

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

"To enable the health and well-being of the residents in Clarendon, Manchester and St. Elizabeth by providing access to quality healthcare through a sustainable and responsive healthcare delivery system that is familycentered, customer-focused and stakeholder-driven".

#### **VISION STATEMENT**

"Healthy people in healthy families, in a clean and safe environment".

#### **CORE VALUES**

- C Compassion
- A Accountability
- R Respect
- E Efficiency

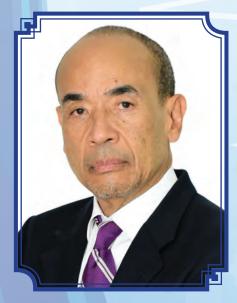




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A Photo Story

## Message



Mr. Wayne Chen, CD, JP Chairman Southern Regional Health Authority

"...we have been on a steady path of progress, modernization and increased use of technology, with the primary aim of advancing healthcare..."

am proud to be a part of the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA) team, which continues to make significant strides and achievements in advancing healthcare to more than 600,000 residents in St. Elizabeth, Manchester and Clarendon.

The board of this noble organization has been able to witness first-hand a team of healthcare workers who dig deep into a reservoir of will, innovation, insight and experience, in order to provide care with Compassion, Accountability, Respect and Efficiency.

Health is a diverse sector, which plays a vital role in transforming the society; and as a Regional Health Authority, we have been on a steady path of progress, modernization and increased use of technology, with the primary aim of advancing healthcare for the thousands of Jamaicans we serve on a daily basis.

This journey has not been without its challenges and teething pains, but we have a team of healthcare workers, not

just in the southern region, but indeed across the island, who has been committed to providing cutting-edge and quality healthcare.

The accomplishments we have been able to achieve over the years are a testament of the hard work and dedication of past and present employees. As a board, we will continue to foster an environment which encourages and facilitates innovation and excellence in healthcare.

It is gratifying to witness directly this type of resilience, innovation, and dedication of an awesome team. Please accept the commendations of the SRHA Board for your selfless service. I laud you for your continued care and sacrifice.

God's continued blessings to you and your families.

## Message



Mr. Michael Bent Regional Director Southern Regional Health Authority

"...We continue to assess and implement strategies and innovative measures which will yield shortand long-term advances and changes."

t has been a tremendous honour and delight to be a part of the Southern Regional Authority, which continues to be a leader in transformational and innovative healthcare services.

Over the years the commitment of the team has been demonstrated through the quality health services provided and the constant drive to find innovative and cutting-edge technology and strategies to improve the services offered.

These efforts have not been without challenges and obstacles; however, the achievements and advancements, the failures and triumphs are proof of the diligence and perseverance of former and present employees.

From conceiving ideas which have saved millions and improved services, to providing service with care and compassion; this dynamic team has been saving lives and preserving families and generations.

There is no doubt that there are many things to be advanced and corrected. We continue to assess and implement strategies and innovative measures which will yield short- and long-term advances and changes.

To achieve these developments, we have to maximise the support of our clients, so that we can work together to improve the quality of healthcare and the operations of our health facilities.

I take this opportunity to commend all team members from the parishes of St. Elizabeth, Clarendon and Manchester; whose perseverance, resourcefulness, and commitment has resulted in the Southern Regional Health Authority being regarded as a leader in public healthcare.

Many blessings to you and your families as you strive for excellence.

#### THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY STORY

statutory body of the Ministry of Health & Wellness, the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA) delivers healthcare to more than 600,000 residents in the parishes of Manchester, Clarendon and St. Elizabeth. It is the second largest of the four Regional Health Authorities in Jamaica.

The Regional Health Authorities were formed in 1997 under the National Health Services Act, which was aimed at improving the management of healthcare facilities and bringing accountability to the local level. The Regional Health Authority is managed by a Board of Management, along with the Regional Director, who is responsible for the daily management of the region.

With a staff complement of some 4,060 employees, the SRHA administrates 73 health centres, five hospitals and one community hospital. The hospitals include the Mandeville Regional Hospital (Type B), the Percy Junor Hospital (Type C), the May Pen Hospital (Type B), the Lionel Town Hospital (Type C), the Black River Hospital (Type B) and the Chapelton Community Hospital.





## Health Centres in Clarendon Adopted For Improvement

wo more health centres in Clarendon were formally adopted as part of the Ministry of Health & Wellness Adopt-A-Clinic Programme, which will strengthen primary health care facilities.

The Thompson Town Health Centre in Clarendon was adopted by Diaspora group, Caribbean Angels Inc., for a four-year period at a value of J\$4 million. The group adopted the public health facility on April 28, 2023.

For the Halse Hall Health Centre in the parish, the adoption was done by the United States (US)-based Atlanta-Jamaica Association (AJA). The partnership, being facilitated by the Ministry of Health & Wellness Adopt-A-Clinic Programme was formally announced on August 4, 2023.

The AJA will sponsor the health centre to the tune of J\$3 million over the next three years. The first tranche of J\$1 million will be used to purchase examination tables, undertake minor repairs, and acquire an autoclave, among other activities.



Left to right: Councillor for the Thompson Town Division, Mr. Collin Henry; Undersecretary for the Diaspora, Protocol & Consular Affairs & Foreign Trade, Mrs. Marsha Coore Lobban; Executive Director of Caribbean Angels Inc., Ms. Angel Barrett; Public Health Nurse at the Thompson Town Health Centre, Mrs. Carol Brown-Fuller and Member of Parliament for North West Clarendon, Mr. Phillip Henriques are pictured here following the formal adoption of the Thompson Town Health Centre.



Minister of Health & Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (2nd left) greets AJA representative, Ms. Althea Fatuga at the adoption ceremony for the Halse Hall Health Centre, while Minister of Labour & Social Security, Hon. Pearnel Charles Jnr. (right) and Public Health Nurse, Mrs. Karen Nelson look on.

#### Mandeville Health Centre Upgraded and Retrofitted to Deal with Disasters

he Mandeville Comprehensive Health Centre in Manchester has been upgraded to offer improved services and retrofitted with additional safety features to be more resilient to natural disasters.

The work was done under the US\$6.5-million Caribbean-wide Smart Health Project, funded through the United Kingdom (UK) Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, with support from the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO).

Safety features include the replacement or strengthening of damaged timber roof material, waterproofing, installation of new doors and hurricane windows, replacement of damaged floor finishes and the introduction of antimicrobial surfaces in critical areas. The electrical network was upgraded, firefighting equipment installed and fire-detection devices put in. The green areas at the facility were improved to provide for more efficient cooling and ventilation. A rainwater harvesting system has also been installed at the centre with both above-ground and underground tanks, storm-water drains improved, and LED lights, solar and water heaters installed to lower operating expenditure. The handover ceremony was held on July 13, 2023.

Baroness Chapman of Darlington toured the facility along with the UK High Commissioner to Jamaica, Her Excellency Judith Slater and a team from the British High Commission, the Ministry of Health & Wellness and the Southern Regional Health Authority, on October 15, 2024. The team was pleased that the project is indeed serving the community well.



A section of the renovated health centre.



Sections of the walls of the health centre were repurposed with health messages for clients.



Parish Manager for the Manchester Health Services, Mrs. Sandia Chambers Ferguson (left) leads the tour of the health centre. Photographed are: Baroness Chapman of Darlington (2nd left); Regional Director for the SRHA, Mr. Michael Bent (2nd right); International PAHO Consultant, Health Emergencies (Caribbean), Dr. Marion Bullock-Ducasse (right) and other stakeholders.

## **Broadleaf Health Centre Renovated and Expanded**

he Broadleaf Health Centre in Manchester which serves hundreds of residents was renovated and expanded, through funding support from the Jamaica Bauxite Institute.

The work was completed for more than J\$10 million and was officially opened on August 22, 2023.

Work done at the health centre included expansion

of the waiting area, additional space to accommodate staff, renovation of the storage area, creation of a parking area, repair of the restroom, termite infestation treatment, installation of water storage drum with water pump, painting of the building and erecting of a perimeter fence.



The Broadleaf Health Centre before the renovation.

The renovated Broadleaf Health Centre.



A closer view of the health centre.



#### Santa Cruz Health Centre Upgraded and Retrofitted as a Smart Health Facility

he upgraded and retrofitted Santa Cruz Health Centre in St. Elizabeth was officially handed over on January 18, 2024.

This state-of-the-art health centre has been designated a "smart facility", with the capability to respond effectively to crises while maintaining core functions during disasters and public health threats, exemplifying the ongoing efforts to fortify the country's health system.

Work at the Santa Cruz facility encompassed both structural and non-structural improvements, with a focus on promoting sustainability. On the structural side, notable additions included a new reinforced concrete roof covering the walkway between buildings two and three, as well as a new reinforced concrete walkway and lightweight timber roof connecting all buildings.

Non-structural enhancements involved the installation of hurricane shutters on all windows, the incorporation of two 1,000-gallon potable water storage tanks with a booster pump, and the implementation of various safety measures. These safety measures include a new fire alarm and public address system, fire extinguishers, signage and fire hose reels.



The front view of the renovated health centre.

A side view of the health centre.



Another section of the health centre.

#### Malvern Health Centre Reopened Following J\$54 Million Upgrade

he Malvern Health Centre in St. Elizabeth was officially reopened following a comprehensive J\$54 million upgrade under the Ministry of Health and Wellness' 'Operation Refresh' programme. The facility was opened on September 20, 2024.

The health centre, which now boasts just under 1,000 square feet of space, features new offices, an extended waiting area, a large records office, and dedicated spaces for public health inspectors.

Additionally, there were renovations to the windows, doors, boundary walls, and parking facilities. The building has also been outfitted with an air conditioning system, among other new fixtures and amenities, to enhance patient and staff comfort. In addition, the roof was reinforced to bolster the health centre's resilience against natural disasters, and transform it into a climate-resilient facility.

Operation Refresh is a comprehensive initiative aimed at revitalising Jamaica's healthcare system, by addressing longstanding deficiencies and inadequate patient services as well as modernising the provision and delivery of health services.



A section of the Malvern Health Centre before its upgrade.



The newly upgraded Malvern Health Centre.



A section of the inside of the health centre.

### Major Renovation for Thompson Town Health Centre



The health centre before its renovation.



A front view of the renovated health centre.

Thompson Town and surrounding communities in Clarendon are now receiving improved services at the renovated health centre, done at a cost of J\$25 million.

The project was carried out under the Ministry of Health & Wellness' Operation Refresh initiative and financed by the Southern Regional Health Authority and the National Health Fund.

Improvements undertaken include the waiting area, staff quarters, solar panels for energy efficiency, air conditioning, and sanitary conveniences. Painting, tiling, security grilles, cupboards and counters, termite treatment and associated demolition and alteration works were also done, among other works.



Another section of the renovated health centre.

#### Frankfield Health Centre Gets Big Boost

ore ore than 10,000 residents of several communities in Clarendon are now accessing health services in a more comfortable environment following the renovation of the Frankfield Health Centre, at a cost of approximately J\$35 million.

The project was done under the Ministry of Health and Wellness' Operation Refresh programme, funded by the National Health Fund.

It was officially opened March 28, 2025.

The scope of works at the health centre included installing new reinforced concrete roofing, partition walls, air conditioning and new doors and windows; improving sanitary conveniences; painting, plumbing and electrical works; adding new fixtures and fittings; among other things. The number of doctors at the facility has moved from one to four.



A section of the Frankfield Health Centre.



Another section of the health centre.

## Health Centres Being Renovated & Refreshed

everal health centres across the parishes of Manchester, St. Elizabeth and Clarendon are undergoing extensive renovation works to improve the infrastructure and ambiance of the facilities for clients and staff members.

Highlighted below are some of the facilities which will be completed in short order.

Renovation and expansion works are also being done at the Pratville, Christiana and Cross Keys health centres in Manchester; the Darlow and York Town health centres in Clarendon; and the New Market and Maggotty health centres in St. Elizabeth.



The Craighead Health Centre in Manchester.



The Lincoln Health Centre in Manchester.



The Toll Gate Health Centre in Clarendon.





The Aenon Town Health Centre in Clarendon.





The Fyffes Pen Health Centre in St. Elizabeth.





The Gingerhill Health Centre in St. Elizabeth.





The Junction Health Centre in St. Elizabeth.





The Springfield Health Centre in St. Elizabeth.

## From Damage to Recovery Following Hurricane Beryl

he Southern Regional Health Authority suffered extensive damage to the several of its health facilities during the passage of Hurricane Beryl in 2024.

The three health centres in St. Elizabeth which suffered severe damages, namely, Southfield, Newell and Bellevue health centres, are being transformed to meet modern standards. This approach by the Ministry of Health & Wellness is transforming health centres island-wide, incorporating features such as water storage systems, solar panels, backup generators and temperature control mechanisms.



Damage to the Bellevue Health Centre by Hurricane Beryl.



Work in progress at the Bellevue Health Centre.



Damage to the Southfield Health Centre by Hurricane Beryl.



Work in progress at the Southfield Health Centre.





Damage to the Newell Health Centre by Hurricane Beryl.





Work in progress at the Newell Health Centre.

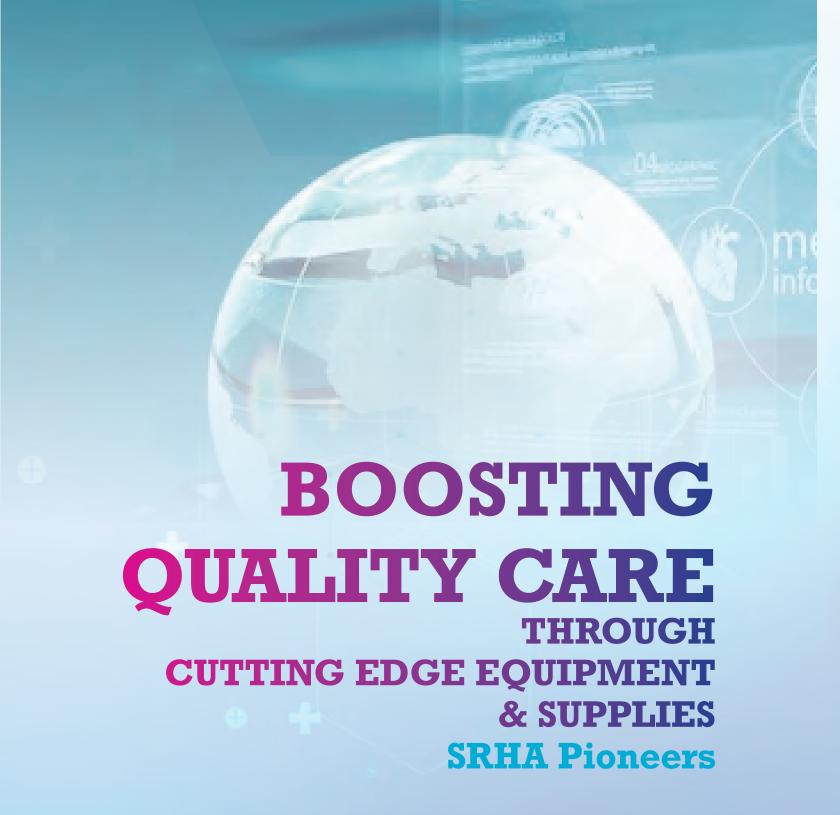
## Total Expenditure for Infrastructure Upgrade

s part of the continued investment in healthcare, the Southern Regional Health Authority has been on a drive to modernize, expand and upgrade several of its facilities. For the financial years 2023 to 2025, the team successfully, and on all occasions, on time and within budget, managed and executed 91 infrastructure projects at a cost of \$1.4 billion.









## Digital Retrofit System Commissioned at Black River Hospital

digital retrofit system was procured by the Southern Regional Health Authority and implemented at the Black River Hospital at a cost of J\$37 million.

There are several benefits to be derived from this system including faster image acquisition, better workflow, superior image quality, less radiation exposure for patients, better monitoring of patient radiation dose, reduced operation cost, faster image distribution and less storage needs.

The system was commissioned on July 28, 2023.



Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (second right) and Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining, Hon. Floyd Green (third right), with staff of the Black River Hospital, (Senior Medical Officer, Dr. Sheriff Imoru (left); Medical Imaging Practitioner, Ms. Audace Wright (2nd left); Radiologist, Dr. Mosi Mtango (3rd left) and Parish Manager for the St. Elizabeth Health Services, Mr. Sean Brissett.



The digital retrofit system.

# Enhanced Dental Services in the Southern Region

ental care in the southern region has been significantly improved with the procurement of more than J\$112 million worth of new equipment.

Since the 2023/2024 financial year, a comprehensive retooling initiative replaced outdated equipment in dental facilities. The newly acquired equipment included dental chairs, suction, compressors, autoclaves, digital x-ray processors, and handheld x-ray units. Additionally, seven portable dental units were acquired including two Aseptico Portable Dental units.

This re-tooling exercise will improve low chair occupancy time, increase the range of services to include dental prophylaxis (cleanings) and restorations (fillings) for a greater number of clients and ultimately improved oral health status of the population.

Clients are now able to access general anaesthesia services once per month at the Mandeville Regional Hospital where dental prophylaxis (cleaning), restorations (fillings), sealants and extractions are performed. This service is particularly vital for individuals who would not otherwise be able to safely have their dental treatment completed in health centres. Among the eligible recipients are clients with autism, dementia patients, Global Developmental Delay, cerebral palsy, persons with mental health challenges and residents from the infirmary.

Dental services are now being offered for the first time at the Robin's Hall Health Centre in Manchester, while expanded services including digital dental radiographs, restorations (fillings), adult cleanings are now being offered at 18 facilities.







#### Percy Junor Hospital Pioneers Surgery with Advanced Robotic Camera Technology

he Percy Junor Hospital (PJH) in north east Manchester successfully completed its first surgery using the 360-degree freehand robotic camera holder on June 21, 2024. The device, which enables safer and more efficient surgeries, is the upto-date version and allows for 360 degrees rotation.

While robotics surgery is not new to Jamaica, this is most likely the first the 360-degree freehand robotic camera holder, is being utilized in the public health system in Jamaica.

The 360-degree free-hand holds the camera in position steadily for as long as it is needed, up to eight hours. The surgeon now controls the camera, so with a shift of the head and the press of a pedal, the camera moves left, right, up, down, or zooms in or out. This allows the team to do the surgery in a more comfortable way and brings them into the 21st century as it relates to robotics surgery.



#### **Total Expenditure for Equipment**

rocuring critical equipment, furniture, office supplies, electronics and other items are decisive to the continuity of care for the Southern Regional Health Authority public health facilities. The team places utmost importance on getting cutting-edge and quality items for the facilities.

For the financial years 2023 to 2025, the team

procured items for all areas including dental, radiographic and medical equipment, and machinery, information, communication and technology electronics, biomedical tools, in addition to washers and dryers, air conditioning units, tools for artisans and electrical and plumbing tools. The total spend was J\$1.4 billion.







# INNOVATION & VISION

**SRHA Visionaries** 

### Fleet Team Achieves Zero Major Accidents for 2023

he Southern Regional Health Authority, the administrator for public health care in Clarendon, St. Elizabeth and Manchester achieved zero major accidents for the year 2023.

The Facilities, Operations & Maintenance Department implemented several initiatives which contributed to this achievement. These include: defensive driving for all drivers, scheduled maintenance for fleet vehicles, a retooling plan for fleet vehicles; awarding and incentivizing operators of fleet vehicles and encouraging stakeholders/employees to buy into a proper functioning and maintained fleet.

The team also achieved an average 85 percent uptime of medical equipment and maintenance plants at its facilities across the region.

Service is provided by 54 drivers and a fleet of 90 vehicles.



SRHA Fleet Manager, Mr. Robert Robinson (2nd left) is all smiles after receiving a trailblazer award at an awards function.

He is flanked by Account Executive from Jamaica Fibreglass Products Limited, Ms. Tara-Lee Hylton, (event sponsor-left); SRHA Director of Facilities, Operations & Maintenance, Mrs. Herschel Ismail and SRHA Regional Director, Mr. Michael Bent.



Some of the fleet vehicles and ambulances.

## **SRHA Saves Millions Through In-house Software Creation**

he Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA) has saved more than J\$43 million through the in-house creation of several software by the SRHA Information Communication Technology Department for the period 2023 to 2024.

The team has been using technology as a driver of improved service delivery, as it continues on the path of innovating and digitalizing systems to deliver quality service.

SOFTWARE	DESCRIPTION	YEAR OF CREATION	
Maintenance Work Order & Inventory System	A web application with an engaging platform that creates work orders for the staff of the Operations Facilities and Maintenance Department.		
Vehicle Maintenance Checklist	This system is designed to log vehicle maintenance daily reports and provide real-time information for preventative maintenance and is utilised by the Facilities, Operations and Maintenance Department.	2024	
Projects Management System	Management Enables the projects team to tract and monitor all project activities.		
HR Tracking System	System various tasks.  Provides an engaging platform for the Directors of Nursing Services to view the status of		
Nurses Registry			
Customer Survey Forms	A form that is used by the SRHA customer service representatives to gather various details from clients regarding their experience.	2024	
Project Depar	Southern Regional Industria Autority  Southern Regional Industria Autority  The Committee of the Committee o		
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### Inaugural Butchers Training & Awards Ceremony - a Hit Among Butchers

he SRHA Veterinary Public Health Unit used a different approach to conduct the assessment and licensing of the butchers for 2023, which was well received. The annual butchers training usually involves training and renewal of the butchers' food handlers' permits and the concurrent inspection and licensing of the butchers based on the sanitation standards met for the slaughter facility they operate.

The team from the Manchester Health Department hosted a training and awards ceremony that sought to build the capacity of the butchers and also to show appreciation to those who have maintained or improved the sanitation at their facilities over the years. From Butcher of the Year to Years of Dedicated Service awards, the butchers recognized the health facility's commitment to working with them to provide quality and healthy meats for the community.

The event was held on June 28, 2023 under the theme, "Securing the Meat Trade: Building the Person, Improving the Practices, Safeguarding the Product".



The health team from the Manchester Health Department (front seated), stakeholders and participants at the inaugural Butchers Training and Awards ceremony.



Veterinary Public
Health Inspector from
the Manchester Health
Department, Mrs.
Tennesia PlummerByfield presents the
Butcher of the Year
award to Mr. Kavon
Peart. He also received
the Most Improved
Slaughter Facility award.

#### Staff Clinic Introduced at Mandeville Regional Hospital in Manchester

he Mandeville Regional Hospital opened a staff clinic for employees of the Mandeville Regional Hospital and the SRHA Regional Office in August 2023.

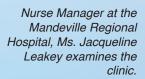
With this dedicated space, staff members can access care from Mondays to Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to

4:00 p.m. Retired employees from these facilities can also access care.

The health of our staff members is our top priority, and this clinic is a testament of our commitment to those who tirelessly care for others.



CEO for the Mandeville Regional Hospital, Mr. Alwyn Miller (left) and SRHA Director for Human Resource & Development, Mrs. Nicolette Thomas Edwards cut the ribbon to officially open the staff clinic.





#### Black River Hospital Achieves Baby Friendly Status

he Black River Hospital (BRH) in St. Elizabeth became the seventh public hospital in Jamaica to be internationally certified as a Baby Friendly Hospital.

Black River Hospital at the time joined six other certified Baby Friendly Hospitals including the Princess Margaret Hospital in St. Thomas, the Alexandria Community Hospital in St. Ann, the Port Antonio Hospital in Portland, the Port Maria Hospital in St. Mary, the Lionel Town Hospital in Clarendon and the Mandeville Regional Hospital in Manchester.

The baby friendly programme is also part of the Government's drive to provide a framework that enables mothers to acquire the skills they need to breastfeed exclusively for the first six months, followed by complementary foods and continued breastfeeding for two years and beyond. The certification ceremony was held on Thursday, September 7, 2023.



Minister of Health & Wellness, Dr. Christopher Tufton (4th left) is photographed with (left to right): Parish Manager for the St. Elizabeth Health Services, Mr. Sean Brissett; CEO for the BRH, Mrs. Diana Brown-Miller; Acting Regional Director for the Southern Regional Health Authority, Mrs. Herschel Ismail; Health Specialist at UNICEF, Ms. Novia Condell; Assistant Nutritionist at the St. Elizabeth Health Department, Mrs. Tracia Gayle; Director of Health Promotion & Protection in the Ministry of Health & Wellness, Dr. Simone Spence and Consultant Paediatrician at the BRH, Dr. Aggrey Sajabi, following the certification ceremony.



Director of Health Promotion & Protection in the Ministry of Health & Wellness, Dr. Simone Spence (right) presents an award to Inservice Officer and Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative Coordinator at the BRH. Mrs. Dorcia Brown-Lyle for her role in the successful certification of baby friendly status for the hospital.

### SRHA Building Capacity to Effectively Manage Rheumatic Fever

he Southern Regional Health Authority has been building the capacity of its health practitioners to effectively manage rheumatic fever cases in the parishes of St. Elizabeth, Clarendon and Manchester.

The team has been hosting rheumatic fever symposiums to provide education and motivation to its practitioners, raise awareness of rheumatic fever and the importance of compliance, in addition to strengthening the support systems for caregivers.

Rheumatic fever is an inflammatory condition (disease) that can develop as a complication of an inadequately treated 'strep' sore throat. It mainly affects children ages five to 15 years but it can also affect adults. Strep throat is an infection in your throat and tonsils caused by a type of bacteria called group A Streptococcus (group A strep). Strep throat can cause more serious illnesses such as rheumatic fever, a disease that can cause permanent damage to your heart and heart valves. Therefore, it's important to see a healthcare provider for a prompt diagnosis and treatment.

The symposium targets health



Rheumatic Fever (RF) Coordinators for the Southern Regional Health Authority at the 2023 inaugural Rheumatic Fever symposium (left to right), RF Coordinator for Clarendon, Ms. Marie James; RF Coordinator for Manchester, Mrs. Valrie Ellis; RF Coordinator for Clarendon, Mrs. LaVanchia Brissett-Pinnock and Regional RF Coordinator for the SRHA, Mrs. Andrienne Sylvester.



Some of the participants including clients, healthcare workers and non-governmental agencies, who participated in the inaugural rheumatic fever symposium.

practitioners, parents, caregivers and students. They are provided with information in areas of: sore throat in children, importance of echocardiogram in the management of rheumatic fever, follow-up after diagnosis, importance of dental care for rheumatic fever clients, exercise and nutrition for clients, and support systems for clients.

### Breastfeeding Room for Staff Opened at Percy Junor Hospital

s part of the process for baby friendly hospital certification, the Percy Junor Hospital in Manchester opened a staff breastfeeding room on Wednesday, September 27, 2023.

The hospital team embarked on this initiative, having recognized the importance of a corporate wellness culture. This culture promotes an environment which allows staff to perform healthy lifestyle practices, which includes exclusive breastfeeding.

The staff members pledged to make the best use of the facility and add to the increase of Jamaica's exclusive breastfeeding rate.

The hospital's staff photographed are: (left to right): Nurse Manager and Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative Coordinator, Ms. Nasandra Peart; Senior Medical Officer, Dr. Carlos Wilson, Registered Nurse and expectant mother, Ms. Claudia Robinson and CEO, Mr. Carlton Nichols.



Registered Nurse and expectant mother, Ms. Claudia Robinson (seated) enjoys the comfort of the new breastfeeding room for staff. Also sharing in the moment are: Medical Officer at the Manchester Health Department, Dr. Shonnette Blair-Walters (left) and Acting Director of Nursing Services at the PJH, Mrs. Fione Collins.



#### **Health Team Ramps Up Dengue Education**

gainst the background of the dengue outbreak declared in September 2023, the SRHA health teams ramped up their efforts to prevent and control its spread through education.

The teams from St. Elizabeth, Clarendon and Manchester initiated several exciting programmes to educate and empower people to stay safe. The team from St. Elizabeth implemented the High Intensity Intervention in Towns Campaign, the Manchester team used town centre engagements while Clarendon utilized road shows to get the message to Jamaicans.

The teams also worked closely with the schools, communities and workplaces to spread the message of preventing and controlling dengue.

Team members from the Manchester Health Department march through the Mandeville town to spread awareness about dengue prevention and management.

Vector Control Specialist at the Clarendon Health Department (CHD), Ms. Denise Greenwood (left) demonstrates how to properly use a drum cover to prevent mosquito breeding around the home. Looking on are: CHD Public Health Inspector, Ms. Neisha Gordon (centre) and CHD Food Safety Officer, Mrs. Chanantea Baker Allwood.



The St. Elizabeth team doing an animated piece about dengue education.





#### Men's Health Day Cater to Men Eager For Healthcare

en's Health Day was conceptualized by the SRHA nurse practitioners in 2015 because studies show that Jamaican men have poor health-seeking behaviours, and are usually at the receiving end of serious trauma. It was also noted that the majority of programmes were directed at women and children and there were no services targeting men, who were not able to wait for long periods in a healthcare facility because of work.

The team made the decision to take healthcare to the

men and have been using the opportunity to focus on education and general men's physical care in order to continually improve their health and reduce or eliminate health issues.

Men's Health Day is an annual event which takes place in one of the three parishes (Manchester, Clarendon, St. Elizabeth), in the SRHA. The men receive a range of free services including blood pressure checks, blood sugar tests, cholesterol tests, prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood tests, prostate

examinations, Body Mass Index (BMI) assessments, dental examinations, HIV tests, foot care examinations and immediate referrals for any identified health concerns.

The 2023 staging was held in the Siloah community in St. Elizabeth on November 23, while the 2024 event was held at the Toll Gate Health Centre on November 28, 2024. The event was sponsored by Juici Patties, Fosrich Lighting Company, Digicel and Food for the Poor.



The team of health professionals including nurse practitioners at the 2023 Men's Health Day event.



Nurse Practitioner for Manchester, Mrs. Gillian Evans Johnson provides blood pressure testing for a client at the 2024 staging.

#### J\$10 Million Dollar Upgrade at Percy Junor Hospital Under Compassionate Care Programme

he Percy Junor Hospital has benefitted from upgrades and customer service training under the Ministry of Health and Wellness' Compassionate Care Programme. The facility was refurbished by the National Health Fund at an investment of some J\$10.7 million. So far, 122 staff members at the facility have received training in customer service.

Improvements at the facility included a full refurbishment of the accident and emergency area to include tiling of the waiting area; doctor's office; nurses' stations; casualty area; records department; bathrooms; and linkway to emergency area. Additionally, all ceilings were replaced and outfitted with proper lighting.

Patient restrooms were also upgraded, and the waiting area is now equipped with more comfortable seating. Among the developments too is the casualty and records area which is now transformed into a more user-friendly space for clients to interact with staff. The official ceremony was held on December 7, 2023.



Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. Christopher Tufton (third from left) joins Member of Parliament for Manchester Northeast, Hon. Audley Shaw, for a ribbon-cutting exercise at the entrance of the Accident and Emergency Department at the hospital. SRHA Regional Director, Mr. Michael Bent (left); Senior Medical Officer at the hospital, Dr. Carlos Wilson (2nd left); Parish Manager for the Manchester Health Services, Mrs. Sandia Chambers-Ferguson (right) and CEO for the hospital, Mr. Carlton Nichols share in the exercise.



A section of the waiting area in the accident and emergency department.

#### Mandeville Regional Hospital Benefits From Compassionate Care Programme

he Ministry of Health and Wellness has been on a drive to improve the quality of service and the standard of care in public hospitals and health centres across the island. The programme was launched at the Mandeville Regional Hospital on December 14, 2023 and complements the clinical side of public health with customer service being a critical component.

Works at the hospital included a lighted internal directory with a digital signage media display, cleaning and polishing of floors in the waiting area, bonded lifetime chairs, light fixtures, water cooler, and a 50-inch television set. The works undertaken costed J\$9.3 million.



CEO for the MRH, Mr. Alwyn Miller (2nd left) shows Minister of Health & Wellness, Dr. Christopher Tufton (left) the enhancements made to the waiting area of the MRH A&E department. Photographed also are: SRHA Regional Director, Mr. Michael Bent (right) and MRH Senior Medical Officer, Dr. Everton McIntosh.



Minister of Health & Wellness, Dr. Christopher Tufton tests the water fountain provided for clients who use the waiting area of the MRH A&E department.

#### Unique Renal Anaemia Clinic Implemented in Central Jamaica to Manage Patients

he Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA) implemented a renal anaemia clinic at the Mandeville Regional Hospital in Manchester to manage and monitor renal patients who normally end up being hospitalized because of issues related to low blood levels.

The clinic is the only one of its kind in the island and is open every Wednesday. The anaemia clinic serves some 179 patients, who are provided with blood and iron transfusion and erythropoietin injections to assist with keeping their blood levels within the normal range.

The SRHA recognized many patients with renal impairment were being hospitalized so it implemented the clinic as a tool to monitor and manage these patients. This helps to keep many patients out of hospital.



A section of the anaemia clinic.



Some of the team members from the Mandeville Regional Hospital renal and anaemia clinics.

## May Pen Hospital the First Public Health Facility to Benefit From Electronic Health Records System

he May Pen Hospital is the first public health facility to benefit from the introduction of an Electronic Health Records (EHR) system in Jamaica. The programme was launched at the hospital on January 11, 2024.

The EHR system is a health information system with functionalities in patient registration, outpatient scheduling, inpatient and outpatient clinical documentation, patient flow and care planning, among other functionalities. The implementation of the system means shorter wait times for patients, less cost in providing services, increased productivity, reduced staff frustration and increased service satisfaction levels.

The EHR system provides an electronic version of a patient's medical history, including demographics, progress notes, problems, medications, vital signs, past medical history, immunisations, laboratory data and radiology reports.



Nurse in charge of the outpatient department Mrs. Diana Reid-West (right) demonstrates how to use the EHR system to Minister of Health & Wellness, Dr. Christopher Tufton and other stakeholders.



Specialist Registrar at the May Pen Hospital, Dr. Daryl Daley (right) uses the EHR system while consulting with out-patient, Mrs. Almena Johnson-Williams. The system shows how patients are coded by a colour, showing which patients are new, which patients have been seen and how long the patients have been waiting.

#### Fleet Services Continue to Benefit From Ambulance Innovation

n Friday, February 2, 2024, a total of nine new vehicles were handed over to the SRHA – three 2024 Toyota Hiace Buses converted to ambulances; four 2024 L200 Mitsubishi pickups; one 2024 Toyota Coaster bus, and one 2024 Sino truck, valuing some J\$99 million.

They have been assigned to the May Pen, Lionel Town, Mandeville Regional and Black River hospitals and the Clarendon, Manchester and St. Elizabeth health departments. The SRHA will have a bus for staff transportation, and a unit will be assigned to move the region's medical waste.

SRHA Transport Manager, Mr. Robert Robinson who conceptualized the retrofitting of buses into ambulances in 2016, noted that a fridge was added to the 2024 ambulance model to carry samples and blood products. He pointed out that other additions included an upgrade of the inverter for electrical supplies, a sink for handwashing and two cylinders of oxygen for patients, fitted and able to work at all times. In addition to the stretcher. each new ambulance can also accommodate three sit-up staff the nurse, the attendant and the driver.



Chairman of the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA), Mr. Wayne Chen (left), cuts the ribbon to officially hand over nine new vehicles to the Authority. Also sharing in the moment are: Regional Director, Mr. Michael Bent (2nd left); Director, Facilities, Operations and Maintenance, Mrs. Herschel Ismail (2nd right), and Fleet Manager, Mr. Robert Robinson.



The vehicles which were officially handed over on February 2, 2024.



The interior of one of the ambulances.

#### Nutrition Teams Empower Consumers to Make Healthier Food Choices

onsumers in the southern end of the island have been welcoming nutrition education by the nutrition teams from the Southern Regional Health Authority. The teams have been going into markets and supermarkets to educate people to make healthier food choices.

This is part of the Ministry of Health and Wellness Nutrition Facts Panel Media Campaign, which assists people to use the Nutrition Facts Panel on packaged foods and provides information on serving sizes, recommended number of servings, calories, nutrients, and percentage of daily value for each nutrient in a serving. The education campaign aims to increase awareness of nutrition facts panels among Jamaicans and empower the populace to correctly interpret and apply the knowledge in daily dietary choices.

These ongoing campaigns in supermarkets and markets across central Jamaica have received excellent feedback from consumers who are excited about learning facts about nutrition.



Parish Nutritionist at the Clarendon Health Department, Mrs. Debbie Ottey-Golding explains the nutrition facts panel to Clarendon resident Mr. Jermin Prince inside the Shopper's Fair Supermarket in the parish.



Parish Nutritionist at the Manchester Health Department, Mrs. Alicia Brown-Facey (left) is pictured with a vendor after sharing facts on making healthier food choices.

## Residents Welcome Know Your Numbers Campaign in Southern Jamaica

he Know Your Numbers Campaign, launched by the Ministry of Health & Wellness to encourage more Jamaicans to get screened for lifestyle diseases, has been welcomed by residents in southern Jamaica.

The campaign targets people for screening tests and examinations including: blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, Body Mass Index checks, HIV, Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA), Digital Rectal Exam (DRE) and pap smear. Additionally, the Second Chance Smiles Campaign, a dentures replacement programme for persons aged 18 to 60 years old, which is a part of the campaign, has been doing well.

The campaign was officially launched in the three parishes; with ongoing operations being held across the region.



Nutrition education being done at the Know Your Numbers Campaign launch in Manchester.



A patron gets her Body Mass Index measurement done at the the Know Your Numbers Campaign launch in Clarendon.

Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. Christopher Tufton greets participants at the Know Your Numbers Campaign launch in St. Elizabeth.

#### Health Support Increases for Adolescents in St. Elizabeth

he St. Elizabeth
Health Department
(SEHD) strengthened
its support for adolescents
in the parish through the
revival of adolescent health
clinics, for youths aged 10 to
19 years.

The adolescent health programme, was operational from as far back as 2013, through the Ministry of Health & Wellness Adolescent Standards and Criteria. Clinics became inactive due to the COVID-19 pandemic but the parish has been focusing on re-starting the clinics with the purpose of helping adolescents to manage their health and development.

Clinics have been restarted at the Balaclava, Junction and Santa Cruz health centres. Services offered at the clinics include: sexual and reproductive health including HIV counselling and testing for youths 16 years and older, mental health screening and counselling, drug abuse counselling, nutritional counselling, oral health, medical check-up, counselling for interpersonal conflicts and vaccination. Recreational activities, assistance with homework and parental workshops are also part of the services being offered at the clinics.



Some of the students who participated in the relaunch ceremony of the adolescent health clinic at the Junction Health Centre.



Students listen intently at the relaunch ceremony of the adolescent health clinic at the Balaclava Health Centre.

#### May Pen Hospital Successfully Completes First Ground-Breaking Colon Cancer Surgery

he May Pen Hospital (MPH) in Clarendon successfully performed its first laparoscopic colon cancer surgery (colectomy), signaling a new wave of cutting-edge surgeries at the MPH and other hospitals in southern Jamaica.

This is the first the procedure is being performed at the hospital and was done on June 24, 2024.

This adds to a new wave of cutting-edge surgeries being offered throughout the Southern Regional Health Authority with Percy Junor Hospital offering robotics surgery and Mandeville Regional Hospital and Black River Hospital offering laparoscopic surgeries and May Pen Hospital now on board with more widespread laparoscopic surgeries.

The team has done other laparoscopic surgeries in the past including laparoscopic hernias and appendectomies.



The team of surgeons, nurses and anaesthesiologists. The procedure was led by Surgeon, Dr. O'Rane Thomas (4th left). Photographed also are: (left to right): Surgical Scrub Technician, Maxine Simpson; Consultant General Surgeon, Dr. Douglas Jefferson; Anaesthesia Resident, Dr. Geneve Llewelyn; Head of Surgery Department, Dr. R. Xenophon Kirby; Surgery Resident; Dr. Ramoine Peart; Senior Registrar in Surgery, Dr. Dale Laws; and Registered Nurse Roxania Lambert.



Consultant General Surgeon at the MPH, Dr. O'Rane Thomas (centre), Consultant General Surgeon, Dr. Douglas Jefferson (left) and Senior Registrar in General Surgery at the MPH, Dr. Dale Laws during the colon cancer surgery.

#### SRHA Receives GOJ Service Excellence Awards

ongratulations to the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA) for receiving several awards at the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) Service Excellence Conference and Awards Ceremony in January 2025.

The team received the Digital Innovation Award; Public Education and Communication Award to the Manchester Health Department and Leadership Award to the SRHA Regional Director, Mr. Michael Bent.

This dedicated team of exceptional changemakers have been making strides in improving healthcare in the southern end of the island.

The team also successfully implemented the MyHR+ system, an integrated payroll and human resource system which is resulting in several benefits such as the collection and management of data more efficiently, monitoring and controlling the wage bill, among other benefits.

Additionally, the SRHA has been registered with the Office of the Information Commissioner and employed



Some of the team members after receiving the awards.



a Data Protection Officer who will ensure the organization is compliant with the Data Protection Act.

One of the awards.



#### Annual Board & Senior Management Retreat Paves the Pathway to Quality CARE

he Southern
Regional Health
Authority has been
using its annual board and
senior managers retreat
to assess the Authority's
accomplishments and
challenges, in addition
to planning for the
approaching fiscal year.

In 2023, the team focused on the theme, "Paving Pathways: The New Perspective/Approach -SRHA", at the retreat on March 1 to 3, while in 2024 the theme was, "Paving Pathways- Dedicated to Quality; Committed to CARE", which was held from March 6 to 8.

The team was lauded for being trailblazers in the health sector, who despite the challenges, has remained committed to enhancing public health care.



Minister of Health & Wellness, Dr. Christopher Tufton (2nd left) in discussion with Chairman, Mr. Wayne Chen (left), Regional Director, Mr. Michael Bent (right) and Senior Medical Officer at the Black River Hospital, Dr. Sheriff Imoru.



Chairman for the Southern Regional Health Authority, Mr. Wayne Chen addresses participants at the 2024 retreat.

#### **Employees Anticipate Annual Healthcare**Workers Appreciation Month

n 2022, the Government declared July as Healthcare Workers Appreciation Month, in honour of healthcare workers for their selfless service to public health in Jamaica. This annual event is celebrated under the theme, "Honouring Commitment, Service & Sacrifice".

Healthcare workers from across the Southern Regional Health Authority were celebrated and recognized in July 2023 and July 2024, through a range of activities. These activities included a Church Service, appreciation activities for team members and a Sports and Fun Day, which have all been welcomed by team members.

This anticipated celebration is utilised as an opportunity to recognize healthcare heroes for going above and beyond the call of duty.



A section of the audience at the church service in 2023.



The Percy Junor Hospital cheerleading team which won the 2024 cheerleading competition.

#### Senior Managers Embrace Media and Communications Workshop

everal senior managers, who would normally interact with the media, because of the nature of their duties benefitted from a two-day Media and Communications workshop. The workshop, skillfully hosted by the esteemed Media & Communication Consultant, Fae Ellington, served as a comprehensive platform for honing the expertise of the participants.

Throughout the intensive training sessions, senior managers were immersed in a dynamic learning environment, delving into the intricacies of media interviewing techniques and platform skills. Fae Ellington's expertise provided invaluable insights, empowering participants with the tools necessary to navigate media interactions effectively.

SRHA Resource Mobilization Officer, Barbara Ellington, a 30-year veteran of print and electronic media, shared insights on how to navigate interviews and matters in the media landscape.

The workshop contributed to enhancing the Authority's overall communication proficiency and enhanced



Media & Communication Consultant, Ms. Fae Ellington (right) interviews SRHA Regional Technical Director, Dr. Vitillius Holder (left) and CEO for the Mandeville Regional Hospital, Mr. Alwyn Miller.



Some of the team members pictured with Ms. Fae Ellington.

the participants ability to engage effectively with various media platforms in the future. The sessions were held on November 14 and 15 & 21 and 22, 2023.

#### Mandeville Hospital Welcomes Unique Renovated Lounge Spaces for Medical Staff

he Mandeville Regional Hospital was the beneficiary of five renovated lounge spaces for medical staff, valued at some J\$2 million. The spaces include a doctors' lounge, break and training room, doctors' rest bay, nurses rest bay, and sister's office.

The spaces were renovated and equipped with furniture and equipment by Morgan White Group

International and John Galt Insurance Brokers and officially handed over on February 23, 2024.

The partnership with Morgan White Group International, a subsidiary of Lloyd's of London, which offers life, disability and health insurance, is part of the hospital's efforts to improve the welfare of employees.



A section of the unique doctors' lounge.

The break and training room, which is one of the five renovated lounge spaces for medical staff.

#### LTH Hosts Inaugural In-House Customer Service Training for all Employees

he Lionel Town
Hospital hosted its
very first in-house
mandatory customer service
training in 2024. Two
sessions were conducted
on January 25 and on
May 15. Some 37 team
members were trained and
presented with certificates of
completion. All employees
at the facility will be trained.

Team members were trained in several areas focused on the Emergency Severity Index System, communication skills, dealing with difficult customers and situations, conflict resolution, managing stress among other topics.

The team members welcomed the sessions hosted by Training Facilitator, Mrs. Salomie Richards-Walters.



Training Facilitator & Customer Care Officer at the LTH, Mrs. Salomie Richards-Walters (right) presents a certificate of completion to Patient Care Assistant at the facility, Ms. Julian Brown.



Employees at one of the customer service trainings.

## Employee Assistance Programme Yielding Real Benefits for Employees

he revamped
Employee Assistance
Programme (EAP)
has been yielding real
benefits for employees of the
Southern Regional Health
Authority and their loved
ones.

The EAP is a sponsored service by the SRHA and is designed to provide assistance, within a confidential framework to employees who are facing personal problems which may be negatively affecting their job performance. This work-based intervention provides counselling and welfare support for the personal and professional well-being of employees. To further enhance the programme and target specific employees, the Human Resource Management & Development Department embarked on a series of face to face Wellness, Reset and Rejuvenation sessions under the theme, 'Embracing Change Through Hope, Faith and Courage'. The sessions which benefitted more than 200 employees empowered participants with coping mechanisms and strategies in a confidential and safe space.



Employees at one of the Wellness, Reset and Rejuvenation sessions.

## SRHA Sweeps Lasco/NAJ Nurse of the Year Awards

he Southern Regional Health Authority is extremely proud of its nurses who received the top three awards for the 2024 LASCO/NAJ Nurse of the Year Awards.

Abigail James, Registered Nurse from Black River Hospital in St. Elizabeth won the coveted 2024 LASCO/NAJ Nurse of the Year title. Roshelle Mendez, the 1st runnerup, and Davia Dwyer, the 2nd runner-up, who are both from the Mandeville Regional Hospital in Manchester, rounded off the top prizes for the region.

Their unwavering dedication and excellence inspire the team as they embody the true spirit of Compassion, Accountability, Respect and Efficiency.





Abigail James, 2024 LASCO/NAJ Nurse of the Year (centre), Roshelle Mendez, 1st runner-up (right) and Davia Dwyer, the 2nd runner-up.

#### The Road to Recovery Following Hurricane Beryl

everal health facilities in the southern region were severely impacted by Hurricane Beryl in 2024, which propelled the team to launch a comprehensive health response.

The team organized mass sensitization sessions in affected communities, issued care packages to affected employees along with other support, while romping up surveillance and other health strategies in communities to educate, sensitize and support residents in keeping safe and mitigating against any negative health outcomes.



Regional Public Health Specialist for Vector Control, SRHA, Mr. Michael Myles (right) along with Entomological Assistant from the Clarendon Health Department, Mr. Charles Killingbeck inspect a water container on a property in southern St. Elizabeth.



Vector Control Worker from the Manchester Health Department, Mr. Lamore Bartley, oils a swamp area in southern Manchester to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes.



Senior HR Officer with responsibility for staff welfare, Mrs. Simone Hibbert is pictured with some of the care packages for employees.



#### Percy Junor Hospital Welcomes Continued Support From Rotary Club of Christiana

he Percy Junor Hospital (PJH) in northeast
Manchester received a
life-saving neonatal resuscitation
equipment, valued at more than
US \$2,000, which will allow the
hospital to better respond to
babies who need emergency care.
The Rotary Club of Christiana in
Jamaica donated the equipment on
Wednesday, February 1, 2023.

Previously, when the hospital experienced emergencies with newborns, they would have to be transferred to the Mandeville Regional Hospital which is 20 minutes away. The equipment will allow the hospital to begin the resuscitation process, which is the difference between life and death.

The hospital also received a

life-saving infant warmer or resuscitaire machine which will provide critical care to newborns in distress. The machine, valued at a little less than J\$1 million was donated by the Rotary Club of Christiana on May 24, 2023. The medical staff at the hospital received neonatal resuscitation training to support the use of the machine.



President of the Rotary Club of Christiana, Ms. Leshana Campbell (2nd left) and Consultant in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the hospital, Dr. Christopher Fletcher (2nd right) cut the ribbon at the handover of the neonatal resuscitation equipment. Photographed also are: Rotarian and Incoming Secretary, Ms. Avril Allen (right) and CEO of the hospital, Mr. Carlton Nichols.



Photographed are: (left to right) CEO of the PJH, Mr. Carlton Nichols; Parish Manager for the Manchester Health Services, Mrs. Sandia Chambers-Ferguson; Consultant in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the hospital, Dr. Christopher Fletcher; President of the Rotary Club of Christiana Ms. Leshana Campbell; Rotaractor Ms. Davine Mantock and Rotarian Ms. Avril Allen. The group participated in the handover of the infant warmer.

## Black River Hospital Receives Major Donation

he Black River
Hospital (BRH) in St.
Elizabeth received a
major donation of medical
equipment and supplies, made
possible through a partnership
between Javion Blake, founder
of Jus Chill International and
Project C.UR.E., a non-profit
organization with focus on global
health aid. This donation marks
the beginning of a four-year
partnership with the hospital.

The donation included: a laparoscopic machine and supplies; an anaesthetic machine and monitor, a colposcope, a defibrillator and supplies, an autoclave machine, a pulse oximeter, nebulizers, sphygmomanometers, stethoscopes, thermometers, patient beds, a stretcher, an adult scale, examination tables, wheelchairs, gloves, goggles, gowns, N-95 masks, dental supplies and instruments, dressing supplies, syringes, respiratory and nebulizer supplies, diapers, endoscopy supplies, feotal monitor and supplies, monitors, crutches, office chairs, a small refrigerator and other items.

The items were officially handed over on March 20, 2023 on the grounds of the hospital and were distributed to the BRH, the Santa Cruz and Black River health centres.



Junior Resident at the Black River Hospital (BRH), Dr. Richard Johnson (3rd left) and Senior Medical Officer at the BRH, Dr. Sheriff Imoru (right) shake hands following the handover of the donation. Participating in the moment also are: Consultant Paediatrician for the BRH, Dr. Aggrey Sajabi (left); BRH Director of Nursing Services, Maria Stampp (2nd left); Parish Manager for the St. Elizabeth Health Services; Sean Brissett (3rd right) and CEO for the BRH, Diana Brown-Miller.



(Left to right) Junior Resident Dr. Richard Johnson; Consultant Paediatrician Dr Aggrey Sajabi; Senior Medica. I Officer Dr. Sheriff Imoru and Director of Nursing Services Maria Stampp are pictured here with some of the donations

#### Continued Support for Black River Hospital

lack River Hospital (BRH) in St. Elizabeth continues to be the beneficiary of well-needed support, which will boost its developmental plan.

On Tuesday, April 4, 2023, the Hampton Old Girls Association/BRH Fundraisers donated J\$1.7 million to the hospital which will be used to assist with completing a building that will provide private accommodation for admitted patients. The cheque brings the total amount from the group to more than J\$3 million.

Additionally, the Hummingbirds Association donated medical equipment to the hospital valued at J\$1 million on August 17, 2023. Among the donated items were digital baby scales, adult scales, blood pressure machines, a nebulizer, and an examination lamp.

On August 17, 2023 the Parottee Enrichment Project (PEP) Inc. donated US\$6000 worth of items including walkers, crutches, wheelchairs, walking canes, a commode, surgical masks, isolation gowns and disposable hospital bed sheets to the hospital.



Representative from the Hampton Old Girls Association/BRH Fundraisers, Allison Morris (centre) hands over the cheque to the hospital. Participating in the handover are: CEO, Diana Brown-Miller (2nd left), Operations Manager, Nicola Allen-Morris (left), Consultant Paediatrician, Dr Aggrey Sajabi (right) and Director of Nursing Services Maria Stampp.



Some of the items handed over by the Hummingbirds Association.

CEO of the Black River Hospital, Diana Brown-Miller (left) accepts a donation of medical supplies and equipment from Parottee Enrichment Project Board Member, Marilyn Bennett during the handover ceremony.

#### Mandeville Hospital Receives US\$25,000 Worth of Wheelchairs and Beds

he Mandeville Regional
Hospital welcomed a
donation of six beds and
15 wheelchairs – retrofitted with
bed pans for the immobile from
the Mandeville Spa and Wellness

Resort. The gifts, which are valued at US\$25,000, were donated on April 18, 2023.

The timely donation will aid the hospital in improving its service

delivery and demonstrates the important role the private sector plays in partnering with public health, to support some of its objectives.



#### Cataract Camp Mission Continues to be a Success Story

ince 2014, the partnership between the Mandeville Regional Hospital and the Mind Body and Soul (MBS) Health Ministry has been improving the lives of thousands of Jamaicans, through free cataract surgeries, vision screenings, free eyeglasses and haemoglobin tests.

Some 577 residents in the southern region received free cataract surgeries between June 17 and 20, 2023, while 627 residents received free cataract surgeries from May 25 to 27 in 2024.

The surgeries were facilitated by Dr. Hilary Morgan, a Florida-based Jamaican who heads the entity- (MBS) Health Ministry- which has organised the surgeries for the last eight years, spearheaded by the hospital's consultant ophthalmologist Dr. Gavin Henry.

Since its inception, the mission has impacted 15,592 people with surgeries.



A team from the Mandeville Regional Hospital and the Mind Body and Soul Health Ministry at the 2024 mission.



A section of the waiting area with clients waiting to access services.

#### Mandeville Hospital Gets Donation in Medical Equipment to Enhance Services

ealthcare services at the Mandeville Regional Hospital in Manchester have been boosted with a donation of an eye laser machine and 23 patient stretchers.

The items were gifted by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and the Rotary Club of Mandeville on October 16, 2024.

This is one of the hospital's most significant donation, which will greatly improve services. The donation will allow the hospital's ophthalmology unit to complete some 200 or more surgeries annually.



CEO for the Mandeville Regional Hospital, Mr. Alwyn Miller (3rd right) and Welfare/Self-Reliance Manager of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Mr. Leroye Blake (3rd left) shake hands after the handover. Photographed also are: Missionaries for Latter-Day Saints Charities, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Sutherland (left/2nd left); Head of Surgery at the hospital, Dr. Clive Lloyd (2nd right) and Vice President of the Rotary Club of Mandeville, Mr. Joseph Jackson.



Some of the patient stretchers.

A section of the waiting area with clients waiting to access services.

#### **Utilization of Services**

<b>Utilization of Services</b>	2023	2024
Hospitals		
Admission to hospital	29952	31145
Discharges from hospitals	30236	31485
Surgeries performed	16730	7934
Visits to A&E Departments	214,244	152080
Outpatient Visits	116,240	121,279
Pharmacy Items Prescribed	1,508,211	1,494,973
Pharmacy Items Dispensed	1,368,768	1,317,614
Visits to Pharmacy	398,598	382712
Lab Tests Performed	1,948,949	2,529,506
X-ray Procedures	77,706	83564
X-ray Patients Seen	48,586	53194
Health Centres		
Visits to Primary Health Care	402,884	420,652

# Other Proud & Exciting Moments SRHA Pacesetters



Southern Regional Health Authority Software Database Administrator, Mr. Dwayne Colquhoun, was one of the first men to benefit from the Government of Jamaica's new paternity leave law, which went into effect on January 1, 2023.

Paternity leave with pay for fathers of newborns in the public sector and adoption leave for parents adopting and bringing a new child into the home are now in effect. These leave entitlements for the public-sector workers took effect on January 1.



Parish Manager for the Manchester Health Services, Mrs. Sandia Chambers-Ferguson received a Long Service Award from the Jamaica Civil Service Association for 39 years of dedicated public service on Thursday, January 19, 2023 at the Ridgemount United Church in Mandeville, Manchester.

Congratulations to Mrs. Chambers Ferguson as she continues to contribute positively to healthcare development in Jamaica.



Public Health Nurse at the Chapelton Community Hospital, Mrs. Olufunke Adetola (standing in khaki uniform), who served the Southern Regional Health Authority for more than 17 years with distinction, has retired.

Nurse Adetola gave remarkable service to the Chapelton Community Hospital and will long be remembered for her commitment and care. She is a Nigerian by birth; but became a Jamaican by naturalization and love.

Her retirement function was held on June 14, 2023 at the Chapelton Community Hospital.

Scores of people from the Southern Regional Health Authority participated in an after-workout session, as part of NCU FM's Corporate Boot Camp in March 2023.

NCU FM partnered with corporate Jamaica to bring an hour of exciting challenges and activities to employees, in an effort to promote a healthy lifestyle. The synergy was great as both entities are big on health and wellness.



The Southern Regional Health Authority won nine awards at the Ministry of Health & Wellness's annual Rheumatic Fever Review in 2023.

The awards include: highest rheumatic fever coverage and audits, best overall performance, regional coordinator of the year, most training sessions, parish coordinator of the year, early bird reports, highest parish coverage and highest parish compliance.



From October 17 to 20, 2023, the Southern Regional Health Authority proudly led the way as the first team to undergo comprehensive training on managing interpersonal violence, gender-based violence, trafficking in persons, and sexual assault and rape.

Thanks to the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the United Nations Population Fund for this transformative workshop.

The Jamaica Association of Public Health Inspectors (JAPHI) brought together experts and leaders at the 77th Annual Educational Conference & General Meeting, held at the Hilton Rose Hall Resort & Spa in Montego Bay, St. James from October 2 to 5, 2023.

Under the inspiring theme 'One Health One Global Environment', public health specialists were recognized for outstanding achievements in their field. The Southern Regional Health Authority salutes our outstanding employees for their accomplishments.

Ms. Marcia Weathers, Food Safety Officer at the Clarendon Health Department - Inspector of the Year for Jamaica 2022/2023.

Mrs. Shanon Douglas-Francis, Veterinary Public Health Inspector, Clarendon Health Department - Top Food Safety Officer for Jamaica.

Mrs. Carleen Mitchell-Hennie, Regional Environmental Health Offi- cer, Southern Regional Health Authority - Awarded a Certificate of Merit from the National Environmental Health Association, USA. Michael Myles returned as JAPHI president for another term (2 years).



The Southern Regional Health Authority Health Records Department hosted a Health Information Management Open Day Symposium and focused on the theme, 'Advancing Health Information Management in Pursuit of High-Quality Digital Health Information.' This was held at the Manchester Comprehensive Health Centre on October 17, 2023.

Health records management is crucial for providing quality patient care, ensuring continuity of treatment, and supporting research, legal compliance, and healthcare system improvement.





Congratulations to the talented cooks of the Southern Regional Health Authority for winning first place at the Ministry of Health & Wellness Head Cook training at Cardiff Hall Hotel and Spa in St. Ann in 2024.

Our team's entry, the refreshing Southern Kooler—a delightful blend of pineapple, melon, cucumber, and carrots was a crowd favorite, showcasing the best of our locally grown fruits and vegetables.

Special shoutout to our amazing cooks:

Althea Gayle - May Pen Hospital Renaldo Hinds - Percy Junor Hospital O'Neil Salmon - Black River Hospital Pearl Logan - Mandeville Regional Hospital Kimone Ricketts - Lionel Town Hospital

Kudos to the team for their creativity and dedication to promoting healthy, local ingredients.

Heartiest congratulations to Team SRHA for achieving several awards at the Ministry of Health & Wellness Annual Health Promotion & Education Review 2024.

The team received the top performing region award for non-communicable diseases and injury prevention and the top performing region award for nutrition.

Clarendon received the top performing parish award for nutrition and the top performing parish award for non-communicable diseases and injury preven-

St. Elizabeth received the top performing parish award for environmental health and Manchester copped the top performing parish award for health promotion and education.





US Ambassador to Trinidad & Tobago, Her Excellency Candace Bond (centre) shares a photo opportunity with US Ambassador to Jamaica, His Excellency Nick Perry (3rd right); CDC Country Director, Dr. Paul Young (left), Senior Medical Officer for the May Pen Hospital, Dr. Bradley Edwards (2nd left); Acting Regional Director for the SRHA, Mrs. Herschel Ismail (3rd left); Regional Technical Director for the SRHA, Dr. Vitillius Holder (2nd right) and Parish Manager for the Clarendon Health Services, Mr. Joseph Grant.

The team toured the May Pen Hospital and the May Pen Health Centre on October 31. 2024 and had discussions focused on support for non-communicable diseases and the successes of the chronic care model implemented in Clarendon. The health team also shared the successes of the Electronic Health Records system.



Congratulations to Nurse Manager from the Mandeville Regional Hospital, Annmarie Sharpe (2nd right); Public Health Nurse from the Clarendon Health Department, Marjo Mundle (2nd left) and Nurse Anaesthetist, Andrea Wright (centre) from the Black River Hospital for being selected as Yummy Champions of Change for their respective parishes of employment.

Congratulations to these compassionate, competent and committed nurses, whose practice is grounded by the Nurses Code of Ethics.

The ladies are flanked by SRHA Regional Director, Michael Bent and Director of Nursing Services at the MRH, Sadie Williams Allen.



Congratulations to the Southern Regional Health Authority for winning the Best Performing Region and Best Performing for Data Quality Audit awards from the Ministry of Health & Wellness.

Kudos HIV/STI/Tb team members, continue "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges; Increasing the pace, as we end the race."



Team members from the Lionel Town Hospital enjoyed an evening of recognition, food and entertainment at their awards ceremony.

The event was held at the Kravin'z Grill and Entertainment on December 12, 2024.



Staff at the Mandeville Regional Hospital traded their work attire for school uniforms, embodying unity and professionalism in 2024. The team embraced team spirit and unity which uplifted the morale.



The team members from the Regional Office had a grand time at their end of year brunch on December 19, 2024 at Lover's Leap in St. Elizabeth, enjoying an afternoon of live entertainment and good food.



The St. Elizabeth Health Department hosted an appreciation ceremony and luncheon for its public health nurses on December 18, 2024 at Lover's Leap in the parish.

The team welcomed the initiative by the health department.

The Manchester Health Services Staff Welfare committee hosted an evening of elegance themed, All Black "Elegant Mystery" for its team members on December 20, 2024 on the grounds of the Mandeville Comprehensive Health Centre.

The team members enjoyed prizes and surprises, food and good vibes, while reflecting on a year of challenges and triumphs.





On December 6, 2024, team members from the May Pen Hospital gathered at the Verandah in Clarendon for its Long Service Awards and Christmas function.

Some 113 team members were awarded for 16 years and more of exceptional service to public health care.



On June 31, 2024, the Percy Junor Hospital commemorated its remarkable journey of 79 years of existence.

The team also hosted their annual Customer Appreciation Day, which was a resounding success and honoured both their dedicated team members and clients.

In February 2024, 39 public health officers received professional certification in Healthcare Administration and Leadership from the University of Technology (UTech). The officers, drawn from the four Regional Health Authorities, participated in the sixmonth virtual training course, which was ad-

ministered by UTech's College of Health Science in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

SRHA participants-SRHA Regional



Director Mr. Michael Bent (left), May Pen Hospital CEO Mrs. Eugena Clarke-James (2nd left), SRHA Regional Technical Director, Dr. Vitillius Holder (3rd) right, and other participants are pictured here.

Dr. Vitillius Holder and Mrs. Eugena Clarke-James received the Resilience and Determination Award and Dr. Aggrey Sajabi received the Creativity & Innovation Award.



On May 2, 2024 the Mandeville Regional Hospital Department of Dietetics staff members wrapped up their two-month wellness challenge with a blast.

From quiz competitions to other exciting challenges, the team members delved into healthy habits, mental wellness, and stress relief strategies.



The Manchester Health Department's School Uniform Day on June 21, 2024 was a hit. Embodying creativity and fun, the team showed up and represented their alma mater.



A team from the Southern Regional Health Authority, the May Pen and Lionel Town hospitals and the Clarendon Health Department paid a courtesy call on newly installed Custos of Clarendon, Hon. Edith Chin on May 28, 2024.

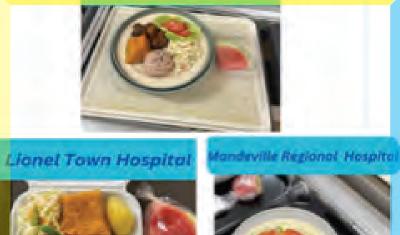
The team informed the Custos of the development plans for health facilities in the parish, which include infrastructural development, boosting the staff complement, increased focus on customer service, and digital systems such as the Electronic Health Records system which has digitized medical records.



Congratulations to Regional Health Records Administrator at the Southern Regional Health Authority, Mrs. Veronica Miller-Richards on winning the People's Choice Award with an astounding 11,551 votes, in the Government of Jamaica and First Heritage Cooperative Credit Union Civil Servants of the Year Awards.

The awards ceremony was held on November 15, 2024, at the Terra Nova All-Suite Hotel in St. Andrew.

Mrs. Miller-Richards is grateful for the support and thanks everyone for their votes and commendations.



Our nutrition teams from the Southern Regional Health Authority are committed to assisting clients manage their sugar levels and dietary needs while in the facility's care.

Take a look at some of the healthy, delicious, appealing and nutritious meals prepared by our staff for patients.



Congratulations to Annakay Gordon (right) Enrolled Assistant Nurse (EAN) at the May Pen Hospital, for being awarded the Jamaica Enrolled Nurses Association (JENA)/Orion Insurance Brokers Ltd Enrolled Nurse of the Year 2024-2025. Congratulations also to Tashana Taylor, 1st runner-up and fellow EAN at May Pen Hospital.

These outstanding nurses were recognized at the JENA 51st Annual Conference held at Iberostar Rose Hall, Montego Bay, under the inspiring theme: "Nurses Reignited For The Mission of Care; Building On The Legacy Of Our Founding Fathers."









