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New Health Centre Opens in Moravia, Clarendon

A new Type One Health Centre opened in Moravia, Clarendon, on August 17, replacing the clinic that operated from the home of a community member.

The centre was constructed by Food For The Poor (FFTP) with funds donated by Chicago resident, Mrs. Denise Di Biase, and on land donated by the Moravian Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. Assistance also came from Custos of Clarendon, Hon. William Shagoury.

Health Minister, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, who spoke at the opening, said "how we live, what we consume or the lack of physical activity and knowing our health status will determine how we eventually come to an end."

"So, focus more on prevention. Your health starts with you, not with the doctor, nurse or hospital bed," he told the gathering.

The Minister noted that seven out of every 10 Jamaicans die as a result of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

"If we start with the basic philosophy around public health and wellness, we would have a much healthier society, because many of the ailments that we encounter can be controlled if we accept some basic principles of public health," he emphasised.

He listed two elements of public health that must be factored as part of the overall strategy and solution. "The element of prevention, which is to take the necessary precautions to minimise the risk of being affected by any form of ailment, and the curative element, which means having been afflicted or affected, we must ensure that infrastructure is there to solve the problems we encounter," he added.

Dr. Tufton said in reality, the preventative side of health care is often overlooked and most times it is more important than the curative side, because prevention is cheaper than cure. "Prevention does not bring pain and suffering. It avoids the need to be hospitalised, or take medication or stop from work, to watch loved ones suffer and costs you money," he said.

Thanking all the stakeholders who made the clinic a reality, Dr. Tufton said it is an example of partnership and a demonstration of the vision shared by many.

"This vision of public health and wellness, community development, sharing and caring, love for each other and being our brother's keeper has come through a network of collaboration and cooperation from Chicago to Florida," the Minister said.

Meanwhile, Director of Distribution Services, FFTP Jamaica, Craig Moss-Solomon, encouraged prospective users to take care of the facility. He said that as the healthcare needs of Jamaicans increased, FFTP would remain committed to providing whatever support it could.

"As we witness this vibrant and historic opening, FFTP hopes this building will boost the service offerings at the centre, while continuing to provide child health, family planning, antenatal and curative services," Mr. Moss-Solomon said.

Meanwhile, donor of the funds which built the clinic, Denise Di Biase, said her late husband Stephen, who was a scientist, knew the importance of medical care for all.

"God is good. He brought us all together – me from Chicago and all you wonderful people from Moravia and surrounding areas. We thank you for letting us be part of this wonderful project and we wish you all good things as you experience the love, compassion and healing of Jesus Christ," she said.



Health Minister, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (second right), cuts the ribbon to officially open the new Type One Health Centre at Moravia, in Clarendon, on Friday, August 17. Others (from left) are: Senior Field Advisor, Food For The Poor Jamaica, Delane Bailey-Herd; Minister of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture & Fisheries, Hon. Audley Shaw; Donor, Denise Di Biase; Retired Registered Midwife, Elaine Robinson; Clarendon Parish Manager, Southern Regional Health Authority, Joseph Grant; Land Manager for the Moravian Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, Anthony Tomlinson; Deputy Chairman, Southern Regional Health Authority, Michael Stern; and Member of Parliament for North West Clarendon, Richard Azan.

In The News: Southern Regional Health Authority

Good Samaritans Enjoy Giving Back to Health and Education

CEO of the Percy Junor Hospital (PJH), Carlton Nichols (right) presents a plaque of appreciation to Oswald (centre) and Elfreda Dixon of the Rachael Dixon Foundation after being presented with a donation of two hospital beds valued at US \$3, 873.00. The Christiana Health Centre was gifted with 50 boxes of gauze, 100 boxes of gloves, 150 packs of adult diapers, walkers and wheelchairs.

Mr. Nichols thanked the Foundation for its continued support to the PJH, and the Devon, Spaulding and Christiana Health Centres in Manchester over the years.



The donation was made at a prize giving ceremony on Friday, August 31 at the Hibernia Restored Pentecostal Church in Manchester. Scores of children also received school supplies and scholarships from the Foundation.

Mr. Dixon, a businessman shared his happiness in supporting the community in the areas of health education, which he believes are critical areas of development for Jamaica. The Rachael Dixon Foundation was established 12 years ago in honour of Mr. Dixon's mother.

Facilities on the Move

Staff Trained in Foot Care to Further Impact Lives

Scores of Community Health Aides across the region have been trained in foot care, in an effort to boost their competency and knowledge on the appropriate care of the feet. The training in Foot Care Assistant Level 1 was held from August 7 to 13 at the Mandeville Parish Church in Manchester and was facilitated by the World Walk Foundation, Jamaica Chapter and sponsored by the Australian High Commission through the Council of Volunteer Social Services. The sessions were facilitated by Mr. Owen Bernard.

Please see below highlights.



Facilities on the Move

Graduates: Manchester Health Services Certified Event Planners

After successfully completing the Event Planning and Coordinating course from the Heart Trust, NTA, the participants from the Manchester Health Services graduated on Wednesday, August 29.

Please see below photo highlights.



Staff Highlight

SRHA Regional Office Staff Participate in Event Planning Management Course

Staff members from the SRHA Regional Office have been participating in the course Event Planning and Management, by the Heart Trust, NTA. As part of the completion of the course, the participants did a practical aspect, which was the opening of the Moravia Health Centre in Clarendon. The course is being facilitated by lecturer, Ms. Tricia Hausen.

Please see below highlights.



THANK YOU

The Southern Regional Health Authority expresses heartfelt gratitude to the sponsors who supported the opening of the Moravia Health Centre.

- Guardsman Group Limited
- Niche Financing Ltd.
- Mrs. Rosa Joseph
- Brentwood Construction
- Peter's Place Limited
- Sonia's Construction
- Dr. Hyacinth Hue
- Kenneth and Sheila Benjamin
- Bioden Chemicals Limited
- Cornwall Medical & Dental Supplies Ltd.
- Care Plus Pharmacy
- Veronica Stokes
- Candice Vernon
- Karen Reid- Brown

Staff Highlight

Congratulations: 2018 Jamaica Library Service Reading Competition Champion

The Southern Regional Health Authority congratulates Daniel Lyle, 2018 National Champion of the Jamaica Library Service Reading Competition.

Daniel is the son of Dorcia Brown Lyle, Nurse Manager at the Black River Hospital in St. Elizabeth. Mrs Brown Lyle who is also the In-Service Education Officer at the hospital, successfully staged the first Spring Symposium on April 25 and 26 at the St. Elizabeth Parish Library.

Daniel was also the champion at the St. Elizabeth parish finals. At the national competition, Daniel won sectional prizes including best essay.

Following his success, Daniel met with Governor General, His Excellency The Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen.

Please see below photo highlights.



Daniel meets Governor General, His Excellency The Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen (right). Looking on is a representative from the Jamaica Library Service.



2018 National Champion of the Jamaica Library Service Reading Competition, Daniel Lyle.



Daniel and mom Dorcia Brown Lyle.





Dr. Vincent Williamson

**Consultant Obstetrician/Gynaecologist
May Pen Hospital**

“The Customer Service Doctor”



At a time when the Health Ministry is aiming to improve the experience of customers at public health facilities through its compassionate care and volunteerism programme; one doctor is doing his part by delivering care with compassion.

In fact, Consultant Obstetrician/Gynaecologist at the May Pen Hospital (MPH), Dr. Vincent Williamson is described as the ‘customer service doctor’, who believes in loving his patients and “treating them as you would want your family members to be treated; always showing respect to all and never being afraid or too proud to ask for help, personal or professional.”

Having served in public health since 1995, Dr. Williamson has been providing exceptional services in the southern region since 2011. He notes that the experience has been a good one, adding that at all levels within the Southern Regional Health Authority, there is excellent support and collaboration.

As Head of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology (OB/GYN) department, Dr. Williamson explains that his responsibilities include organizing and managing the department to ensure excellent patient care and satisfaction; ensuring continued improvement in staff education and training; collaborating to transform the hospital in general, and the department in particular into centres of excellence; lecturing medical students and preparing and conducting examinations, in addition to patient management and other responsibilities.

Given his excellent leadership qualities, Dr. Williamson has acted as Senior Medical Officer for the MPH. He says that for five years he conducted outreach OB/GYN clinics at the Chapelton and Lionel Town Hospitals in Clarendon, which for him, has been a fulfilling experience. He notes that these clinics, which are ongoing have enhanced the relationship with the staff from primary health care and allowed for greater collaboration and has also boosted services for patients..

Dr. Williamson wears several hats and currently serves as Senior Associate Lecturer at the University of the West Indies in the Department of OB/GYN; Department Chair in OB/GYN, Clinical Preceptor Windsor University Medical School; Associate Lecturer at the Caribbean School of Medical Sciences Jamaica and Examiner in OB/GYN, Caribbean Medical Council and Undergraduate and Post Graduate Examiner OB/GYN UWI.

Guided by the philosophy, “when mediocrity is the standard, normal then becomes extraordinary, avoid mediocrity”, Dr. Williamson believes that with God at the centre, all inspiration begins with the basic need to show love and to serve. He adds that “satisfaction and happiness of all whom I interact (family, friends, colleagues ,students and patients), motivate me to do well at all times.”

He notes that his desire for Jamaica at this time is peace and prosperity for all Jamaicans, which he believes can only be achieved when there is love and respect for all. He adds that the most important life lesson he has learnt is to always listen.

An admirer of the actor, Tom Cruise and singers Dennis Brown and Kenny Rogers, Dr. Williamson is a Christian and married to wife Georgia. He has three children, Vanessa, Victoria and Vincent 111.

Wellness Bytes

"Fire Safety"

Credit:
Ministry of Health



Health & Wellness

Safety tips during the dry season to reduce the chances of fire include:

- Do not discard cigarettes from moving vehicles – use ashtrays. Lit cigarettes do cause fires and can be disastrous in times of drought and high fire risk.
- When pulling off the side of the road, stay away from dry grass areas.
- Park vehicles so that the exhaust does not come in contact with dry grass, leaves or weeds.
- Avoid cooking outdoors during this drought season. If you do cook, never leave barbecue grills unattended.
- Place your grill on concrete or your driveway away from your home or any structures.
- If using charcoal or wood, make sure that the fire has been extinguished by soaking it with a garden hose before disposing of the coals.
- Cut back or remove any dry and dead landscaping plants or bushes around your home.
- Clear leaves from your roof and gutters; rake them away from the sides of your home.
- Move anything that will burn far away from structures, items like firewood, compost piles, brush piles, etc.
- Notify the electric company when dead trees or overhanging limbs endanger the electric wires.
- Practice fire safety with your family. If you see suspicious fire or smoke, call the fire department.
- Plan escape routes away from your home by car and foot. Have a meeting place with your family.

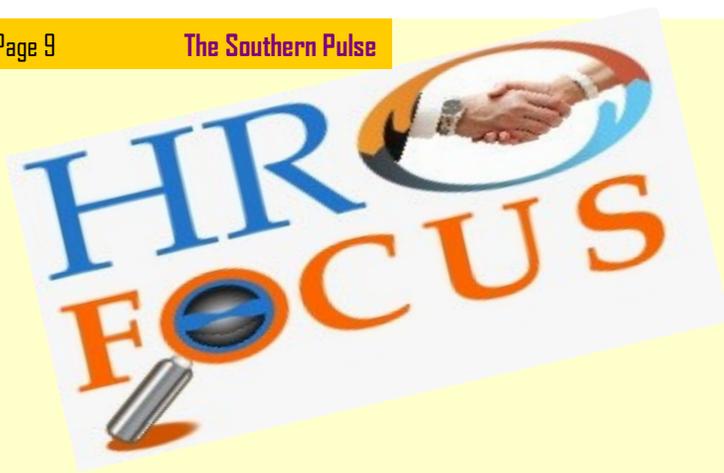


When a woman says "What?", it's not because she didn't hear you.

She's giving you a chance to change what you said.

The Lighter Side





HR And You:

“HOURS of WORK”

3.1 DETERMINATION

- i) The hours of work for each category of staff employed in the Central Government Service shall be as determined by the Minister with responsibility for the Public Service;
- ii) Permanent Secretaries/Heads of Departments may propose work schedules for the approval of the Minister responsible for the Public Service, based upon the nature of the operation, the exigencies of the service, and in order to ensure quality service to the public;
- iii) Any hours of work or work schedules established must allow for scheduled breaks which shall be arranged between managers and employees. Any such arrangement must ensure an appropriate level of service to the public at all times;

3.2 ATTENDANCE

- i) Public Officers are required to observe the established hours of work (work schedules), to arrive punctually and to be in attendance during the hours prescribed. Failure to comply could lead to disciplinary measures;
- ii) Managers and supervisors shall establish mechanisms and procedures to monitor and record the punctuality and attendance of employees within their jurisdiction;

3.3 ALTERNATIVE WORK ARRANGEMENTS

A variety of alternative work arrangements may be applied, subject to the approval of the Minister

responsible for the Public Service, in order to improve productivity, improve the working conditions of employees, and especially to improve the quality of service to the public.

3.3.1 Compressed Work Week

Employees may be allowed to work the required number of hours within a compressed period, thereby allowing for additional periods of continuous time for personal activities.

3.3.2 Flexible Work Schedule

The hours of operation may be extended to respond to service demands and the hours of work for employees may be staggered within the extended period, such that the entire period is adequately staffed and each employee works the required number of hours.

3.4 EXCESS HOURS OF WORK

Any time worked in excess of the required hours of work is to be recorded and dealt with in accordance with established provisions/procedures.

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

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