Contracts Signed to Boost Security Services for Public Health Facilities Within SERHA

Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (seated centre), Minister of Health and Wellness, symbolically signs contracts along with (seated L-R) Mr. Wentworth Charles, Board Chairman, South East Regional Health Authority (SERHA) and Ms. Maureen Golding, Regional Director, SERHA, during the contract signing ceremony held on January 3, 2020 at the National Chest Hospital for providing security services for public health facilities within SERHA. Contractors from security companies were keenly observing the signing.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness invested more than $1.7 billion to strengthen security protocols at public health facilities within the South East Regional Health Authority (SERHA).


The contracts, which were signed will last for three years.
Congratulations to the Mary Seacole Ward at the Kingston Public Hospital (KPH) for receiving the first place award for the best decorated office/clinic in December 2019. Second place was awarded to the Administration Department and third place to the Accident and Emergency Casualty Department. The competition was a part of the Kingston Public Hospital’s Welfare Committee Christmas events.

The South East Regional Health Authority (SERHA) mourns the loss of Mr. Donovan Brown, National Chest Hospital (Hospital/Attendant (MO/TS 1). He died on December 19, 2019.

May his soul rest in peace.
Ten (10) children suffering from various congenital heart diseases received corrective surgeries at the Bustamante Hospital for Children (BHC) during the Chain of Hope United Kingdom (UK) medical mission from January 6-10, 2020.

The 18 member team included two Specialist Cardiac Surgeons, one Anaesthetist, three Intensivists, one Perfusionist, seven Intensive Care Unit Nurses, one Biomedical Engineer and three Administrative Staff from the UK, Norway, Denmark, Italy, Canada and the United States.

The surgeries, which are valued at between £50,000 and £100,000 are provided free of cost.

Six-year old Alex Dormer, who was the first child to be treated for surgery was operated on by Dr. Sherard Little, Consultant Paediatric Cardiothoracic Surgeon at BHC and the Chain of Hope Intensive Care Team.

Twelve (12) little hearts were mended by Chain of Hope International volunteer medical team who worked alongside the local cardiac team at the Bustamante Hospital for Children (BHC), on January 21-24, 2020. This was the second mission since the year and 21 dedicated cases have been completed. The operations were conducted in the new dedicated Paediatric Cardiac Centre established by Chain of Hope UK, SERHA, Shaggy Make A Difference Foundation, Rotary International, Gift of Life International, Digicel and other partners. The highlights are below:

Twelve (12) Patients Receive Corrective Heart Procedures

Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (right), Minister of Health and Wellness, met with 6-year old Alex Dormer, patient at the Bustamante Hospital for Children (BHC) and his parents Warren Dormer and Diana Johnson, during a tour at the hospital on Wednesday, January 8, 2020.
The Victoria Jubilee Hospital (VJH) received a ventilator and medical supplies from Jamaica United Relief Association (JURA) during the official handover on Monday, January 20, 2020 at the institution.

The mechanical ventilator is valued at JA$4M. The medical supplies donated includes laryngoscopes, pumps, glucometer machines, speculums and other items. The hospital delivers 7500 babies annually, therefore an additional ventilator will improve the hospital’s ability to treat more babies with moderate to severe respiratory challenges.

Twelve hospitals across the island each received bilevel positive airway pressure (BIPAP) machines valued at US$15,000 from Jamaicans Abroad Helping Jamaicans At Home (JAHJAH) Foundation to improve its medical services. The machines were handed over during a presentation ceremony, held at the Knutsford Court Hotel on Tuesday, January 21, 2020.

A BIPAP machine is a non-invasive form of therapy for patients suffering from sleep apnea, pneumonia, asthma, and or chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder. The funds were raised through a pledge drive at a Miami gala.

The hospitals are Black River, Spanish Town, Cornwall Regional, Princess Margaret, National Chest, St. Ann’s Bay, Savannah La Mar, May Pen, Mandeville, Falmouth, Percy Junior and the Kingston Public Hospital.

Dr. Trevor Dixon (centre), CEO and Founder of JAHJAH Foundation and Mrs. Coleen Robinson-Cobblah (centre), Assistant Director of Nursing Quality & Professional Practice, Montefiore Medical Center in New York, with representatives from the 12 hospitals who received BIPAP machines.
30-Bed Wing to be Built at SJGRC

The construction of a 30-bed wing at the Sir John Golding Rehabilitation Centre (SJGRC), is to commence this year, to adequately meet the demands of the country.

Speaking at the official launch of the building drive at the centre on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, Dr Rory Dixon, Senior Medical Officer, SJGRC, said the new building is intended to increase accommodation for adults seeking rehabilitation care, particularly after spinal cord injury.

Part funding to facilitate the expansion of the facility is to be donated from an undisclosed percentage of profits from the new orthopaedic division - Bioprist Pharmaceuticals Orthopedic Solutions.

Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, thanked Dr Guna Muppuri, President and CEO of Indies Pharma Jamaica Limited, and his team, for assisting the Government to respond to the critical needs of the country.

The rehabilitative centre has a capacity for over 75 inpatients, including children. Patients include persons with spinal cord injuries, cerebral palsy, congenital defects and other neurological conditions, as well as orthopaedic conditions (primarily lower limb amputations). Approximately 50 new cases of spinal cord injury are seen annually.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness signed a US$50M Health Systems Strengthening Programme with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to support the prevention and care management of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

This expenditure will include upgrading three hospitals including the Spanish Town Hospital and ten health centres including Old Harbour, St. Jago Park and Greater Portmore. These facilities will be equipped with health information systems to improve patient care management and support telemedicine.

The official launch was held on January 28, 2020 at the Courtyard by Marriott in New Kingston.
SERHA Gets 13 New Vehicles for Vector Control

The South East Regional Health Authority (SERHA) received 13 new vehicles to bolster the ongoing dengue eradication programme as well as rodent vector control activities across the region. The new pickup trucks, which are equipped with mounted foggers, are to serve the three parishes within the health region – Kingston and St. Andrew, St. Catherine and St. Thomas. The official handing over took place on January 27, 2020 at the Ranny Williams Entertainment Centre in Kingston. Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, Minister of Health and Wellness, announced that a total of 60 new vehicles, valued at over $400M were acquired for the regional health authorities. The highlights are below:

![Image of vehicles being handed over]

**Mr. Wentworth Charles (left), Board Chairman and Ms. Maureen Golding (right), Regional Director are viewing the vehicles given to SERHA at the ceremony.**

**From left: Mr. Mark Martin, Parish Manager, St. Catherine Health Services; Mr. Wentworth Charles, Board Chairman, South East Regional Health Authority (SERHA); Mrs. Pauline Bryan-Ellington, Parish Manager, St. Thomas Health Services; Ms. Maureen Golding, Regional Director, SERHA; Mr. Everton Baker, Project Manager for the Dengue Control Programme, Ministry of Health and Wellness; Dr. Sandra Chambers, Acting Regional Technical Director, SERHA; Mr. Anthony Wood, Parish Manager, Kingston and St. Andrew Health Services; Mrs. Aldene Miller, Transport Manager and Mr. Jareth Daley, Director of Operations and Maintenance, SERHA who attended the function.**

Guardian Group Gives US$9000 in Equipment to KPH

The Guardian Group Foundation handed over surgical equipment to the Kingston Public Hospital (KPH) on January 30, 2020. The Thompson Self-Retaining Surgical Retractor is valued at over US$9,000.00. Dr. Lindberg Simpson, Chairman, Department of Surgery, KPH said that the equipment will be used in open abdominal surgery, particularly by general surgery and urology department. The funds used to purchase the equipment were raised from the 2019 Guardian Group Keep It Alive 5K Night Runs.

![Image of Dr. Linberg Simpson with equipment]

**Dr. Linberg Simpson, Chairman, Department of Surgery, KPH demonstrates the use of the surgical equipment to Mr. Gladston Lewars (second left), Chairman of the Guardian Group Foundation. Looking on are from (L-R) Dr. Natalie Whylie, Senior Medical Officer, Kingston Public Hospital and Mrs. Claudette. Ashman, Corporate Secretary, Guardian Group Foundation.**
The Management Committee of the Regional Office in collaboration with the Human Resource Department conducted a New Year’s thanksgiving service and award ceremony for the Regional Office staff on January 6, 2020. The purpose of the thanksgiving service was to reflect on the goodness of God towards SERHA in the past year, despite the challenges faced by the organization. Ms. Maureen Golding, Regional Director, SERHA gave remarks and presented the awards at the function. The main address was delivered by Mr. Stephen Jennings from the Mona Baptist Church. Other activities included the distribution of appreciation tokens. See highlights below:
The vector control team and the Medical Officers of Health from the Health Departments across the Region in collaboration with the local municipalities and government agencies, conducted several search and destroy mosquito breeding sites activities at workplaces, communities and schools such as Excelsior Primary and High School, White Horses Primary School in St. Thomas and St. Catherine High School. The activities were scheduled for January 24-26, 2020. The team at the Kingston and St. Andrew Health Department also distributed pamphlets to persons in Downtown Kingston. See highlights below:

**Kingston and St. Andrew**

**St. Thomas**

**St. Catherine**
Excerpts from the Staff Order for Public Service

6.7 ALLOWANCES

6.7.1 Acting Allowance

iii) A weekly paid employee acting in a classified position at a higher grade in another occupational group for a period of five (5) or more continuous working days shall be entitled to an acting allowance.

iv) A weekly paid employee acting in the same occupational group at a higher grade for ten (10) or more continuous working days shall be entitled to an acting allowance.

v) An acting allowance should be calculated on the basis of the difference between the officer’s salary and the minimum salary of the post in which the officer is acting.

vi) The acting allowance to be paid should be equivalent to at least one increment in the salary scale of the higher post. If the calculation falls between, the allowance to be paid will move to the higher point.

6.7.2 Seniority Allowance

i) An Officer who holds a post to which an annual scalar salary is attached, and who has served at the maximum salary of the scale for three (3) years or more will be eligible to receive a seniority allowance at a rate equivalent to the highest incremental rate of his/her salary scale, subject to paragraph (iii) of this section, except where there is established evidence that he/she is not performing satisfactorily.

Continuation in the next publication