



## MSH STAFF CONDUCT FORENSIC SCREENING EVALUATOR TRAINING



BY MIKE CHRISTENSEN

In an effort to make pre-trial competence evaluations more readily available, Mississippi State Hospital's Forensic Services staff conducted a training program designed to increase the number of qualified evaluators available to courts to perform jail-based services.

Dr. Amanda Gugliano, Dr. Stephanie Howard, Dr. Reb McMichael, Dr. Thomas Recore and MSH Court Liaison Philip Gaines led the program, entitled "Community-Based Forensic Screening Evaluations of Competence to Stand Trial," on the MSH campus from Aug. 28-30.

Twenty-one licensed psychologists and psychiatrists attended the free program. The training included:

- An overview of the criminal legal system and relevant mental health law.
- An introduction to clinical, legal and ethical aspects of conducting competence to stand trial evaluations.

- Special issues and/or common pitfalls in forensic evaluations of competence to stand trial.
- Essential components of a forensic report.
- Instructions on how to prepare for and offer expert testimony as a forensic evaluator.

The program offered 15 hours of continuing education credit for psychologists, and all of the participants received a certificate of completion. The training is not a formal certification to conduct forensic evaluations.

"Those who completed the program can say they have training in this area if this is something they want to pursue," Gugliano said. "With this training, we wanted to provide a foundation to people who are interested in making themselves available for this service. This training gave them information about what is entailed in the process."

Gugliano said feedback from participants was "overwhelmingly positive."

"I found the training informative and fun," said Dr. Louis Masur III, a clinical psychologist from Tupelo. "The mix of presenters and their styles made learning easy. ... Much of what was said was confirming for me, but I learned many new skills and techniques."

"The program was very well organized and thorough and the presenters were very knowledgeable, professional, and certainly considered experts in the field of forensic psychology and psychiatry," said Dr. Sandy F. Adams, a licensed psychologist in Jackson.

There is a backlog of defendants in the Mississippi court system awaiting pre-trial competence evaluation, and there are few licensed psychologists and psychiatrists trained to perform them. MSH has a lengthy waiting list for pre-trial evaluation and restoration services. A larger pool of evaluators providing community-based services could help alleviate the backlog.

# FRIENDS OF MSH CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY AT ANNUAL MEETING



The Friends of MSH Board includes: (back row, right to left) Shane Hariel, Ray Wallace, Bill Bobbs, Bradley Sanders, Bobby Stephens, Gale Martin, James Chastain and Dee Payne; and (front row, l-r) Sheila Shows, Betty Harpe, Jessie Buckley, Marilyn Garth, Diane Croxton, Kim Fortner and Jerald Ball.

BY MIKE CHRISTENSEN

Four local churches were honored for their generosity toward Mississippi State Hospital during a very special Friends of MSH Annual Meeting held Aug. 30 on the hospital campus.

This year marked the 30th anniversary of Friends, the volunteer organization that serves such a key role as an advocate and fundraising arm for MSH. Attendees were treated to a slideshow highlighting individuals and events from the last 30 years as Randy Newman's "You've Got a Friend in Me" played in the background.

Recipients of the annual awards given out by Friends were: Grandview Baptist Church of Pearl (Nancy B. Foreman Award); Griffith Memorial Baptist Church of Jackson (Vivian Shivers Helping Hands Award); and Pinelake Baptist Church of Brandon and First Baptist Church of Richland (Together We Make A Difference Award).

"You choose to spend your time with us, and I want to thank you for that," said James G. Chastain, MSH Director.

Fairra Green, the Mississippi Hospital Association Volunteer of the Year for MSH, was also presented with a certificate. As a longtime member of the Quota International club, Fairra has been involved with every aspect of the organization's relationship with MSH. Jerald Ball, a former MSH Public Relations Director, was in attendance and was recognized as one of the founders of Friends in 1987. In other business, new Friends Board of Directors members Diane Croxton and Shane Hariel were approved, and reports were made by the chairs of the Friends Finance, Projects and Membership committees.

The Nancy B. Foreman Award, named for one of the founding members of Friends, 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.

Grandview Baptist Church began volunteering at MSH more than 30 years ago.

"They have always provided a Christmas party for the Forensic Service (unit) and consider it 'their building,'" Chastain said. "Their party is known for the abundance of refreshments, joyful singing and devotion. However, it is the fellowship they display with everyone on the building, staff and patients alike, that makes their visits exceptional and something everyone looks forward to."

The Helping Hands Award, established in 2006, honors an individual or group who represents the volunteer spirit and sets the standard for future generations. The Friends Board in 2009 renamed this award in honor of Vivian Shivers, a former nurse at the hospital and longtime Friends member.

Griffith Memorial Baptist Church has visited Forensic Services for over 20 years.

"They provide a full luncheon with all the trimmings the second Saturday of every December -- rain or shine," Chastain said. "In addition, they provide special gifts to the patients. Comments from past parties include rave reviews for Christmas cheer, exceptional food and a 'super' fun party."

The Together We Make a Difference Award honors a business or organization which has given exemplary service to MSH. This year, church groups from Pinelake Baptist and First Baptist of Richland were recognized for their contributions to Oak Circle Center, the hospital's Child and Adolescent Unit.

"Even though today's recognition is for contributions to Oak Circle Center, it should be noted that Pinelake first volunteered at MSH in 2009 when they brought a group of more than 200 middle school students who are members of their show choir, Common Ground, for a special performance in the auditorium," Chastain said. "A standing room only crowd was not only treated to an incredible program of ministry through song and dance, but they also enjoyed pizza afterwards."

Last year, representatives from Pinelake were put in touch with OCC's Dr. Barbara Fishgrab, who told them about the damage the playground had sustained from the 2013 hailstorm. Volunteers from Pinelake spent several Saturdays installing new playground equipment, picnic tables and an herb box. Around the same time, a group came from First Baptist Church of Richland to install new swings for the playground. They also donated and installed an outdoor bowling alley, which was decorated by adolescents on the unit, and provided and set up the equipment for a sand volleyball court.

"You have both truly made a difference in the quality of life for the children and adolescents we serve while they are here for treatment," Chastain said.



Front Row (left to right): Grandview representatives Joyce Myers and Beth Smith. Back Row (l-r): MSH Director James Chastain, Grandview representatives Wade Chappell and Cecil Weems, and Friends President Gale Martin.



MSH Director James Chastain, Griffith Memorial representatives Robert Killingsworth and Andy Fullington, and Friends President Gale Martin.



(Left to right) MSH Director James Chastain, Pinelake Baptist representatives Robert Clark and Jeff Holland, and Friends President Gale Martin.



(Left to right:) MSH Director James Chastain, First Baptist of Richland members Jessie Buckley and Betty Harpe, and Friends President Gale Martin.

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DRILL: HOSPITAL PERSONNEL SPRING INTO ACTION AFTER 'STORM' HITS



BY MIKE CHRISTENSEN

When Mississippi State Hospital police officers arrived on the scene, they found a person pinned under a massive tree, shouting for help. Another lay nearby in an unconscious state near some exposed power lines. Still another was wandering around the golf course area of the MSH campus shouting incoherently.

The accident scene was staged, but the response by hospital personnel was very real. It was all part of a disaster preparedness drill conducted by MSH on Tuesday, Aug. 1.

Several outside agencies participated or observed, including the Mississippi Department of Health, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Baptist Health Systems and the Veterans Health Administration. All are part of the Region V Healthcare Coalition. Rankin EOC and AirCare were scheduled to participate but had to cancel because of other commitments.

Several area nursing homes also were indirectly involved in the drill.

The drill scenario involved a sudden thunderstorm that struck the MSH campus and caused multiple injuries. In the scenario, a large tree was downed and power lines were exposed in one location, where a group of people had been trapped outside in the storm.

As part of the drill, MSH Police responded, assessed the scene and established a staging area. Medical personnel were requested, emergency and other resource vehicles were summoned, triage and treatment areas were set up and the injured ultimately were transported to appropriate facilities, some of which were deemed to be off-campus.



Dr. Stephen Shoop of Whitfield Medical Surgical Hospital was in charge of the triage team, and Dr. Edward Brewer, also a WMSH doctor, was in charge of the treatment team.

“This is good training,” said Shoop, who has participated in several such drills. “As always, things are a little discombobulated at first, but as it progressed we got more proficient.”

“That’s what we’re doing here is getting practice. It’s not so much the medical aspect as it is the logistics. It’s good practice. There was some confusion at first, but that’s the real world. We smoothed out the rough edges as we got going.”

Also as part of the drill, a nursing home building was partially collapsed in another area of campus. Off-campus nursing homes were contacted and a number of residents from the collapsed building

were “transported” to those homes.

A command center was set up in the MSH Administration Building to help track and coordinate the activities on the disaster sites and at Whitfield Medical Surgical Hospital, where some of the “injured” were taken.

Following the drill, which was completed in about an hour, an After Action Review was held to evaluate the procedures and identify problems. MSH Director James Chastain, Safety Officer and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Wes Pegues and most of the hospital’s department heads attended.

“This is a very valuable exercise,” Chastain said. “We need to remind everyone of the importance of this, and we appreciate everyone taking it seriously.”

# CONGRATULATIONS AUGUST EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



**Direct Care**  
**James Brown,**  
**IPS, B-43, A Shift**

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

Brown, a Crystal Springs native and resident, is a Mental Health Technician on Building 43, Forensic Services. The Hinds Community College alumnus has worked at MSH for eight years.

"James is a very friendly, dependable and hard-working member of our MHT staff," said Elizabeth Stampley, who made the nomination. "He is very good with the patients and always exhibits a positive and willing attitude. I have asked James on numerous occasions to undertake tasks that are not necessarily pleasant and he is always willing to help. ...

"James has endured with us here at MSH despite having other opportunities and has been a very dependable member of our staff. He treats our patients with respect and is respected by them in kind."



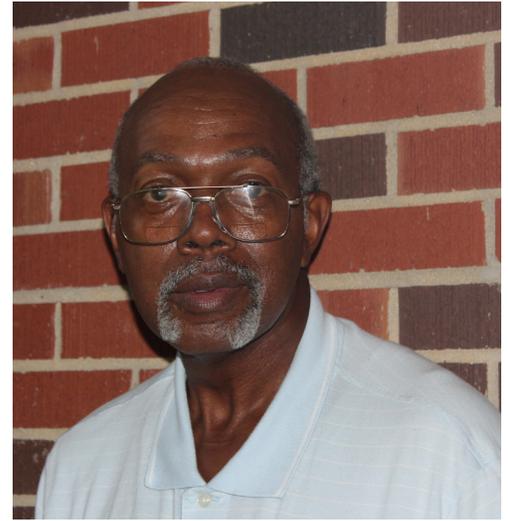
**Clinical Service**  
**Ashley Lilley,**  
**IPS, B-45, A Shift**

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

Lilley, who lives in Florence, is a Registered Nurse who works on Building 45, Female Continued Services. Lilley has been on the MSH staff for five years. Her mother, husband and aunt also have worked at MSH.

"Ms. Lilley definitely embodies the MSH core values ...," a co-worker said on the nomination form. "She has respect for our patients and takes the time to provide individual supportive counseling to each of them as needed. She has established good relationships with patients, staff and family members.

"She has worked diligently with the social worker in coordinating discharge planning, ensuring that all medical information (is) completed on time. ... No job is too small for her. She is a pleasure to work with and is a role model employee."



**Support Services**  
**Harry Nelson,**  
**Housekeeping, B-79, A Shift**

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

Nelson, a Bailey native who currently lives in Jackson, is a Client Care Support staffer who works in the Housekeeping Department, based on Building 79. A graduate of Northeast Lauderdale High School in Meridian, Nelson has worked at MSH for 10 years.

"When performing his job duties, Mr. Nelson goes way beyond what is required or expected to ensure everything possible is done to provide all staff and patients with the cleanest, most comfortable and attractive work and living areas," said Kathryn Ford, who nominated Nelson. "In addition, his sunny personality is like a ray of sunshine for all who come in contact with him. ...

"His consistent hard work demonstrates his true commitment to the hospital. ... His presence makes MSH a better and more therapeutic place for patients and employees."

**The MSH employee recognition program is sponsored by Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc.**

## MSH OFFICERS CANADA, STOVALL GRADUATE FROM MLEOTA

BY MIKE CHRISTENSEN

Mississippi State Hospital Police Officers Kendrell Laron Canada and James Robert Stovall graduated from the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Training Academy on Aug. 2.

The ceremony for the 51-member Basic Class No. 255 was held at the Brandon Civic Center, with Sheriff Alex Hodge of the Jones County Sheriff's Department serving as guest speaker. The MLEOTA graduates completed a rigorous 12-week program.

Canada is from Jackson and has been on the MSH police force since May of 2016. Stovall, from Brandon, has served at MSH since October 2016.



*MSH Police Chief Jeff Luckey, Officer James Stovall, Officer Kendrell Canada and Director of Risk Management Services Jenny Pittman at the MLEOTA graduation ceremony.*