



## PRESS RELEASE

May 14, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### SRHA Procures Restraints Valued at \$8 Million to Enhance Care for Mentally Challenged

The Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA) has procured 50 sets of Pinel Restraints valued at J \$8 million, to restrain mentally ill patients in a more compassionate manner for their safety and those around them.

The restraints were acquired and allocated in March to the Authority's five major hospitals (Mandeville Regional, May Pen, Black River, Percy Junor and Lionel Town hospitals) and major health centres-Black River, May Pen, Spalding health centres and Santa Cruz Centre of Excellence and Mandeville Comprehensive Clinic. The crisis response buses in each parish have also been outfitted with restraints.

Acting Regional Mental Health Officer, SRHA, Karen Elliott explained that before the acquisition of the restraints, less ideal methods were used to restrain mentally challenged patients; however, these restraints will provide involuntary confinement and restrict patients movements in a more compassionate manner for their safety and those around them for a limited amount of time.

"These restraints are safer to use minimizing the complications associated with other forms of restraints and will be used for both inpatient and outpatient care when ordered by a physician" she added.

Nurse Elliott noted that the staff members are extremely grateful to the Authority for procuring these restraints which will make their duties easier.

"Sometimes when we were transporting clients with mental health challenges, we didn't have the appropriate restraints which proved dangerous to the clients, staff members and the vehicle which was being used for transportation. We are really pleased as we continue to advance the care of mentally ill persons in Jamaica" Nurse Elliott pointed out.

(more)

**Chairman:** Wayne Chen; **Vice Chairman:** Michael Stern, **Board Members:** Lorraine Green Mason, Marcus Greenwood, Stafford Haughton, Winston Maragh, Dr. Lloyd Reynolds, Albert Williams, Omar Miller, Dave Powell, **Permanent Secretary's Nominee:** Dr. Naydene Williams, **Regional Director and Secretary:** Michael Bent; **Regional Technical Director:** Dr. Vitillius Holder; **CEO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Alwyn Miller; **SMO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Dr. Everton McIntosh

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She noted that staff members have received training in de-escalation techniques in addition to the appropriate application of the restraints by the manufacturer as well as the Acting Regional Mental Health Officer. Nurse Elliott said on-going support will continue.

SRHA Regional Director, Michael Bent noted that it was important for the Authority to procure the restraints to advance mental health services in the parishes of Manchester, Clarendon and St. Elizabeth.

"I am pleased that we have been making significant advances to mental health care in Jamaica and the SRHA is committed to continuing on this path. Mental health services have not received the attention and resources that it should but in recent times, much has been done to enhance community mental health service delivery and response. While we do what we can to provide the necessary resources to advance mental health care, we need the public's support if our success is to be assured. I encourage everyone to let us work together to prioritize mental health and also end the stigma and discrimination against persons suffering from mental health challenges" Mr. Bent said.

(more)

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Picture 1



SRHA Acting Regional Mental Health Officer, Karen Elliott (left) presents the restraints to Director of Nursing Services, Maria Stamp for the Black River Hospital (right). Photographed also are (back-left to right)-Psychiatric Nursing Aides- Omar Daley, Denetra Tucker-Steele and Patrick Henry.

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Picture 2



SRHA Acting Regional Mental Health Officer, Karen Elliott (right) presents the restraints to Director of Nursing Services at the May Pen Hospital in Clarendon, Yvonne Brown Smith.

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Picture 3



(Left to right) Lionel Town Hospital (LTH) Nurse Ward Manager Donnett Cameron, SRHA Acting Regional Mental Health Officer, Karen Elliott, LTH Director of Nursing Services, Nichola Fowler-Higgins and Acting Nurse Ward Manager Ann-Marie Nolan-Robinson are pictured here after the handing over of restraints for the LTH.

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Picture 4



SRHA Acting Regional Mental Health Officer, Karen Elliott (right) hands over restraints to the Mandeville Regional Hospital (MRH). Collecting the restraints are MRH Nurse Ward Manager Derene Bennett (centre) and MRH Nurse Ward Manager Ann-Marie Simms-Williams.

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