

# THSMF FAMILY TIMES



# Happy 4th of July



## Rights Highlight:

This month we are focusing on the rights of **Religion & Confidentiality of Records.**

### **Religion**

While in this facility, patients have the right to worship in the religious faith of their choice. Patients cannot be forced to attend a religious service against their will and have the right to express spiritual, cultural, psychosocial, and personal values, beliefs, and practices that do not harm others or interfere with the planned course of treatment. A chaplain with expertise in mental health issues makes weekly visits to the facility and is available when required by special need.

### **Confidentiality of Records**

Records of treatment and care should be kept confidential and cannot be released without consent of the patient/guardian, policy, or court order. Patients have the right to review their records in the presence of the Treatment Team if the Psychiatrist determines the review would not be harmful to treatment.

**WELCOME!!**

THSMF welcomes  
Erika Marsh, MSW  
and  
Chloe Tilley, MSW  
to the  
Social Work  
Services  
Department.

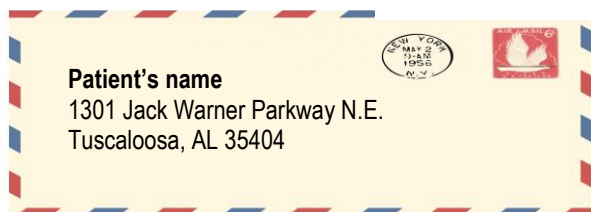
Family Education classes meet from 10 – 11:30 a.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in February, March, May, June, August, September, and November. Our next class is May 18th. The Advocacy Committee currently meets on the third Friday in January, April, July, and October. All family members are encouraged 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.*

### Sending Mail?

If mailing a letter to your family member at THSMF, please make sure to include your **family member's name** in the address.

**No packages are allowed.**



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.

**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.**



## 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.
- Children under the age of 1 are not allowed to visit. Children between the ages of 1 and 13 are not allowed to visit during regular visitation hours. You may contact the assigned social worker to discuss specific rules (who can visit, when you can visit, etc.) about special visits. Requests for special visits must be submitted to the social worker **at least 7 days in advance** of when you would like to visit.

**We have had recent events that resulted in visitation being cancelled on the weekends. Please feel free to call Police Services at 205-462-4555 to inquire about visitation before driving to the facility.**

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.



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](mailto:Lori.Ellard@hardin.mh.alabama.gov)