



# ASPIRE

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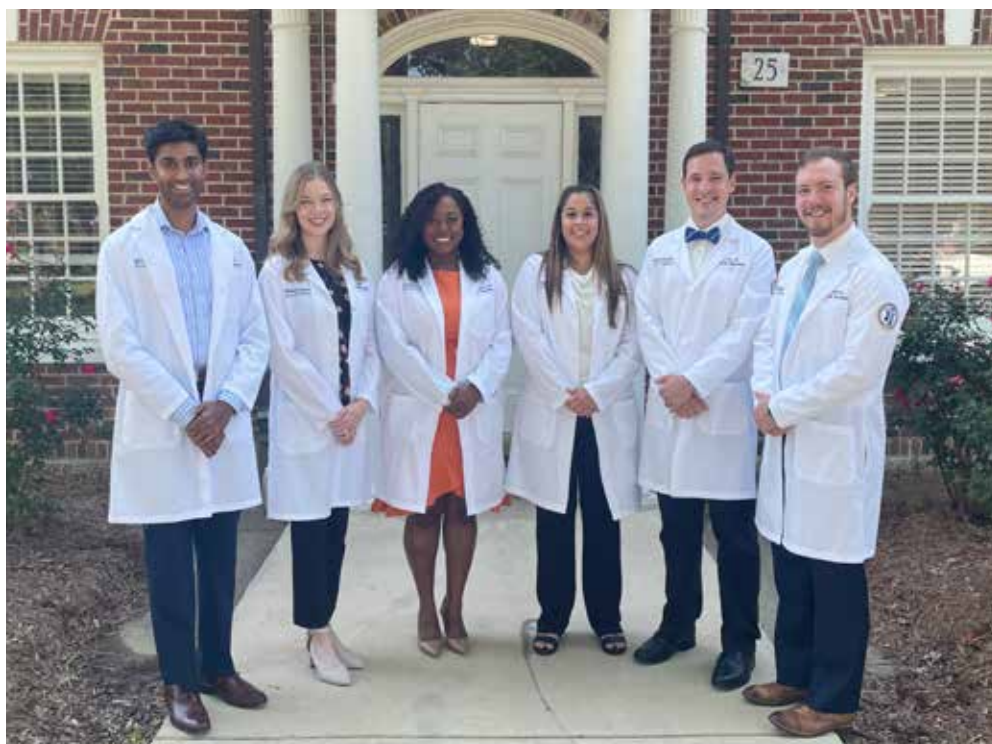
## Mississippi State Hospital Psychiatry Residents - Class of 2028

*By: Julie Cox*

On July 1, the newest class of Psychiatry Residents began clinical duty on the MSH campus. The Psychiatry Residency program is a four-year accredited program that accepts six residents each year. Heading into its fourth year, the arrival of the latest group marks the first time the program will operate at full capacity.

Dr. Jon Jackson, Program Director, shared that this year, the MSH Psychiatry Residency program received over 500 applicants for the six positions available. The team interviewed over 80 applicants, with all six positions matching in the initial round of the National Resident Matching Program. All residents selected are from the south, and three are Mississippi natives.

Welcome to Mississippi State Hospital, Class of 2028!



*Pictured (l to r) – Bijoy Sam, DO, Candace Wicht, DO, Kanieshawa Kelly, MD, MS, Heather Villarreal, MD, Kyle Cooper, MD, and Luther Ward, DO*

## Rowzee Promoted to Charge Nurse on Building 43



Rebecca Rowzee has been promoted to the position of Charge Nurse on Forensics, Building 43. She has spent 19 of the last 22 years working as a Registered Nurse in Forensics Services at MSH. Rowzee enjoys working with the patient population in which we serve at MSH and relishes seeing progress in the clients to offer them a better quality of life. Kamekia Grant, Forensics DON, shared, "With Rebecca as Nurse Team Lead on building 43, maximum security forensics, I am grateful for the exceptional support that she provides me as Director of Nursing for Forensic Services at Mississippi State Hospital."

Rowzee graduated from Ethel High School in Attala County and attended Hinds Community College, where she earned an Associate Degree in Nursing. In her new position, Rowzee will serve as the Charge Nurse on Building 43, providing nursing leadership, coordinating patient care, and advocating needs of the patients.

Rowzee lives in Jones County with her two sons who keep her busy with band and baseball. In her free time, she enjoys crafting, thrift shopping, and spending quality time with her children.

# Employee Appreciation Event – Buildings 31 & 33

By: Julie Cox

Sherelda Jones, JNH Administrator, and Shareone Green, CUO, don't think you should wait for a special occasion to let employees know they are appreciated. On July 3, they took matters in their own hands and prepared meals for the 30+ employees that take care of the residents at Jaquith Nursing Home, Buildings 31 and 33.

Feeding all three shifts, for breakfast employees enjoyed sausage biscuits, donuts, fruit cups, orange juice, and coffee. For lunch/dinner, employees dined on homemade Cajun and shrimp pasta, green beans, salad, bread, tea and a 7Up Pound Cake.

Ms. Jones expressed that, "The buildings have been short-handed and our employees have been working hard to take care of the residents, working in areas beyond their own. We wanted to show them that we appreciate what they are doing each day." Jones added, "We can't give them money, so this was our way of saying, 'Thank You for all you do. We see and appreciate your efforts.'"

While Ms. Jones did the cooking, she and Ms. Green worked together in planning and hosting the event. Ms. Green shared, "Our staff is our family, everyone from housekeeping, pastoral care, nurses, doctors, and support staff. We all work together to take care of our residents and do what needs to be done."

Angela Williams serves as a Support Care Professional on Building 33. Williams said, "Our administrator and CUO go above and beyond to help staff feel supported. They make you want to do your best when you come to work. The event made me feel appreciated." She added, "The food was delicious, I really enjoyed the cake!"

Joy Allen serves as a Registered Nurse on Building 33. Allen recognized that it took a lot of time and effort to put the event together. Allen said, "It was convenient for the event to be held in our building because we are short-handed so we didn't have to worry about finding coverage, it was convenient and accessible to everyone. It was very thoughtful and it felt nice to be recognized."



*Pictured: Shareone Green, CUO and Sherelda Jones, JNH Administrator*



# MSH July Employees of Month



**DIRECT CARE**  
**LATONIA DIXON**  
**BUILDING 78, A-SHIFT**

LaTonia Dixon has been named Mississippi State Hospital's July Employee of the Month for Direct Care.

A resident of Braxton, Dixon attended Mendenhall High School, Hinds Community College, and Academy of Hair Design. She has earned an associate degree in Accounting and holds an Instructor License in Barber and Cosmetology. She enjoys knowing that she can provide meaningful care with a compassionate spirit to all her residents at MSH who may be struggling due to an illness or injury. She serves as a Support Care Professional II at Jaquith Nursing Home and has been employed at MSH since 2023.

"Ms. Dixon is always at work, works alone many days, and never complains. She is willing to do whatever is needed to make sure our residents needs are met. Recently, one of our family members mentioned her specifically because we had been unable to get her brother in the shower. Ms. Dixon has been able to get him to shower and shave multiple times a week. She is pleasant and professional in her interactions with staff and residents," said June McCafferty, who nominated Dixon.



**CLINICAL SERVICE**  
**KINA WOODS**  
**BUILDING 67, A-SHIFT**

Kina Woods has been named Mississippi State Hospital's July Employee of the Month for Clinical Service.

A resident of Byram, Woods grew up in Natchez where she attended Natchez High School. She also attended Alcorn State where she earned an associate degree in Nursing, Mississippi University for Women, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Nursing, and Louisiana State University, where she earned a Master of Health Administration. She enjoys seeing the positive outcomes from the decisions she and hospital staff make for patients at MSH. She serves as a RN/Infection Prevention in Service Outcome and has been employed at MSH since 2009.

"I consider Kina my other half at work. She is what makes us the "A Team" or "Dream Team". She goes above and beyond in her job. She is always willing and ready to jump into action when a task is put in front of her. She not only does an outstanding job completing her duties, but mine as well. She didn't bat an eye when I needed help during a difficult time and covered my duties until I returned. Kina treats others with respect and has a "let's get the job done" way about her. She is always a team player and a great co-worker," said Misty Purvis, who nominated Woods.



**SUPPORT SERVICES**  
**DEENA MULLINS**  
**BUILDING 21, A-SHIFT**

Deena Mullins has been named Mississippi State Hospital's July Employee of the Month for Support Services.

A resident of Harrisville, Mullins attended West Union High School and the University of Southern Mississippi, where she studied General Business. Being exposed to the mental health field at an early age, she has come to have a deep compassion for the clients and families that are served at MSH. Working in admissions and seeing the legal aspect of the facility, she developed a deeper understanding of the services provided at MSH. She likes that MSH has become her second family. She serves as an Accountant II in Fiscal Services and has been employed at MSH since 2000.

"Deena Mullins goes over and beyond with every task she takes on. Her knowledge and understanding of policies and procedures are shared and utilized daily. I can't think of anyone more deserving to be selected as employee of the month," said Tina Perry, who nominated Mullins.

# Friends Of Mississippi State Hospital Hold 2023 Annual Meeting

Friends of Mississippi State Hospital held its annual meeting on Tuesday, August 20. During the meeting, officers were selected and projects for the upcoming year were approved. The main attraction was recognition of individuals who have dedicated their time and resources to enhance the quality of life for our patients and residents.

Mr. Ray Wallace, Friends of MSH President, welcomed a packed room of guests to the meeting, with Mr. Gale Martin, Friends Board Member Emeritus, giving the invocation. Mr. Jessie Buckley, Board Member Emeritus, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Wallace then recognized Board Members and special guests in attendance. Mr. James G. Chastain took the podium to present the Nancy B. Foreman Award, the Vivian Shivers Award, and the Jerald D. Ball – Together We Make a Difference Award.

The Nancy B. Foreman Award was presented to the Jackson MS Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. This award was established in appreciation of the dedication and service of Ms. Nancy B. Foreman, who was one of seven people to sign the charter to establish the Friends organization in 1987. She served as President from 1989 to 1993 and remained an active Board member until her death. She traveled throughout the state at her own expense to educate the public about mental illness and served as a tireless advocate for Mississippi State Hospital. She also led grassroots advocacy efforts with the legislature. Ms. Foreman inspired her family, friends, and community and continuously encouraged them to volunteer at MSH. Her daughter, Anne, followed her as President of Friends from 1993 to 1995. This award is given each year to an individual or group who has demonstrated through their service, their commitment to enhancing the quality of life for persons with mental illness.

The Jackson MS Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has been



involved in providing Christmas parties and activities at Mississippi State Hospital for more than 25 years. They currently visit the Continued Treatment Programs in Buildings 45 and 46. Nothing stops these ladies, even during COVID they made sure our patients were not forgotten and arranged special deliveries for them.

Chapter members volunteer at MSH each year because it allows them to impact the families and communities they serve while showing their commitment to one of the sorority's programmatic thrust, which is

Physical and Mental Health. Members are also driven to volunteer at MSH for personal reasons, including a desire to give back to the community, a passion for mental health, and supporting individuals with mental illness. For them, volunteering at MSH is a way to make a positive impact on the lives of patients and staff and a chance to give back to the community while gaining valuable insights and contributing to a cause they care about.

The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is a private, not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to provide assistance and support through established programs in local communities throughout the world. With a rich history of sisterhood, scholarship, and service that spans more than 80 years, they proudly serve our community and look forward to continuing to have a prominent presence with a focus on service for decades to come.

Mr. Chastain presented this special award to Ms. Gloria Ball, Physical and Mental Health Committee Chair, and Ms. Nakisha Davis, President. Ms. Davis spoke on behalf of the group and shared, "On behalf of the Jackson Alumnae Chapter of the





452 women I represent today, we would like to give an extreme thank you to the Friends of Mississippi State Hospital. We look forward to continuing the service we do in the community and at Mississippi State Hospital." Ms. Ball added, "We chose Mississippi State Hospital in order to focus on physical and mental health, which is one of our sorority's five-point programmatic thrusts. We visit MSH once a year and enjoy uplifting the ladies receiving treatment, as well as the staff. We are very surprised by this award and look forward to being here in December to support these ladies again."

St. Mark Church was selected as recipient of the Vivian Shivers Award. Formerly the Helping Hands Award, this award was established in 2006 and renamed in 2009 to honor Ms. Vivian Shivers. Ms. Shivers began her career as a Registered Nurse at MSH in 1976 in one of the original tuberculosis wards, and later served in Jaquith Nursing Home. After



her retirement in 1987, she remained an active volunteer and advocate for MSH until her death in 2009. She served as both President and Vice-President of the Friends organization and was active on numerous committees. She routinely attended and volunteered at special patient/resident events and activities. Ms. Shivers was selected as the MSH Volunteer of the Year for the Mississippi Hospital Association in 2001. In addition to her service at MSH, she was a loved and respected member of her community and church in Magee, MS.

This award was established to honor an individual or group who represents the volunteer spirit and sets the standard for future generations. St. Mark Church has been active in volunteering at Mississippi State Hospital for more than 30 years. During that time, they have hosted Christmas parties and activities for hundreds of nursing home residents, most recently in Building 78, which currently



has 45 beds, all males with a wide range of abilities and disabilities. It would be a challenge for any organization but not for St. Mark. They were never more important to our residents than during COVID when direct contact from the outside world, even their families, was restricted or not allowed at all. Through it all, St. Mark continued their Christmas mission by providing for those residents regardless of the pandemic. As soon as volunteers were allowed to come back in 2022, they were one of the first groups to call.

One of the more well-known benefits of volunteering is the impact on the community. Volunteering allows you to connect to your community, help people feel less isolated, and make the world a better place. Even helping out with the smallest tasks can make a real difference to the lives of people and organizations. St. Mark truly makes a difference for Jaquith Nursing Home and Mississippi State Hospital. We are so grateful for their continued support.



Mr. Chastain presented this special award to Ms. Ophelia Kelly, Ms. Emma L. Taylor, and Pastor Willis Washington, Jr. Ms. Kelly, who was one of the original members of the group that began visiting MSH over 30 years ago, shared, "St. Mark looked at the community and decided we wanted to have a ministry that focused on a population that the rest of the world might overlook. That is when we decided on Jaquith Nursing Home at Mississippi State Hospital. We wanted to share God's love by communicating His love to these residents."

The Jerald D. Ball Award recognizes businesses or organizations in the community who have given exemplary service to MSH. This year, the Mississippi Museum of Art was chosen for this





*Jerald D. Ball - Together We Make a Difference Award – Mississippi Museum of Art | Ms. Marjorie Ball, Lydia Jasper, Assistant Curator of the Permanent Collection and 35th Serendipity Guest Curator, James G. “Bo” Chastain, MSH Hospital Director*



*Nancy B. Foreman Award – Delta Sigma Theta | Nakisha Davis, President, Jacqueline Lampley, Kendra Shell, Gloria Ball, Physical and Mental Health Committee Chair, Teneshia Smith, Physical and Mental Health Committee Co-chair, Megan Bass, Yolanda Robinson*



*Vivian Shivers Award – St. Mark Church | Emma L. Taylor, Pastor Willis Washington, Jr., Ophelia Kelly, Pastor Willis Washington, James G. “Bo” Chastain, MSH Hospital Director*

recognition. Originally named the Together We Make a Difference Award, the name was changed in 2018 to honor Mr. Jerald D. Ball. Mr. Ball began his career at MSH in 1984 when he became the Director of Volunteer Services. He immediately developed a plan to recruit and retain volunteers, provide needed clothing through a donation center, and provide for all patients/residents during the holiday season. He also developed “Santa Day” where business leaders, legislators, and others dressed as Santa Claus to personally deliver the bags to every individual served by the hospital.

Mr. Ball also sowed the seeds for Friends of MSH and was a charter member in 1987. This coming year, Friends will provide more than \$20,000 for projects. After his retirement in 2005, Mr. Ball remained an avid supporter and volunteer at MSH until his death in 2018. His programs will continue to reap dividends for our patients and residents well into the future. Mr. Jerald Ball exemplified the spirit of volunteer service, and spent his professional and personal life promoting and nurturing that spirit in others.

Earlier this year, the Mississippi Museum of Art invited the MSH Art Program to feature a “Sneak Peek” of the 35th Annual Serendipity Art Show & Silent Auction. The Serendipity exhibit opened on Thursday, June 6th, with a special reception for the artists. Artists arrived at the museum and were greeted with an impressive display of their artwork. Each piece was hung and identified by a museum label that included the artist’s name, name of the piece, materials of the work, and a quote from the artist.

Wyatt Waters, renowned watercolor artist, and Ron Lindsey, former MSH Art Instructor, made a surprise visit and viewed the entire collection of artwork. After the viewing, the artists gathered in the Community Room of the MMA for refreshments and were presented with a certificate of recognition mounted in a special Serendipity Sneak Peek folder with a photo of their artwork and personal quote printed inside. The certificates were presented by Lydia Jasper, Assistant Curator of the Permanent Collection and 35th Serendipity Guest Curator, Ceci Whitehurst, MSH Art Services Supervisor,





*Front row - Bo Blanks (Administrative Appointee), Marilyn Garth, Jessie Buckley, Jeannie Pittman, Betty Harpe, Joel Ross  
Second row - Tim Durr, Kim Edwards (Vice President), Diane Croxton, Amy Walker (President), Carolyn Trigg, Lynn Dilmore, Gale Martin, Sheila Shows (Secretary)  
Third row - Ray Wallace, Dee Payne (Treasurer), Bobby Stephens, Tony Gomillion, Bill Bobbs, James G. "Bo" Chastain  
Not pictured - Kathy Denton (Liaison Officer), Ruth Walker, Daniel Elliott*



and Ricky Shelby, MSH Art Instructor. Afterwards, Waters and Lindsey worked their way around the room discussing various art topics with the MSH artists. The MSH Music Department Trio was in attendance and performed during the opening adding a special flair to the event.

The Serendipity Sneak Peek was in conjunction with the Noah Saterstrom show, "What Became of Dr. Smith". It explores the story of Noah's great-grandfather, a traveling optometrist, who disappeared in 1924. His years-long search yielded evidence of a complex set of events that resulted in Dr. Smith's institutionalization for 40 years at the MS Insane Asylum in Jackson, and later at MSH. Presented as a narrative painting of 183 canvases that together span 122 feet, the exhibit is a visual culmination of the story. The exhibit expands on Saterstrom and the Asylum Hill Projects shared goal of acknowledging those marginalized by society due to mental illness.

The Serendipity Sneak Peek exhibit ran from June 6 until August 12. We are

thankful for Mississippi Museum of Art's support of the MSH Art Program as well as their commitment to mental health awareness.

Ms. Marjorie Ball, widow of Mr. Jerald Ball, and Mr. Chastain presented this special award to Ms. Lydia Jasper, Assistant Curator of the Permanent Collection and 35th Serendipity Guest Curator.

Ms. Jasper shared, "People were interested to know what the exhibition was about, we were able to utilize the Serendipity pamphlets with information (about the hospital and the program) so it was really great for the community that didn't know anything about the State Hospital or the programs it offered to be able to interact in that way. It brought a lot of questions and smiles so it was really great to see the public engaged in a different way.

Ceci (Whitehurst) and Ricky (Shelby) (MSH Art Services) did a really great job of letting people know about the Serendipity Sneak Peek, so we had a lot of visitors that came to the museum for that exhibit and



stayed to visit (other parts of) the museum.

I wasn't expecting an award because it just felt like a natural thing for us to do at the Art Museum. Our mission is to connect the community and the power of art together and it just felt like the natural thing to do with this exhibit. We hope to see how we can connect with the State Hospital in other ways."

The annual meeting continued with committee reports from Sheila Shows for Finance, and Kathy Denton for Projects/Events and Nominations. Two new board members were elected, Ms. Lynn Dilmore and Mr. Joel Ross.

Lynn Dilmore retired from MSH in 2015. During her time at MSH, she worked for the Director of Rehab Services, Public Relations, and Clinical Director. Ms. Dilmore also worked in finance and insurance for over 20 years. She is a

member of Mendenhall Church of God, where she has taught the Adult Sunday School class for over 30 years. She has also served as Ladies Ministry President and worked in Children's Church Ministries. Ms. Dilmore loves to cook, read, travel, and spend time with her grandsons. She loves to bake cookies, cinnamon rolls, and fresh bread to share with others. She has been a member and advocate for Friends of MSH for over 20 years and has volunteered for numerous events since her retirement. She continues to support various projects, as well as the Christmas House. Ms. Dilmore is from Mendenhall and has been married to Mike Dilmore for 49 years. They have three children, Jon, Blair, and Nic, and two grandsons, Lawson and Kye.

Joel Ross is President of Bank Plus of Rankin County, which has been a major supporter of Friends of MSH, Inc. BankPlus has served as the Title Sponsor of the annual Farmer Jim Neal Golf Classic

for over 20 years. Ross has been involved in various promotion efforts for this event. In addition to supporting the Friends organization, Ross is an active board member of Merit Health Women's Hospital and Metro YMCA. He received a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Mississippi, with an emphasis in Banking and Finance in 1987. In 2018, he was selected as the winner of the James C. Stubbs Volunteer Award. He is a member of Pinelake Church and enjoys fishing, hunting, golf, and spending time with his family. Ross and his wife, Susan, have been married for 40 years and have two sons, Grant and Peyton. They have three grandchildren, Ben, Tilly, and Faye.

A reception followed the meeting, while guests got an opportunity to preview some of the artwork for Serendipity Art Show and Silent Auction.



By: Julie Cox

Alicia Brown has been named the new Director of Nursing (DON) for Whitfield Medical Surgical Hospital (WMSH). She has served as an agency nurse at MSH since October 2023, working on multiple buildings. Prior to joining MSH, Brown served as a Nurse Manager at Tyson Foods and DON with Community Elder Care Services. She has also worked in the

## BROWN IS NEW DON AT WMSH

hospice unit at the Jackson VA Center.

Growing up in Meridian caring for family members, Brown knew she wanted to become a nurse to learn how to better take care of her family's medical needs. She graduated from West Lauderdale High School, where she played basketball and ran track, earning an athletic scholarship. Brown declined the athletic scholarship, opting to accept an academic scholarship to pursue nursing. She received an Associate degree in Nursing from Meridian Community College and a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Mississippi University for Women.

Brown has come to love the culture at MSH, describing the campus as, "calm and soothing and the environment as a place of helping and healing, where the staff works as one accord." She looks forward to working with WMSH staff

to provide the best possible care for patients and residents, while ensuring the cleanliness and efficiency of the hospital environment. Nurse Executive, Angela Howell shared, "Nursing Services would like to welcome our new WMSH Director of Nursing, Alicia Brown. We look forward to working with her and through her leadership accomplishing excellence."

As a single parent for many years, Brown raised three children on her own. She eventually remarried and adopted her husband's two children. Her husband is very supportive of her commitment to her nursing passion. "Never miss an opportunity to help someone," is a motto she lives by and has instilled in her children. In her free time, she enjoys supporting her children's activities, shopping at estate sales, attending auctions, and playing horseshoes in the backyard with her husband.



# Nursing and Pharmacy Leaders Tour Building 63

By: Julie Cox

Recently, Angela Howell, Nurse Executive, along with Vicky Veazey, Pharmacy Director, toured Building 63, which is the new Forensics Building that is currently under renovation. They discussed building logistics that will impact the care of patients with and Kamekia Grant, Director of Nursing (B43, B87, B90), and Rebecca Rowzee, Nurse Team Lead (B43). John Matthew, Codaray Superintendent, and Clay Therrell, MSH Project Manager, led the tour and were on-hand to provide details and answer questions. The building is expected to be complete by the end of 2024.



*Vicki Veazey, Rebecca Rowzee, Clay Therrell, John Matthew, Kamekia Grant, Angela Howell*



*Rebecca Rowzee, Vicki Veazey, Kamekia Grant, and Angela Howell inspected one of the Nurses' Stations on Building 63.*

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# 2024 July & August 20+ Years of Service Recognition

July



**VICKI VEAZEY**  
PHARMACY SUPERVISOR  
BUILDING 50, A-SHIFT

Vicki Veazey of Brandon was recognized for providing 25 years of service to the hospital. Ms. Veazey attended the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy. She likes knowing that she and her staff play a part in helping our patients and residents at MSH get the care they need every day. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family, attending sporting events, and traveling. She is a Pharmacy Supervisor and has been employed at MSH since 1999.

**ANNETRA S. JONES**  
SUPPORT CARE PROFESSIONAL III  
BUILDING 78, C-SHIFT

Annetra S. Jones of Pearl was recognized for providing 20 years of service to the hospital. She is a Support Care Professional III at Jaquith Nursing Home and has been employed at MSH since 2004.

**SHIRICE REED**  
PROGRAM SPECIALIST IV  
BUILDING 21, B-SHIFT

Shirice Reed of Jackson was recognized for providing 20 years of service to the hospital. Ms. Reed attended Calloway High School and Bailey Magnet. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Belhaven University and completed her Master of Public Policy and Administration at Jackson State University. She likes working with a myriad of different people at MSH. In her free time, she enjoys playing the flute piccolo and binge watching her favorite television shows. She is a Program Specialist IV in Evening and Night Administration and has been employed at MSH since 2004.

**STEPHANIE LYNN WARD**  
NURSE III  
BUILDING 90, A-SHIFT

Stephanie Lynn Ward of Brandon was recognized for providing 20 years of service to the hospital. She is a Nurse III in Nursing Services and has been employed at MSH since 2004.

August



**SIRIPHORN  
CHOTIVITTAYATHANIN**  
SUPPORT CARE PROFESSIONAL III  
BUILDING 67, A-SHIFT

Siriphorn Chotivittayathanin of Pearl was recognized for providing 20 years of service to the hospital. Ms. Chotivittayathanin attended Triamudom Suksapattanakarn School and Dusit Commercial College in Bangkok, Thailand. She earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology and Guidance at Phranaknon Rajabhat University in Thailand. She likes the interaction with residents and co-workers and making a difference at MSH each day. In her free time, she enjoys collecting stamps and cooking. She is a Support Care Professional III in Service Outcome and has been employed at MSH since 2004.

**JUDY BUCKNER**  
SUPPORT CARE PROFESSIONAL TEAM LEAD  
BUILDING 31, A-SHIFT

Judy Buckner of Terry was recognized for providing 30 years of service to the hospital. She is a Support Care Professional Team Lead at Jaquith Nursing Home and has been employed at MSH since 1994.



**TAMEKA L. CRAFT**

*SUPPORT CARE PROFESSIONAL III  
BUILDING 45, B-SHIFT*

Tameka L. Craft of Jackson was recognized for providing 20 years of service to the hospital. Ms. Craft attended Lanier High School and Hinds Community College. She likes bonding with her clients and team members at MSH. In her free time, she enjoys reading, writing poems, and taking care of her mother. She is a Support Care Professional III in IPS and has been employed at MSH since 2004.

**RHONDA LEE**

*SUPPORT CARE  
PROFESSIONAL TEAM LEAD  
BUILDING 28, C-SHIFT*

Rhonda Lee of Flora was recognized for providing 25 years of service to the hospital. She is a Support Care Professional Team Lead at Jaquith Nursing Home and has been employed at MSH since 1999..

**ZINAT REHANA KHANDEKAR**

*PHYSICIAN II  
BUILDING 31, A-SHIFT*

Zinat Rehana Khandekar of Brandon was recognized for providing 20 years of service to the hospital. She is a Physician II and has been employed at MSH since 2004.

## Mississippi Civil Commitment Process - HB 1640



*By: Julie Cox*

On Wednesday, July 17, law enforcement officers, chancery/circuit clerks, and community mental health providers gathered at Mississippi State Hospital (MSH) with the goal of learning about the changes to the commitment process and the provision of mental health services in Mississippi that took effect by the passage of HB 1640. Representatives from MSH and the Department of Mental Health (DMH) provided some background on HB 1640 and included a presentation and handouts detailing the

changes to the process, including the areas of Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) Reporting, Civil Commitment Flowchart, People Waiting in Jail, Transportation, Time Frame for Hearing, Annual Training, and Guardianship or Conservatorship.

James G. "Bo" Chastain, FACHE, Director of MSH, welcomed guests and stressed how important the partnership is with everyone in the room and how valuable it is to the State of Mississippi. He then provided an overview of the CMHC quarterly reporting process and

requirements. Each CMHC will provide a quarterly report to the board of supervisors in each county of their region and DMH. Reports will include the occupancy percentage reported by the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) in the region, number of individuals held in jail after the commitment process has been initiated and the number of individuals the CMHC provided treatment to while they were in jail, number of pre-affidavit screenings conducted, number of individuals diverted to a lesser restrictive alternate from commitment, number of CSU unit denials and the reason for denial, summary



report of Medicaid claims, and cash balance as of the date of the end of the quarter.

Dr. Tom Recore, Medical Director for DMH, outlined the civil commitment process, walking attendees through a detailed civil commitment flowchart and the technical requirements of holding people in jail. The flowchart contained a detailed guide for each scenario throughout the decision-making process and referenced the sections of Mississippi Code that apply. Before holding someone in jail, the CMHC must explore and exhaust all other options, including CSUs, hospitals, etc. In addition, the chancellor must authorize the jail hold, and the person must be actively violent. A person cannot remain in jail for longer than 24 hours and the CMHC must provide treatment during this timeframe while pending placement at an appropriate facility. An additional 24 hours can be requested by the CMHC and must be approved by the chancellor.

MaCall Chastain, General Counsel for DMH, provided the details of transportation provisions, outlined the time frame for holding a hearing, explained the requirement of DMH

to hold annual training for chancery and circuit clerks (provided opportunities for 2024), and explained guardianship and conservatorships. Transportation provisions allows transportation inside or outside the county for a person to access the treatment they need if they are waiting on a bed related to civil commitment. The state currently has 196 Crisis Stabilization beds throughout the state, if a bed is not available in one region, there is a vacant bed in another region. Chancery clerks and CMHCs can see where CSU beds are available through a bed registry, which is updated daily. Previously, the law required chancellors to hold a hearing within 5-10 days. HB 1640 reduces that timeframe to 3-5 days. An extension of an additional 5 days can be requested. DMH will provide training on civil commitment procedures to chancery and circuit court clerks annually. Any healthcare practitioner who conducts the commitment physical and mental examinations may also, at the time of conducting examinations, provide the certification necessary for establishing a guardianship or conservatorship.

Chastain returned to the podium to discuss the

goals of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DMH, State Hospitals, and CMHCs/Crisis Stabilization Units (CSUs). These goals include: Provide ready access to the appropriate level of care needed by individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis. Prevent unnecessary use of jails as holding facilities. Prevent unnecessary admissions to state hospitals. Collaboratively communicate with the Chancery Clerks, Chancery Judges, and Sheriffs to inform them on changes made by the Legislature to the civil commitment laws. Make maximum utilization of each region's CSU bed capacity. Expand State Hospital admission hours to include Saturdays and Sundays to expedite referral of civilly committed individuals served in CSUs who need admission to a State Hospital.

Julie Johnson, Director of MSH Utilization Management, and Lisa Nichols, Director of MSH Admissions, discussed the MSH weekend admissions process, providing step-by-step scenarios for a successful admission.

Guests then had an opportunity to ask the panel questions before enjoying lunch together.



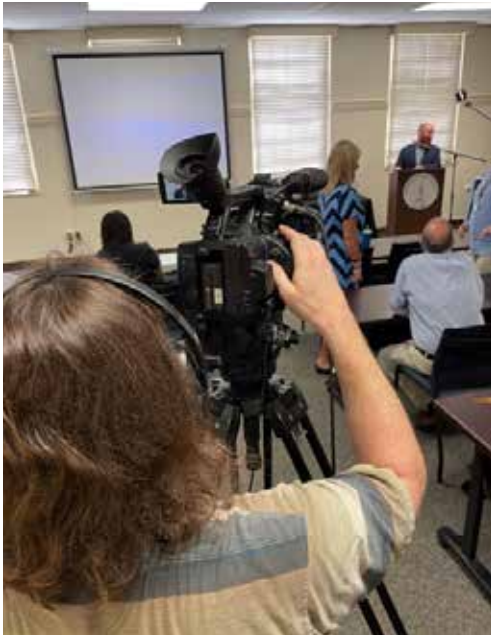
# Brown Bag Session Hosted by Dr. Tom Recore

By: Julie Cox

Dr. Tom Recore, DMH Medical Director, hosted a Brown Bag Session on Wednesday, July 31 in the Public Relations Conference Room on Building 71 to answer questions about HB 1640 and HB 1088. These new laws went into effect on July 1, 2024, and have a major impact on the civil/forensic commitment process. Dr. Recore walked through the new commitment process and answered questions about how that affects State Hospitals and the role of CMHCs in the process.





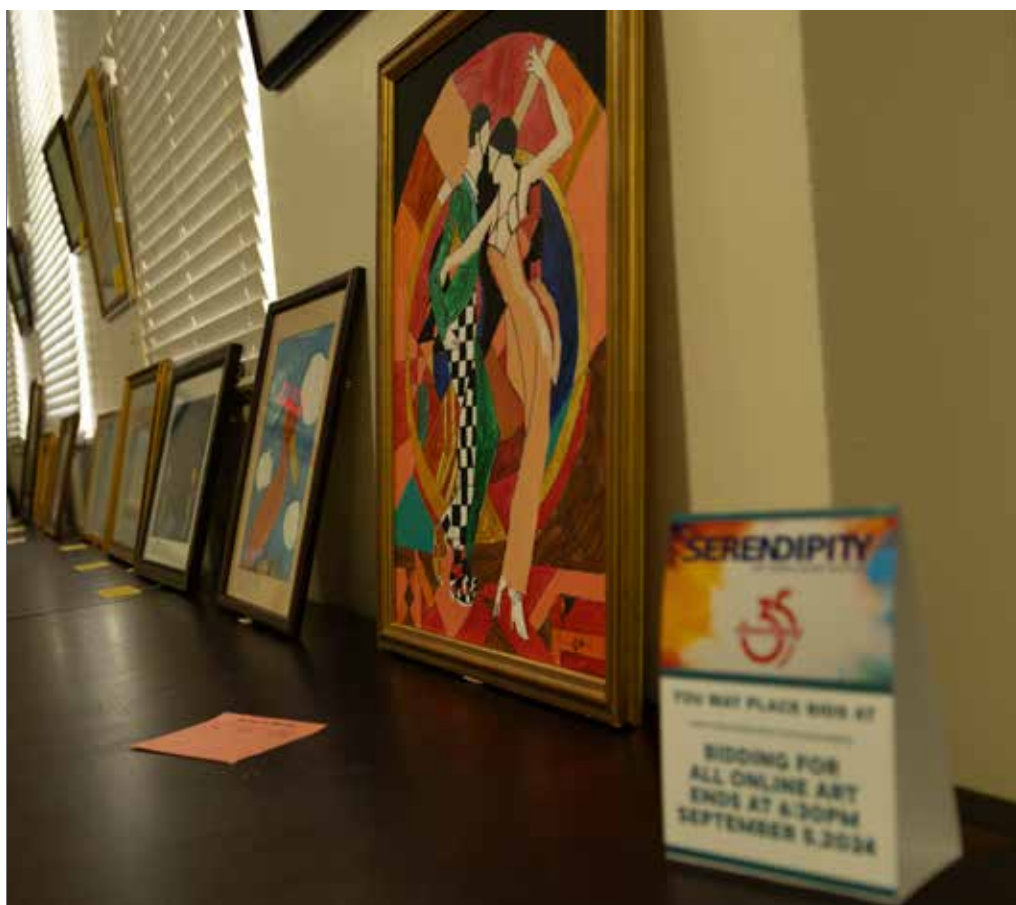




# Serendipity 2024

*By: Julie Cox*

A little rain didn't stop MSH staff and visitors from attending the annual Serendipity Art Show and Silent Auction. Every piece of online art and Mystery art received bids. We are thankful for each and every person that walked through our doors and bid online. You are what makes an event like this successful.









# MSH August Employees of Month



**DIRECT CARE**  
**LATIA HAMILTON**  
**BUILDING 90, A-SHIFT**

LaTia Hamilton has been named Mississippi State Hospital's August Employee of the Month for Direct Care.

A resident of Byram, Hamilton grew up in Florence where she attended Florence High School and Hinds Community College. She enjoys being able to provide care for the patients at MSH. She serves as a Support Care Professional Team Lead in Forensics and has been employed at MSH since 2010.

"LaTia is one of the best employees that embodies MSH's core values. She is one of the major key factors in making sure Forensic Services on Building 90 runs smoothly. She is always available for the patients and staff, and will help out in any way possible. She will come in on other shifts to make sure they are covered. She always treats her patients with dignity and respect, and is always willing to lend a helping hand with whatever needs to be done. LaTia is very deserving of Employee of the Month," said Robbie Rhodes, who nominated Hamilton.



**CLINICAL SERVICE**  
**WONDA MCKIE**  
**BUILDING 201/1, A-SHIFT**

Wonda McKie has been named Mississippi State Hospital's August Employee of the Month for Clinical Service.

Born in Detroit, MI, McKie grew up in Jackson, MS, and is now a resident of Ridgeland. She attended Provine High School, Hinds Community College, Excelsior College, and University of Mississippi Medical Center. She has earned a Certificate of Nursing, an associate's degree in Nursing, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She enjoys getting to work with awesome people who all work together to take care of the patients at MSH. She serves as a Nurse III in IPS and has been employed at MSH since 2009.

"I nominate Ms. Wonda McKie for Employee of the Month. Her smile brightens up my day when she walks through the door. She is an excellent nurse and she goes above and beyond for the patients. She is more than a nurse, she is like family. Whenever a situation arises with a patient, she is always calm and handles it right away. She really deserves to be Employee of the Month," said LaTadra Kelly, who nominated McKie.



**SUPPORT SERVICES**  
**ANGELA LOTT**  
**BUILDING 71, A-SHIFT**

Angela Lott has been named Mississippi State Hospital's August Employee of the Month for Support Services.

A resident of Mendenhall, Lott grew up in Magee where she attended Magee High School. She enjoys being involved with the special events for the residents at MSH. She serves as a Public Relations Specialist I in Public Relations and has been employed at MSH since 2019.

"I would like to nominate Angela Lott as Employee of the Month for Support Services. She has been a vital part of the Public Relations Department for more than two years. She performs all her assigned duties without being asked and is a stickler for details and making sure things are done right. In addition, she has put those same skills to use in the planning, setup, and execution of special events. She is willing to iron, vacuum, sew, climb ladders, paint, etc. to make whatever idea we come up with come to life. She has become an anchor for any project and the day-to-day operations of Public Relations. She works without expectation of praise or recognition but because she believes in doing her best. No one is more deserving of Employee of the Month than Angela Lott," said Sheila Shows, who nominated Lott.

# MSH September Employees of Month



**DIRECT CARE**  
**ERIC LATIKER**  
**BUILDING 90/2, B-SHIFT**

Eric Latiker has been named Mississippi State Hospital's September Employee of the Month for Direct Care.

A resident of Jackson, Latiker attended Forest Hill High School and Hinds Community College, where he received an Associate of Arts degree. He enjoys being able to help people at MSH. He serves as a Support Care Professional Team Lead in IPS and has been employed at MSH since 2022.

"Mr. Latiker is a very reliable person. He is energetic and goes above and beyond in his job duties. He is a team player and a great asset to Mississippi State Hospital," said Tiffany Chambers, who nominated Latiker.



**CLINICAL SERVICE**  
**CINTARRIO GREEN PALMER**  
**BUILDING 78, A-SHIFT**

Cintarrio Green Palmer has been named Mississippi State Hospital's September Employee of the Month for Clinical Service.

A resident of Pearl, Palmer grew up in Jackson and attended Murrah High School and Jackson State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Health/Physical Education with a concentration in Therapeutic Recreation. She enjoys putting smiles on the residents' faces at MSH. She serves as a Therapeutic Recreation Supervisor Team Lead in Therapeutic Recreation and has been employed at MSH since 2001.

"Recreation staff not only see to their patients and residents, but they also work with volunteers in the community. Ms. Palmer works hard to insure that everything is in order when an outside group is scheduled for a visit, insuring the public has the best experience while on our campus. She always has a smile on her face and truly loves her residents, this is evident by the way the residents feel about her. They depend on her and have a smile on their face when they see her enter the building. She is kind, considerate, and always attentive to their needs. She treats her residents with dignity and respect. During staff shortages, she takes on extra duties by covering several buildings. She does this because she truly cares for her residents and co-workers," said Sheila Shows, who nominated Palmer.



**SUPPORT SERVICES**  
**MARIE BINGHAM**  
**BUILDING 79, A-SHIFT**

Marie Bingham has been named Mississippi State Hospital's September Employee of the Month for Support Services.

A resident of Jackson, Bingham grew up in Terry where she attended Terry High School. She enjoys working with others and the teamwork atmosphere at MSH. She serves as a Custodian Team Lead in Environmental Services and has been employed at MSH since 1977.

"Humble, dedicated, consistent, dependable, committed, and optimistic are just a few of the characteristics found when you google 'how to describe a great employee.' These are also characteristics one could use to describe Ms. Marie Bingham. Ms. Marie always has a warm smile and a friendly, 'How you doing today?' for anyone who crosses her path. She has a work ethic that is second to none, and her pride in her work is easily seen by just looking around. Everyone feels the respect and joy Ms. Marie exudes when she interacts with them. She is a tremendous asset to Mississippi State Hospital and someone we should strive to emulate," said Carla Dearman, who nominated Bingham.





*Vicki Veazey*



*L to R: (seated) LaDonna Proctor, LaTadra Kelly (standing) Judy Buckner, Teresa Hulsey, Siriphorn Chotivittayathanin, Natalie Hines, Anita Christopher*



L to R: Alexis Simmons, Tina Tanner, Wanda Branson, Angela Lott

## April, May, June Service Award Recipients

JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER	
NAME	YRS	NAME	YRS	NAME	YRS
WILLAMENA JONES	1	CHANDRA DENISE BROWN	1	WANDA DENISE BRANSON	1
SHAMARO NICOLE GALLOWAY	1	BOBBY DARREN DAVIS	1	THOMAS ANTHONY ZUVIC	1
KARA LYNN STARNES	1	ANDREW MADISON WALKER	1	AMBRISHA KAMILLE BRINSTON	1
ROCHELLE MARIE WRIGHT	1	HELEN GRAY	1	BRITTANY LEIGH ANN CARMAN	1
RONNICA DENISE SMITH	1	NATALIE N HINES	1	RAYENL VERONICA FIELDS	1
LASTASIA LASHAE THOMAS	1	APRIL YOLANDA WILSON	1	ALEXIS SHAVONE LUMPKIN	1
PATRICK M FITZ-GERALD	1	LEANDREA NICOLE SHEARS	1	RICHARD LIONEL WALTMAN	1
JACINDA NICOLE DEE	1	LATADRA DENISE KELLY	1	JIMMY KEITH STEPHENS	1
DERRINESHIA DENISE THOMAS	1	JAMES ALLEN MCDONALD	1	DAVID LOZANO	1
KIANA LARISSA HOLMES	1	MICHELLE RENEE SARTOR	1	TINA ANDREA TANNER	1
REMESHA MARIE GRIFFIN	1	ALEXANDRIA ELAINE BUFORD	1	ALEXUS SIERRA SIMMONS	1
VONCILLE CARRIE JACKSON	1	SYMONE MECHELL LAWSON	1	MINNIE O HAWTHORNE	5
ANETRA BURCH LEFLORE	1	YUNAH WOO	1	CHARLICE LAWANDA WATKINS	5
MARSHA MICHELLE GAYTEN	1	REGINA NICOLE SILVESTRINI	1	SANDRA FAYE HORHN	5
ROBIN RENEE MADISON	1	TAYLOR ANNE GUINDON	1	ANGELA KAY LOTT	5
STEPHEN KEITH SMITH	1	ERIN WALLACE ROSENKRANS	1	SONYA MAXINE BARBER	10
REBECCA LEIGH WEEMS	1	JO A DANIELS	1	ADAM C. LEE	15
DEKIA MITCHELL	1	JUANDRIA SAMONE BARNETT	1	JAMES MATTHEW BROWN	15
DON WILSON	1	ELBONEY DAMESHIA FLOWERS	1	STACY J. SIBLEY	15
ADRIENNE LATORA FAIRLEY	1	MICHAEL DENNARES ROBINSON	5		
ALTON CHARLES ALEXANDER	1	ANITA BEULAH LEE CHRISTOPHER	5		
GINA ANITA FRANKLIN	5	TERESA CHRISTINE HULSEY	5		
SARAH SHANA HENDERSON	5	AMANDA LYNN BERTHOLD	5		
ANITA COOLEY GREEN	10	PHILLIP F WILLIAMS	5		
DARRYLE LAMONT BURTON	15	LADONNA NICOLE PROCTOR	5		
DEBORAH ANN PRYMER	15	DAVINA LANET THOMPSON	10		
SHIRICE ELIZABETH REED	20	LISA ANDERSON TRUNELL	15		
ANNETRA S. JONES	20	TAMEKA LETREES CRAFT	20		
STEPHANIE LYNN WARD	20	ZINAT REHANA KHANDEKAR	20		
VICKI S. VEAZEY	25	SIRIPHORN CHOTIVITTAYATHANIN	20		
		RHONDA E. LEE	25		
		JUDY A. BUCKNER	30		