



# ASPIRE

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A PUBLICATION OF MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

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## MSH RECEIVES 'EXCELLENT REPORT' FROM JOINT COMMISSION

BY MIKE CHRISTENSEN

Mississippi State Hospital received a very positive review from the Joint Commission in its preliminary report issued at an exit conference on campus on Friday, Dec. 18. The final report based on the week-long survey was expected to be released before the end of the year.

"I think this is an excellent report," MSH director James Chastain said during the exit conference. "We have a list of things to work on, but I'm also impressed by what's not in (the report). I know from comments (the surveyors) have made and from the lack of citations about the care of our patients that we ... you all (hospital staff) ... are doing an excellent job of patient care."

"The Joint Commission was impressed by the spirit and the competency and the way our people work together as a team," Chastain said. "I am extremely proud of what you did this week, and this report reflects what you do every day."

Chastain said the week with the surveyors was educational, and he thanked them for the consulting nature of the survey.

At the exit conference, Linda Sellers, one of the lead surveyors, offered her congratulations to the staff and cited the "terrific job" done by Felicia Anderson, MSH Director of Accreditation and Licensure, in preparing hospital and JNH staff for the survey.

"We have a 'to-do' list for you," Sellers told the gathering at the exit conference.

The surveyors' presentation identified areas of compliance with standards that will require improvement, Chastain noted, and the hospital's plan for achieving and demonstrating compliance will be developed and submitted to the Joint Commission in January.

Many of the citations were related to storage issues or improperly functioning doors and latches. There were some citations for minor safety issues, such as staples on a bulletin board, unsecured plastic coat hangers and blind spots in patient rooms. It was noted that some furnishings were in disrepair and walls in some buildings had peeling paint.

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# ASPIRE

HOPE ♦ SAFETY ♦ RECOVERY

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### VISION

Mental wellness in every life, in every home,  
and in every community.

### MISSION

To help the individuals we serve achieve mental wellness by encouraging hope, promoting safety and supporting recovery while utilizing resources efficiently.

### OUR GOALS

1. To provide a comprehensive, person-centered and recovery-oriented system of care for individuals served at Mississippi State Hospital.
2. To ensure patients and residents receive quality services in safe settings and utilize information/data management to enhance decision making and service delivery.
3. To provide administrative oversight and management to effectively and efficiently administer services.

### CORE VALUES

Respect - Relationships - Accountability -  
Teamwork - Diversity

### MEMBER OF

Mississippi Department of Mental Health  
American Hospital Association  
Mississippi Hospital Association  
Southern States Psychiatric  
Hospital Association

ACCREDITED BY  
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“We see the commitment you have made to take care of your patients,” said Sellers, who was an MSH employee in 2003. “I see so much improvement since then.”

“I really believe that being Joint Commission accredited adds significantly to the service we provide at this hospital,” Chastain said.

All member health care organizations are subject to a three-year accreditation cycle. The Joint Commission accredits more than 20,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States.

Most state governments, including

Mississippi’s, recognize Joint Commission accreditation as a condition of licensure and the receipt of Medicaid reimbursement.

The stated mission of The Joint Commission: “To continuously improve health care for the public, in collaboration with other stakeholders, by evaluating health care organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value.”

The company updates its accreditation standards and expands patient safety goals on a yearly basis.

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## MISSISSIPPI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA BRASS QUINTET PERFORMS AT MSH

BY MIKE CHRISTENSEN

From a jazzy version of “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” to a special arrangement of “Carol of the Bells,” the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet delivered an engaging performance of Christmas music on Dec. 7 at Mississippi State Hospital.

A virtual full house in the MSH Auditorium clapped and sang along to Christmas classics such as “Up on the Rooftop,” “Sleigh Ride” and “Jingle Bells.” The quintet also performed a number of spiritual songs, including “Go Tell It on the Mountain,” “God Rest You Merry Gentlemen,” and “O Come, All Ye Faithful.”

The quintet is comprised of trumpet players Darcie Bishop and Wayne Linehan, Richard Hudson on the French horn, Adam Almeter on trombone and Wade Rackley on tuba.

The quintet performed a Christmas program at MSH in 2014 and volunteered to come back.



“We had such a good time last year,” Hudson said, “and we just thought, what a gift to ourselves to come out and do this neat concert. The people here are so receptive and appreciative. It’s fun for us. It helps get us in the Christmas mood.”

The quintet closed their performance with a blend of “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas” and “We Wish You a Merry Christmas,” receiving a standing ovation from the crowd.

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## SOME CHRISTMAS PARTY GROUPS HAVE LONG HISTORY OF GIVING AT MSH

BY MIKE CHRISTENSEN

The number of times they’ve made the trip from Gluckstadt to Whitfield is more than any of the group can remember.

“We’ve been doing this a long, long time,” said Alice Bouldin, a member of Fairview Missionary Baptist Church. “More than 30 years, I know.”

Fairview is one of a multitude of groups from churches, businesses and civic organizations that host holiday parties at Mississippi State Hospital during November and December.

Fairview, which also does a party in June, always comes to Building 31, Jaquith Nursing Home’s Adams Inn. On this particular occasion, the

group has brought baked and fried chicken, potato salad, greens, cornbread, cake and other goodies.

MSH Recreation staff helps to coordinate the party activities on each building.

“It’s a way of giving back to the community,” Bouldin said. “We love to sing to the people, to bring some joy



to their day. We enjoy this so much. It's refreshing."

Griffith Memorial Baptist Church of Byram first came to do a party nine years ago and specifically requested Building 43, the Forensic Services Unit.

Church member Robert Killingsworth said he had a relative who had once been a patient on B-43.

"I knew that they didn't get many visitors," Killingsworth said. "That's why I wanted to come here. We want to make sure that they get visited during this special time.

"We have benefits to take up money for the food and gifts. It touches the heart to do this."

A group of about 12 men representing the Brotherhood of GMBC set up a dinner spread that included ham, turkey dressing, macaroni and cheese and banana pudding. Church youth groups prepared hand-decorated treat bags.

"We don't want recognition for this," said Andy Fullington, Griffith Memorial's pastor. "We just want to bring love to these people. ...

"We look forward to this. Our entire church family really looks forward to this time. I have visited with so

many who say what a neat opportunity we are getting to spend time with these folks."

Parkview Church of Christ of Jackson has been coming for more than 40 years, said church member Ruby Windham, who used to work at MSH.

Parkview has for many years hosted a party for residents on Building 48, Adams Inn. For this party, they brought turkey, ham, dressing, macaroni and cheese, rolls – and a copy of "The Night Before Christmas," which Windham planned to read.

"Some of these folks don't have families," Windham said. "They don't get many visitors or gifts. .... I made it a part of our holiday tradition to come here and have a party for this

building. We just love coming out for this. We love it."

The holiday season at MSH kicked off on Dec. 1 with the opening of the Christmas House on Building 71, where donations are collected to use as Christmas gifts for patients and residents. The Christmas Parade followed on Dec. 4, then the performance of the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet on Dec. 7. Dec. 22 was Fruit Day, when baskets of fruit are distributed to all of the buildings, and Santa Day on Dec. 23 capped off the season.

Sprinkled around those events were the parties, 87 all told, spreading cheer and good will across the campus.



## BEARD PROMOTED TO DON FOR MED PSYCH

BY MIKE CHRISTENSEN

Valentina Beard, the new Director of Nursing for the Medical Psychiatric Units, Buildings 87 and 46, knows the territory very well.

Beard worked as a nurse on B-87 for eight years. She assumed her new duties at the end of September.

“It’s going pretty well,” Beard said a few weeks into the new job. “It’s always busy here, but it’s going well.”

Beard, a native of Columbus, received her nursing degree from Mississippi University for Women, also located in Columbus.

Beard worked at University of Mis-

issippi Medical Center in Jackson and in some private nursing homes before coming to Mississippi State Hospital and the Med Psych department in 2007.

“I’ve always been interested in taking care of psychiatric patients,” she said. “I was interested in the mental health field since I started school.”

Beard is married, and she and husband Willie live in Flowood with their two kids, an 11-year-old daughter and 6-year-old son.



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## HOLLOWAY NAMED CUO ON MALE RECEIVING

BY MIKE CHRISTENSEN

Malaka Holloway has joined the Mississippi State Hospital staff as the CUO on Male Receiving, working on Buildings 201, 202 and 203.

Holloway, who lives in her hometown of Magee, started at MSH on Oct. 19.

She previously worked for eight years as office manager at Mississippi HomeCare in Magee. Before that, she worked for eight years at the Mississippi Department of Corrections.

Holloway is a graduate of Magee High School and has a bachelor’s degree in special education from Jackson State University.

She said she applied for a job at MSH because she was looking to advance her career in health care.

As Coordinator of Unit Operations, Holloway is responsible for safety inspections of the buildings, among other duties, and also oversees the pantry and housekeeping staffs on Male Receiving.

“I enjoy my job,” she said. “It keeps me busy. I have a lot to do, but I have a great team that I work with that makes it easier. I learn a lot every day.”

She is a single mother with a 22-year-old son and a 7-year-old daughter.



# MSH CHRISTMAS PARADE FEATURES BLUES LEGEND, 45 ENTRIES

BY MIKE CHRISTENSEN

Floats, limos, horses and marching bands hit the streets of Mississippi State Hospital's campus on Dec. 4 for the annual Christmas Parade.

Grammy-nominated Blues legend Bobby Rush served as Grand Marshal of the parade, which attracted 45 entries on a splendid winter morning.

Rush, a Mississippi resident, was named the B.B. King Entertainer of the Year and the Best Male Blues Artist at the 2015 Blues Music Awards. He was inducted into the Official Rhythm & Blues Music Hall of Fame in Clarksdale in June of this year.

The bands that participated were Raymond High School, Jim Hill High School and Canton High School and ROTC groups from Raymond High School and Ridgeland High School also marched.

MSH buildings and departments competed for prizes in five categories, and the winners, as judged by

an independent panel, were announced at the December Department Directors Meeting.

The Grand Marshal's Award went to Adjunct Services and Pastoral Care for "The Grinch, A Change of Heart." They received a certificate, a \$100 gift card from Friends of MSH and the honor of choosing the theme for the 2016 parade.

The Judges Choice Award went to Building 87 for "A James Brown Christmas." They received a certificate, a Tic Tac Toe game and a \$100 gift card.

Receiving a certificate and a \$50 gift card:

- Best Representation of Parade Theme – Hudspeth Regional Center, "The Gifts of Love"
- Most Creative use of Materials – WMSH, "A Minion Christmas"
- Best Christmas Theme – B-28 and B-34, "More Than a Manger" (also received a Tic Tac Toe game)





## SANTA DAY DELIVERS HOLIDAY CHEER TO RESIDENTS, PATIENTS

BY MIKE CHRISTENSEN



Red suits, white beards and a chorus of ho-ho-ho's were the order of the day at Mississippi State Hospital on Dec. 23.

It was Santa Day, a jolly old tradition at MSH for over 30 years that serves as the culmination of the hospital's holiday activities.

Santa Day was started by James "Jimmy" Stubbs, who was MSH director from 1975-88 and grew under former Volunteer Services Director Jerald Ball, who

arrived in 1984. On this special day, volunteers, elected officials and MSH employees dressed as Santa Claus visit each and every patient and resident building on the campus to personally deliver holiday gifts.

Each MSH patient and Jaquith Nursing Home resident receives a gift bag with personal care items, fruit and clothing.

Each building also received a set of oversized dominoes. All 588 of the pieces

were cut and sanded by Richard Bates, a Friends of MSH volunteer. The staff of Public Relations finished and prepared them for delivery.

This year, more than 1,800 volunteers visited the campus in November and December and provided approximately 90 Christmas parties for the 855 patients and residents served at MSH. Some groups do caroling on campus, and others bring donations that are used as gifts.



These volunteers contributed more than 7,400 hours of their time valued at more than \$170,496.

Donors contributed \$15,519 in monetary gifts to our Christmas activities this year, and gift donations to date total \$16,191.

“Every gift, every dollar, and every hour donated that you heard about today reflects an individual or a group somewhere in the State who was moved to help us bring joy to the patients and residents

we serve,” said MSH director James Chastain. “This day would not exist without each and every one of those individuals and people like yourselves that are willing to give of their resources, time and talent for others.”

Each year, the volunteer Santas receive a special commemorative gift. This year it was a special, hand-painted rendition of a Santa suit designed by Sheila Shows, Volunteer Services Director. The first of those gifts was presented to the two San-

tas who brought the most “elves,” or volunteer assistants: Judge Tom Broome of the Rankin County Youth Court and Carl Mangum from the University Medical Center School of Nursing.

The other Santas were: Chastain, Dustin Crum, Jay Bishop, Tripp Francis, Sen. Hillman Frazier, Larry Taylor, Daniel Elliott, Martin Kiel, Brad Brister, Don Dees, Daniel Myers, Bill Bobbs, Gene Miller, Billy Moorehead, Patrick Fontaine, Steve Wells and Gale Martin.





## MATSON COMPLETES BASIC SUPERVISORY TRAINING

BY MIKE CHRISTENSEN

**B**efore she took on a new role at Mississippi State Hospital, Amanda Matson wanted to make certain she was ready for the new responsibilities.

“I’ve had leadership roles in the past, but this was my first time in state government,” said Matson, the Director of Revenue in Fiscal Services who became manager of Patient Accounting, Cashiering and Eligibility on Oct. 1.

In preparation for that position, Matson took and completed the 30-hour Basic Supervisory Course offered by the State Personnel Board in September.

“You get training on how to better your supervisory skills, on how to

do performance evaluations, on being a coach and mentor,” she said. “You learn about employment laws and how they affect your position as a supervisor, and you learn about yourself. What kind of leader are you?”

The bottom line, Matson said, is helping the individuals you supervise be more efficient and grow in their own jobs.

“You can’t supervise everyone the same way and expect a good outcome,” she said.

Matson has worked at MSH since April 2014. A CPA, she has bachelor and master’s degree in accounting from the University of Southern Mississippi and is enrolled in a Cer-



tified Public Manager program that she hopes to complete in 2017.

Matson and her husband, Richie, and their two dogs live in Puckett.

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## DR. ANTWYNETTE SHIELDS EARNS DOCTORATE FROM MC

BY MIKE CHRISTENSEN

**I**f Dr. Antwynette Shields appears to have an extra bounce in her step these days, there is a very good reason.

Shields, a Behavioral Health Specialist on the Medical Psychiatric Unit, Building 87, received her doctorate in professional counseling from Mississippi College on Dec. 18.

“I am so relieved to be done with it,” Shields said of the six-semester program that she completed while also juggling her duties at MSH. “I feel like a heavy load was lifted from me.”

Her dissertation was titled “Developing a Peer Support Model to Improve Counselor Wellness and Re-

duce Counselor Burnout.”

Shields is a Columbus native who now lives in Pearl. She earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Southern Mississippi and a master’s in counseling psychology with an emphasis in child and adolescent therapy from William Carey University.

Shields has worked at MSH for two years. She previously worked at South Mississippi Regional Center and North Mississippi Regional Center, serving the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities population at both places.

Her interest in the doctoral program at Clinton-based Mississippi College



led her to pursue a job at MSH.

## MELISSA SPENCER RECEIVES MASTER'S FROM JACKSON STATE

BY MIKE CHRISTENSEN

**M**elissa Spencer, who started work at Mississippi State Hospital as a Mental Health Technician, is steadily moving toward becoming a Licensed Professional Counselor.

The latest step came on Dec. 12, when she received a master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Jackson State University.

Spencer is a Behavioral Health Specialist in Male Receiving, working on Building 201, and is a National Certified Counselor.

She has been at MSH for five years, moving from an MHT on B-39 to and Behavioral Health Therapist I on B-63 to her current position

"I like it here very much," Spencer said. "The people are great to work with, and the level of experience you can get here is so valuable. It's like an abnormal psychology book opens

up in front of you."

Spencer, a Jackson native and Jim Hill High School graduate, has a bachelor's degree in psychology from Belhaven University.

Why did she choose psychology?

"Everybody needs somebody to talk to," Spencer said. "Some people especially need somebody non-judgmental to talk to. That's what motivated me to get into this field."

Millions of Americans suffer from a diagnosable mental illness in any given year. However, stigma surrounding mental illness is a major barrier that prevents people from seeking the mental health treatment that they need. Programs were held throughout Mental Illness Awareness Week that were designed to create community awareness and discussion in an effort to put an end to stigma and advocate for treatment and recovery.



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## DR. SHEREE BAILEY OF PSYCHOLOGY DEPT. COMPLETES EPPP

BY MIKE CHRISTENSEN

**T**hey call it "E Triple-P," and while it's not a Star Wars character, a pro wrestler or a figure skating routine, it is a rather formidable hurdle that must be cleared along the path to becoming a licensed psychologist.

Dr. Sheree Bailey, a Behavioral Health Technician III at Mississippi State Hospital, passed the 5-hour, 225-question Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) a few weeks ago.

"I'm still riding the high from that," she said. "The next step is getting everything together to present my application to the state (Board of

Psychology) to get licensed as a psychologist."

Bailey, a Meridian native who now lives in Madison, is a graduate of Ole Miss, where she majored in journalism but ultimately took more of an interest in her minor: psychology.

"I was fascinated by the mind, the science of it, the investigative part of it," Bailey said. "And I liked the relationship aspect of psychology also, being with clients."

After working for a time in Public Affairs with the Department of the Navy, Bailey entered a doctoral pro-



gram in psychology at Biola University in La Mirada, California. She worked for an outpatient psychologist in California, doing therapy and assessments, before returning to Mississippi.

She has been at MSH for about seven months, working on Jaquith Inn,

Building 69, in the Jaquith Nursing Home.

“There is a great group of people here,” Bailey said. “I love the staff I work with.”

She said she has benefitted from working with people in other areas of

health care and gaining exposure to mental disorders she had not previously encountered.

“It’s been a different turn for my career,” she said.

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## PUCKETT MACHINERY PROVIDES CATFISH DINNER FOR MSH PATIENTS

BY MIKE CHRISTENSEN



The mouthwatering smell of catfish, French fries and hushpuppies filled the air in the southwest corner of the Mississippi State Hospital campus on Dec. 14.

Puckett Machinery, through its Puckett Serves foundation, prepared a catfish dinner for MSH patients as a holiday treat.

The company, which counts a facility in Flowood among its several locations in the state, sponsors catfish or chicken cookouts for roughly a dozen organizations around the holidays each year. This was their first visit to MSH.

“We’ve been looking for places in Rankin County that would benefit from it, and Mississippi State Hospital looked like a good place for us to be,” said Richard Puckett, the chairman and CEO of the company who also served as the head cook.

Puckett and Kristen Miller cooked up 80 pounds of catfish, 30 pounds of fries and 20 pounds of hushpuppies. A group of volunteers from the company packed the dinner boxes, which included coleslaw and a dessert.

“Do everything you can to make this

a special day for the people we’re serving here,” Puckett told the volunteers.

Puckett Serves is a faith-based, non-denominational foundation supported by the company and dedicated to serving people in need.

“We give every one of our employees the opportunity and time to give back to the community through this mission,” Puckett said.

The company’s Rankin County facility employs about 200. Puckett said they have no trouble mustering volunteers for all the holiday events.

## CONGRATULATIONS NOVEMBER EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



Cathy Flanagan of Monticello was named MSH's November Employee of the Month for Clinical Services. Flanagan, who has worked at MSH for 2 1/2 years, is a Licensed Practical Nurse on Jaquith Inn, Building 78, of Jaquith Nursing Home.

She has a practical nursing degree and an associate degree in elementary education, both from Copiah-Lincoln Community College.

"It just seems that out of all of the nurses here on C shift, Cathy goes above and beyond to do her job along with helping us, the CNAs, when we're short or running behind," said Aaliya Chatman, CNA.

"Most LPNs think that a CNA position is beneath them, but Ms. Cathy goes above and beyond to help us at any time," said Anthony Scott, CNA. "There are only a few that will work the way she does, and if it was possible I would nominate her monthly because she deserves it."

"Ms. Cathy is always thorough in her work," said Heather Vaughn. "Not only is she an excellent nurse, she always lends a helping hand to anyone who needs it. ... Ms. Cathy demonstrates everything any manager, resident or family would want in the staff taking care of our residents. She is truly a gem, with a kind heart."



Tyrone Frazier of Florence has been named Mississippi State Hospital's November Employee of the Month for Direct Care.

Frazier, a Clinton native, is an Active Treatment Technician for Inpatient Services and works on Building 201. He has worked at MSH for 14½ years.

He was nominated by Rhonda Potter, RN, and Gladys McKenzie, ATT.

"Mr. Tyrone Frazier is respectful of all staff and always willing to lend a helping hand," Potter said. "He is consistently expressing interest in creating positive outcomes here at MSH. He has assisted with the development of the Monthly Hot Topic Newsletter, a publication for Mental Health Technicians.

"He has also become involved in the orientation process and has become a mentor for newly oriented MHT staff. The compassion he exemplifies for patients and coworkers has proven him to be a leader."



Justin Scott of Brandon was named Mississippi State Hospital's November Employee of the Month for Support Services.

Scott, a Vocational Training Instructor in Inventory Control on Building 93, has worked at MSH for seven years.

He is an alumnus of Brandon High School and Hinds Community College.

"Justin Scott transferred from the Warehouse Department into the Capital Inventory Department on Aug. 15, 2013," said Kenneth Dixon, a longtime employee in Inventory Control who nominated Scott. "Since that time, Justin has adjusted very well into his new position, learning much about his new job by utilizing all available resource handouts, classes and hands-on.

"Justin goes above and beyond his duties by following the MSH Ethics Code and by demonstrating MSH's core values. Justin treats everyone with professional manner at all times when in the workplace. ... Justin has a positive attitude while on the job and an outstanding customer service approach. This is why he is deserving of the (award)."

## CONGRATULATIONS DECEMBER EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



Mary Epps of Jackson was named Mississippi State Hospital's December Employee of the Month for Support Services.

Epps is a Medical Records Clerk for Jaquith Nursing Home, working on Building 21. She has been at MSH for 2 years, 9 months.

A Crystal Springs native, Epps received a bachelor's degree in sociology from Jackson State University.

"Mary Epps is a hard and dedicated worker," said Ariel Harrington, CNA, who nominated Epps. "She also projects a warm and cheerful attitude to our residents. She exceeds her duties by solving conflicts and difficult situations with her remarkable patience and admirable tact."

"Mrs. Epps truly embodies the core values of MSH," said Jennifer Beeman, LPN. "She displays her love and talent through the care she gives each resident. ... I really appreciate all the contributions she has provided over her years at MSH."

"Passionate, outgoing and dependable are a few words that come to mind when I think of Mary Epps," said Lasaya Braxton, CNA. "When you need help with something or advice about anything, Mary is the one to reach."



Loisteen Holifield of Jackson was named Mississippi State Hospital's December Employee of the Month for Clinical Service.

Holifield works in the Psychology Department as a Behavioral Health Specialist III on Building 63. She has been employed at MSH for eight years.

The Jackson native received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Jackson State University.

"Ms. Holifield covers her fellow staff when needed and does not even have to be requested to do so," said Christina Torti, who nominated Holifield.

"She silently takes up the slack and is a huge help. She is a calm presence on the ward, is well-liked by patients and staff alike. She has worked diligently to learn the electronic health record the Columbia Suicide Screener. Loisteen is open to feedback and criticism and corrects herself immediately. She is a team player and very much appreciated."



Erica Hutton of Jackson was named Mississippi State Hospital's December Employee of the Month for Direct Care.

Hutton is a Mental Health Technician who works the A shift on Building 63, Female Receiving. She has worked at MSH for eight years.

Hutton was born in Jackson and attended Forest Hill High School.

"Erica is a hard worker," said Jordan Sutton, RN, who nominated Hutton. "The patients ask for her by name because they know she will happily and quickly help them with what they need."

"Erica comes to work even on her days off. She is great at leading MHT activities with the patients. Groups with her leading are fun and informative for the patients. She is caring and compassionate. Also, she is very organized. The ward is clean, in order, and the patients stay on schedule according to their programming daily."