



National Nurses Week

By Gwen Henry, South Florida State Hospital

Nationwide, Nurses Week is celebrated annually from May 6, also known as National Nurses Day, through May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. On May 5th, GEO Care nurses celebrated Nurses Week together at a seminar held at South Florida State Hospital (SFSH). There were 45 nurses in total from SFSH, Treasure Coast Forensic & Treatment Center (TCFTC), and South Florida Evaluation & Treatment Center (SFETC) that participated in the Nurses Week Conference.

GEO Care nurses presented different topics:

Valerie Devereaux ARNP, VP Nursing Svcs and Risk Management – presented information on Evidence Based Practice, current research in mental health nursing, as well as the importance of advancing and continuing education.

Bent Neilson DON, TCFTC, shared a presentation on the role of the nurse in mental health and forensic nursing.

Kevin Timko RN and Nichole Laing PMHNP, shared information on the experiences of auditory and visual hallucinations.

Tabitha Prentiss RN, TCETC, is one of our newest nurses. She talked about her transition starting as a Mental Health Technician and working while going to school full time in order to attain her RN. She spoke about the value she believes that psychiatric nurses bring to the treatment environment of our underserved population.



Tiffany Jones Lopez Jomen RN, TCFTC comes to us from the Philippines and she shared her transitional experience in a presentation.

Phillipa Wilson RN, SFSH gave a presentation on "Emotional Intelligence as Related to Nursing."

We also had the good fortune to serve as hosts for the American Journal of Nursing's traveling photography

exhibit, "Faces of Caring." The exhibit is one that is hosted all over the country to promote and celebrate nursing. This proved to be a fantastic backdrop to the day as we admired photos taken by nurses that reflect their joy in nursing. Locally, the nurses at SFSH contributed their own photos to further focus on mental health nursing. It was a day of celebrating each other and the passion we have for our nursing practice.

Large Photo: *Images on wall.*

Top Photo: *Nurses and staff attending Nurses Week Celebration.*

Bottom Left Photo: *Wall image.*

Bottom Right Photo: *L-R Valerie Devereaux & Tanya Barnes-Reaves.*