



*P.O. Box 207 · Whitfield, Miss. 39193 · (601) 351-8015 · Fax (601) 351-8243*

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Contact: Adam Moore (601) 351-8262, adam.moore@msh.state.ms.us

**DMH HONORS JAQUITH DIRECTOR MARC LEWIS**

WHITFIELD — The Mississippi Department of Mental Health honored Jaquith Nursing Home Director Marc Lewis at last month's annual MHMR Conference in Philadelphia, Miss. with the Bradley A. Sanders Service Award.

The award honors a person who has made outstanding contributions in the field of behavioral healthcare management in Mississippi. It is named in honor of Bradley Sanders, who worked in state government for more than thirty years, much of it in the field of mental health services.

Lewis has been employed with the Department of Mental Health since 1996, and has often served in key roles where new services and programs have been in development.

Between 1996 and 2000, he served as part of the leadership team responsible for opening North Mississippi State Hospital in Tupelo and South Mississippi State Hospital in Purvis. In 2000, Lewis accepted the position of human resources director at Mississippi State Hospital, where he served until he was appointed as director of Jaquith Nursing Home in 2005.

During his time there, he has improved Jaquith Nursing Home programs and services, established the annual "Jaquith University" referral conference, and developed a program to include and encourage family participation at Jaquith Nursing Home.

He has continuously pursued opportunities to further his education and understanding of mental health and administration. He has frequently been called upon to take on difficult tasks and always accepted the challenge, and more importantly, accomplished the objective.

**PHOTO:** Pictured are (l to r) Mississippi Department of Mental Health Executive Director Ed LeGrand, Jaquith Nursing Home Director Marc Lewis, Bradley Sanders, and Mississippi State Hospital Director James G. Chastain.

*Founded in 1976, Jaquith Nursing Home is a 479-bed long-term care facility dedicated to serving individuals who are in need of nursing care in a safe and comfortable therapeutic environment. The nursing home is located on the 350-acre campus of Mississippi State Hospital at Whitfield. JNH is accredited by The Joint Commission.*