



MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

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FOUR MSH EMPLOYEES GRADUATE FROM DMH FOCUS GROUP

WHITFIELD— Four Mississippi State Hospital employees recently graduated from the Department of Mental Health's (DMH) "Focus" program, an accelerated leadership development initiative.

Dr. Lydia Weisser, Dr. Joseph Griebler, Dr. Craig Escude and Billy Walton all graduated during a ceremony held on Friday, Nov. 12 at Duncan Gray Center in Canton. Focus offers a unique opportunity for employees to hone their skills to greater and higher personal performance and self-awareness.

"Focus is one of the most exciting projects our agency has been involved with," said Ed LeGrand, DMH Executive Director. "This groundbreaking initiative is helping to strengthen our employees and build upon their talents. DMH's mission is to support a better tomorrow today and this is one of our efforts to prepare the leaders of tomorrow."

Weisser is the Clinical Services Director at the hospital, Griebler is Director of the Male Receiving and Chemical Dependence Unit, Escude is a medical doctor at Mississippi State Hospital and Hudspeth Regional Center and Walton is Director of Nursing at the child and adolescent unit, Oak Circle Center. Weisser and Griebler are Rankin County residents while Walton and Escude are residents of Hinds County.

The Focus program lasts 12-18 months and involves four multi-day retreats as well as community service projects. The goal is to help DMH employees reach maximum capacity and to develop "bench strength" for the agency. This experience challenges participants to grow to new heights in both ability and attitude.

MSH, a facility of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, was founded in 1855 and facilitates improvement in the quality of life for Mississippians who are in need of mental health, chemical dependency or nursing home services, by rehabilitating to the least restrictive environment, utilizing a range of psychiatric and medical services, which reflect the accepted standard of care and are in compliance with statutory and regulatory guidelines. The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.

- 30 -

PHOTOS ATTACHED:

1: Dr. Lydia Weisser, Clinical Services Director at Mississippi State Hospital, is a recent graduate of the Department of Mental Health accelerated leadership program Focus. Pictured

are (l to r) Cary Walt, DMH Director of the Bureau of Workforce Development and Training; Weisser; and Ed LeGrand, DMH Executive Director.

2: Dr. Craig Escude, a medical doctor at Mississippi State Hospital, is a recent graduate of the Department of Mental Health accelerated leadership program Focus. Pictured are (l to r) Cary Walt, DMH Director of the Bureau of Workforce Development and Training; Escude; and Ed LeGrand, DMH Executive Director.

3: Dr. Joseph Griebler, PhD, Director of the Male Receiving and Chemical Dependence Unit at Mississippi State Hospital, is a recent graduate of the Department of Mental Health accelerated leadership program Focus. Pictured are (l to r) Cary Walt, DMH Director of the Bureau of Workforce Development and Training; Griebler; and Ed LeGrand, DMH Executive Director.

4: Billy Walton, Director of Nursing at Mississippi State Hospital's child and adolescent unit, Oak Circle Center, is a recent graduate of the Department of Mental Health accelerated leadership program Focus. Pictured are (l to r) Cary Walt, DMH Director of the Bureau of Workforce Development and Training; Walton; and Ed LeGrand, DMH Executive Director.