



# MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

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## **For Immediate Release**

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### **WARREN-YAZOO AND TIMBER HILLS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES HONORED**

WHITFIELD—Friends of the Mississippi State Hospital presented its Together We Make a Difference Awards during its annual meeting on Wednesday, August 24. MSH Director James Chastain presented the awards to Region 15 Warren-Yazoo Mental Health Services and Region 4 Timber Hills Mental Health Services.

Both organizations are part of Mississippi's public mental health system, but are not part of the Department of Mental Health. Instead, they are part of the Community Mental Health Centers, a network of 15 regional centers across the state that make available a range of community-based mental health services to all 82 counties in Mississippi.

Steve Roark accepted the award for Region 15 and Charlie Spearman accepted for Region 4.

“Both of these organizations are leaders in the state in the provision of quality community mental health services, and are key players in the development and continuing expansion of community based services throughout the state,” MSH Director James G. Chastain said. “These examples demonstrate their desire and commitment to make community based services more readily available. They are vital to the citizens they serve as primary providers of the necessary resources, treatment and support needed to live successfully in the community.”

Chastain said Region 15 was one of the first community mental health centers in the state to offer crisis stabilization services, and added that it is known for brainstorming and implementing innovative ideas and services to meet the changing needs of their community. Region 4, which includes Tippah, Alcorn, Tishomingo, Prentiss, and Desoto Counties, was a pioneer in establishing in-house pharmacy services for their clients. Both of the centers have been a partner in the annual Farmer Jim Neal Golf Tournament, the largest fundraiser for Friends, since its inception in 2002.

“These organizations are staffed, operated and led with service in mind. It is with great honor I present the Together We Make a Difference Award to Warren-Yazoo Mental Health Services and Timber Hills Mental Health Services. Thank you for your leadership in providing mental health services in Mississippi and your support of Mississippi State Hospital and the Friends organization.”

For more information, call MSH Public Relations at (601) 351-8018.

*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. Accredited by JCAHO, MSH is the largest hospital in Mississippi and the largest public psychiatric facility in the United States.*

**PHOTO ATTACHED:**

**Together We Make A Difference 1: Friends of Mississippi State Hospital presented one of two “Together We Make A Difference” awards to Region 15 Warren-Yazoo Mental Health Services on Wednesday, August 24. The organization was honored for outstanding service in the mental health field, including being one of the first community mental health centers to offer a crisis stabilization service. Pictured are (l to r) Friends board member Ray Wallace, Department of Mental Health Executive Director Ed LeGrand, Region 15 Director Steve Roark, Department of Mental Health Deputy Executive Director Diana Mikula, and MSH Director James G. Chastain.**

**Together We Make A Difference 2: Friends of Mississippi State Hospital presented one of two “Together We Make A Difference” awards to Region 4 Timber Hills Health Services on Wednesday, August 24. Region 4 pioneered establishing in-house pharmacy services for their clients, and has greatly expanded the availability of mental health services in DeSoto County. Pictured are (l to r) Friends board member Ray Wallace, Region 4 Director Charlie Spearman, Department of Mental Health Executive Director Ed LeGrand, Department of Mental Health Deputy Executive Director Diana Mikula, and MSH Director James G. Chastain.**