbert.



United Kingdom (UK) Minister for the Caribbean, Chris Elmore (second left) shares in discussion with (from left) UK High Commissioner to Jamaica, Her Excellency Alicia Herbert; Parish Manager for the St. Elizabeth Health Services, Mr. Sean Brissett; Chairman of the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA), Mr. Wayne Chen and Regional Director for the SRHA, Mr. Michael Bent., Occasion was a tour of the Santa Cruz Health Centre in St. Elizabeth on Tuesday (December 2). Looking on is



In the News: Southern Regional Health Authority

A&E Waiting Area at Lionel Town Hospital Renovated



Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Wellness, Hon. Krystal Lee (second left), and Jamalco Managing Director, Marvin Jackson (left), unveil a commemorative plaque at the opening of the renovated Accident and Emergency Waiting Area at Lionel Town Hospital, Clarendon, on Thursday (Dec. 4). Sharing the moment (from centre) are Director of Facilities, Operations and Maintenance at the Southern Regional Health Authority, Herchel Ismail; Acting Chief Executive Officer, Kimberley Trout; and Head of the Emergency Department, Dr. Gillian Bent Grandison.

The Accident and Emergency Waiting Area at the Lionel Town Hospital in Clarendon has been renovated, providing more comfortable surroundings for persons who use the health facility.

Undertaken at a cost of \$6.5 million through funding from Jamalco and Cousins Construction Services, the project has transformed what was once an open, exposed space into a modern, enclosed, and welcoming environment. It features new windows and doors, a dedicated restroom, enhanced seating and air conditioning, improved lighting, freshly painted walls, and a smart television.

Speaking at the official opening of the facility on December 4, Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Wellness, Hon. Krystal Lee, noted the value of partnerships in improving healthcare delivery.

She said that the Government is committed to revolutionising healthcare in Jamaica through quality improvement in service delivery and the provision of comprehensive services of the highest standards.

Ms. Lee noted that the hospital waiting area is a critical space that significantly impacts the patient, visitor and staff experience and well-being.

“The renovation of this accident and emergency waiting area is a move towards amplifying customer satisfaction, improving comfort and providing a greater level of responsiveness to our clients’ needs,” Ms. Lee said.

She noted that the improvement of the facility aligns well with the Ministry’s Secondary Care Plan for upgrading hospital services and expansion and construction of new facilities. “Through this programme, we look to strengthen the confidence of clients and communities at large in the services provided at our hospitals and clinics. Without a doubt, we remain committed to reinforcing this patient-centered focus.”

Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Lionel Town Hospital, Kimberley Trout, expressed gratitude to the sponsors for transforming the waiting area into a space that is more comfortable, dignified, and “reflective of the quality service we aspire to provide”. “Your investment is not simply in infrastructure, but in people, the patients, families and staff who depend on this hospital every day. We are truly grateful for your partnership and your commitment to community development,” she said.

Managing Director at JAMALCO, Marvin Jackson, noted that the company’s support of the Lionel Town Hospital over the years has included donations of blood pressure machines, vital signs monitors, a new lawnmower, and expansion and upgrade of the records room. The Lionel Town Hospital is a 60-bed Type C facility that serves a population of some 36,000 persons in Clarendon.

Services provided include minor surgery and general medicine, along with monthly clinics in mental health, nutrition, high-risk antenatal and paediatrics.

Credit: The Jamaica Information Service

In the News: Southern Regional Health Authority

Minister Tufton Highlights Samaritan's Purse Impact in St. Elizabeth

Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, visited the field hospital at Black River High School on Friday, December 12, where he formally recognised the life saving work of Samaritan's Purse, an international, non-denominational, evangelical Christian disaster relief organisation.

During the visit, the Minister praised the team for saving lives, transferring critical skills to local healthcare workers, and deploying advanced technology such as oxygen generators and a desalination plant. He also commended Samaritan's Purse for training Jamaican staff and extending care through the mobile field hospital and community clinics.

The Southern Regional Health Authority reaffirmed its appreciation for partnerships that strengthen emergency response capacity and expand access to quality healthcare services across the region. Please see below highlights.



Facilities on the Move

Clarendon Health Department Mental Health Unit Hosts Sip and Paint

The Clarendon Health Department Mental Health Unit successfully hosted a Parent Mental Health Conference and Sip and Paint session on Friday, December 5, 2025, at the May Pen Hospital Conference Room.

In collaboration with the National Council on Drug Abuse, Clarendon Unit, the event brought together parents and caregivers for a day of meaningful discussions, practical mental health guidance, and creative expression aimed at promoting emotional wellbeing and resilience.

Below are photo highlights.



Facilities on the Move

Alston Comes Alive with World AIDS Day Awareness Activities

The Health Promotion Unit of the Clarendon Health Department joined students of Alston High School on Monday, December 1 to commemorate World AIDS Day and strengthen community awareness.

As one of our Jamaica Moves schools, Alston High led a spirited march from the campus to Alston Square, encouraging residents to know their HIV status through regular testing and promoting healthier lifestyle choices. Students from the Jamaica Moves club played a key role in engaging community members and sharing vital information.

The team also used the opportunity to educate the public about leptospirosis and the importance of early detection and prevention. See below photo highlights.



Facilities on the Move

Decking the Halls: MRH Staff Bring Holiday Joy to Patients

This Christmas, the staff of Mandeville Regional Hospital in Manchester filled their departments with holiday warmth and joy.

Through a friendly competition, lovingly financed from their own pockets, they transformed the hospital into a place of cheer and comfort.

This was more than decorations, it was a way to help patients feel a little more at home, a little less alone, and truly surrounded by the spirit of Christmas. Below are photo highlights.



Staff Highlight

SRHA Nurses Earn Top Placements In Nurses Competitions 2025-2026

The Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA) recognises the achievements of three Enrolled Assistant Nurses who placed in national nursing competitions hosted by the Jamaica Enrolled Assistant Nurses Association for the 2025–2026 period. Their performance reflects adherence to professional standards, clinical competence, and commitment to quality patient care.

The competitions assess participants across areas including clinical knowledge, practical application, professional conduct, and patient-centered care. Nurses from healthcare institutions across Jamaica participated, with successful candidates demonstrating a high level of proficiency and professionalism.



Nijah Miller



Nijah Miller, Enrolled Assistant Nurse at Black River Hospital, St. Elizabeth, placed Third in the *Jamaica Enrolled Nurses Association / Orion Insurance Brokers Enrolled Assistant Nurse of the Year Competition (2025–2026).*



Shaneika Williams

Shaneika Williams, Enrolled Assistant Nurse at May Pen Hospital, Clarendon, placed First in the *Rhona Morrissey Clarke Clinical Enrolled Assistant Nurse of the Year Competition (2025–2026).*

Camille Morris, Enrolled Assistant Nurse at Mandeville Regional Hospital, Manchester, placed Second in the *Rhona Morrissey Clarke Clinical Enrolled Assistant Nurse of the Year Competition (2025–2026).*



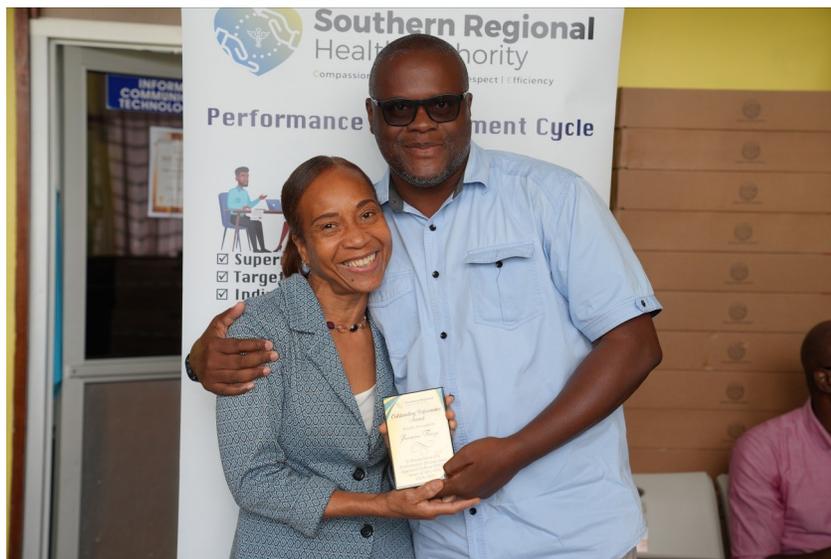
Camille Morris

Staff Highlight

SRHA Regional Office Employees Awarded for Excellent Performance

Employees at the Regional Office were recognized on December 16 for outstanding performance after meeting and exceeding established operational and service delivery targets. The awards ceremony formed part of SRHA's ongoing efforts to promote excellence, accountability, and high standards across the organisation.

Awardees were commended for their dedication, teamwork, and consistent commitment to supporting the Authority's mandate of delivering quality healthcare services across the southern region. Their achievements reflect a strong culture of performance and continuous improvement within the Regional Office, which plays a critical role in administrative support, planning, and oversight of health facilities.



Regional Director's 2025 Holiday Message

Standing Strong Together with Compassion and Care

Colleagues, as this year comes to a close, we reflect on the seasons of triumph and challenges, moments of joy times of sorrow.

The passing of Hurricane Melissa has been difficult, but I urge you to stay strong, keep hope and faith alive, and together we will overcome.

The board of directors and senior management teams are truly grateful that we are part of a team of dedicated, resilient and excellent healthcare workers, who continue to go above and beyond the call of duty.

Thank you for your resilience and hard work before, during and after Hurricane Melissa.

I pray this season brings rest, recovery and a brighter New Year for you and your loved ones.

May God continue to bless you.

Sincerely,
Michael Bent
Regional Director, Southern Regional Health Authority



Happy Holidays





HR And You:

“Interim Corner”



INTERIM CORNER

EXAMPLE OF HOW THE INTERIM EVALUATION SHOULD BE COMPLETED

Once an employee is “off track”, a reason is required and the agreed way forward. Below is an example:

SECTION A – QUANTIFIABLE OUTPUTS

Related Major Tasks	On Track	Not on Track	Barriers/Constraints	Action agreed or other comment
Update Complete PMAS related assessments for supervisees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Prepare and submit reports	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reports submitted after the agreed deadline each month	Reports will be completed 2 days before the deadline and scheduled to send.
Attend meetings and other fora	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

HRM&D Unit



SECURE YOUR SENSITIVE FILES BEFORE CHRISTMAS BREAK!

Mr. DPO

- LOCK AWAY FILES**
 Store sensitive files in locked cabinets or drawers to prevent unauthorized access.
- CLEAR YOUR DESK**
 Remove documents from desks and lock them securely out of sight.
- SECURE ELECTRONICS**
 Store laptops and mobile devices in secure locations when not in use.
- AVOID WRITING PASSWORDS**
 Do not leave passwords written down where they could be found later.

Have a happy and secure holiday!

Infohub

Wellness Bytes

“Protecting Your Wellbeing After a Hurricane”



7 WAYS to Protect Your Health and Wellbeing After the Hurricane



01

STAY HYDRATED

Drink plenty of clean water to avoid dehydration.

02

PRIORITISE MENTAL HEALTH

Talk to loved ones, and seek professional help, if needed.



03

BE CAUTIOUS WITH FOOD AND WATER

Avoid consuming contaminated food and water to prevent waterborne illnesses.

04

GET MEDICAL HELP WHEN NEEDED

Don't hesitate to seek medical attention if you're injured or experiencing abnormal symptoms.



05

TAKE BREAKS

Rest and recharge to avoid burnout while dealing with the aftermath.

06

STAY CONNECTED

Reach out to family and friends to ensure everyone's safety.



PRACTICE SELF-CARE 07

Engage in activities that promote relaxation and stress relief, like meditation.



SUBMIT AN ARTICLE

We welcome your input.
Please submit your articles and feedback for the January edition to:
The Corporate Communications & Public Relations Branch
Email: latoya.laylor@srha.gov.jm

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