

THSMF FAMILY TIMES



SOCIAL WORK
ELEVATE

March is
National Professional
Social Work Month.

March is also National Nutrition Month

Did you know that Lori Leavelle and Allison Woods, the Dietitians at THSMF, regularly gather input about food likes and dislikes, as well as the type, quantity, and quality of the food we serve? They attend Treatment Team meetings to provide input when nutrition is a treatment issue. This is our shout out to Ms. Leavelle and Ms. Woods and the Nutritional Services Department!



March 30th is National Doctor's Day!!



History of National Doctors' Day: National Doctors' Day is held every year on March 30th in the United States. It is a day to celebrate the contribution of physicians who serve our country by caring for its' citizens. The first Doctor's Day observance was March 30, 1933 in Winder, Georgia. Eudora Brown Almond, wife of Dr. Charles B. Almond, decided to set aside a day to honor physicians. This first observance included the mailing greeting cards and placing flowers on graves of deceased doctors. On March 30, 1958, a Resolution Commemorating Doctors' Day was adopted by the United States House of Representatives. In 1990, legislation was introduced in the House and Senate to establish a national Doctor's Day. Following overwhelming approval by the United States Senate and the House of Representatives, on October 30, 1990, President George Bush signed S.J. RES. #366 (which became Public Law 101-473) designating March 30th as "National Doctor's Day."



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 15
- 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.

Family Education classes meet from 10 – 11:30 a.m. on the 3rd Friday in February, March, May, June, August, September, and November. Our next class is May 17th. The Advocacy Committee meets on the third Friday in January, April, July, and October. All family members are encouraged to attend. Visitation begins at 11:30 a.m. for those attending the Family Education Class or Advocacy meeting.

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.

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.



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

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.

Rights Highlight:

This month we are focusing on the rights **legal competency** and **safe and humane environment**.

Legal competency – Patients admitted to THSMF have the right to be treated as a legally competent individual, to manage affairs and exercise all other rights guaranteed other persons of society, unless a court has determined them to be legally incompetent. Patients have the right to vote by absentee ballot in state, local and federal elections unless they have been convicted of a felony or declared legally incompetent by the Court.

Safe and humane environment - Patients have a right to safe and humane living areas and treatment to maintain positive self-image and human dignity. Reporting potentially dangerous situations to staff is an important responsibility. Examples of potential risk situations include threats by someone to hurt self or others, use of illicit drugs, failing to take medication (that is, throwing it away), observing another patient throwing their medication away, possession of contraband, and sexually inappropriate behavior. Report dangerous situations as soon as you know about them to the nurse, any treatment team member or any staff member.

Upon admission, patients are assessed for the risk of falls by a Registered Nurse. If found to be at risk, appropriate interventions will be implemented. As a family member, if you notice any changes in your loved one’s medical condition that may require immediate assessment or care, please notify any staff member.

Sending Mail?

Effective 8/1/18, THSMF patients may not receive packages from family/friends, etc. Family members/friends, etc. 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.** Any packages received will be returned and/or placed in the patient’s personal possessions.

When sending mail, please make sure to put your loved one’s name on the envelope.