

THSMF FAMILY TIMES



The Department of Mental Health's website (www.mh.alabama.gov) will be "frozen" in early October to allow for redesign of the website. The website is expected to be updated and accessible in the Spring of 2019. Our newsletter will continue to be available on Taylor Hardin's Facebook page.

Your comments are important to us. Next time you visit, please take a few moments to fill out a "Family/Friend Questionnaire." The questionnaires are on yellow paper and are kept in a wood holder in our lobby. If you need assistance locating one, let us know and we will help you out. The questionnaire has twelve questions and will only take a few minutes to complete. Your feedback helps us to improve on what we do and how we do it.

It's football time in T-Town!! These are the home games for September. Please remember traffic is heavy and delays should be expected if traveling for visitation.

- 10/12: Missouri – Time TBA
- 11/09: Mississippi State – Time TBA
- 11/16: The Citadel – Time TBA



Rights Highlight:

This month we are focusing on the right of **quality treatment**. Patients have the right to receive quality treatment and care from trained professionals. No one may be denied services because of political affiliation, race, color, age, gender, national origin, handicap, or religion. Medication can be given to patients only by a physician's written order. Patients cannot be given medication or other treatment as punishment or for employee convenience.

Patients have the right to be fully informed by a physician of their medical condition unless the physician feels it is inadvisable and documents this in the medical record. Patients have the right to prompt and adequate treatment for physical ailments and disorders and may participate in planning medical treatment to the extent of the patient's abilities. If any treatment procedures place the patient at a physical risk, the treatment plan must note the reason such procedures are necessary.

Patients have the right to be examined by a private physician/consultant at their own expense and such physician/consultant may consult with the hospital physician about the patient's condition and care.

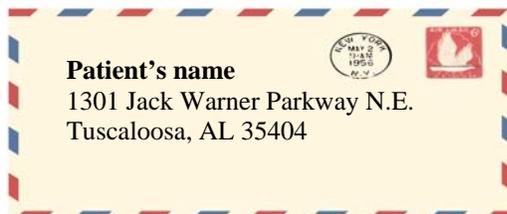
Our Annual Patient and Family Christmas Dinner is scheduled for Friday, December 14th. Information will be mailed out on October 8th.

Family Education classes meet from 10 – 11:30 a.m. on the 3rd Friday in February, March, May, June, August, September, and November. The Advocacy Meeting is held in January, April, July, and October at the same time. Visitation begins at 11:30AM for those attending the meetings.

Our Family Education Class is all about providing education and support to you – our families. We want you to feel comfortable to come to class, to ask questions or to just sit quietly and listen. We use different tools (handouts, videos, discussion) during the classes to provide the best learning environment. We want to help you learn more about mental health and THSMF.

Sending Mail?

Effective 8/1/18, no personal items (hygiene, clothing, phone cards, etc.) may be sent to patients directly from family. You may send money (check or money order only) to your loved one (relative only) and they may purchase canteen items or request to purchase items allowed on their program through THSMF staff. Cash will not be accepted via mail. Please speak with the social worker if you have questions.



If you have any questions or concerns about your loved one's care & treatment, safety, or a medical condition that may require immediate assessment or care, please let staff know immediately.



Have a question or comment about the newsletter? Contact Lori Ellard, LICSW by phone at 205-462-4650 or by email at Lori.Ellard@hardin.mh.alabama.gov



Visitation Reminders:

- All visitors must be pre-approved.
- One drink item and one food item only and both items must be purchased from the THSMF vending machines.
- Bring pictured identification if over the age of 16.
- No cell phones, umbrellas, coats, bags, tobacco products, weapons, lighters, allowed.
- You will be asked to clear the metal detector prior to entering the visitation area
- Once entering the visitation area, you will not be allowed to exit and re-enter.
- Special visits must be requested at least seven days in advance of the desired visit date.

Passing unacceptable items to a patient at Taylor Hardin is “promoting contraband”, and can be illegal, just as it would be in jail. Unacceptable items include tobacco, tobacco products, cash, lighters, medications, street drugs, money (including coins), pens and other sharp items, alcohol, cell phones, and anything else labeled as contraband.

Any visitor who assists or attempts to assist in escape plans, schemes for creating disorder, or passes or attempts to pass any unacceptable item will not be allowed further visits and **will** be subject to criminal action.