Every Thursday morning the occupational therapy department buzzes with activity as approximately 95 children and their caregivers attend the Cerebral Palsy and Down syndrome clinics on a monthly basis.

Additionally, the rehabilitation team, including the occupational therapist, speech therapist, dietician, audiologist and physiotherapist, have been very hands on with activities done every session that benefits the children and assists them in reaching their personal therapeutic goals; the growth that we have seen in these children in the space of eleven months has been astonishing.

In the month of November, the Rehab team hosted a year end party during the therapeutic sessions in order to commemorate International Day of persons with Disability and to thank the caregivers for continuously giving of their time to bring these children to the clinic once a month to receive the rehabilitation they require. This was also a way for the groups to say goodbye before their departure from Eshowe District hospital at the end of December.
Eshowe District Hospital celebrated Service Excellence on the 01 December 2017 with celebrations held at the hospital nurses home (boardroom). December the 1st is also World AIDS Day. To remember those who were affected and infected by this disease a candle lighting moment was part of the program for the day. This moment was conducted by OM: LT Bhengu (HAST Coordinator). Service Excellence was celebrated under the theme “Quality is not an act but it is a habit” and the speaker for the day was Mrs. P Zungu (Deputy Director: Monitoring & Evaluation).

Dr. Kavuala did a remarkable job while conducting the program and the event was blessed by Reverent Mncube. Dr. Dube-Mathonsi (DMN) welcomed the guests, members of the board and Eshowe hospital staff that attended. Mr. PN Sangweni (Hospital CEO) gave the purpose for the day and he encouraged staff to excel in their field of duties, be innovative and to always strive for excellence.

Guest Speaker (Mrs. P Zungu) indeed left a mark in everyone’s heart when she spoke of excellence which means quality of being outstanding or extremely good, and that it can be achieved in different ways by doing ordinary things and tasks in an extra ordinary way. Each and every one of us has the potential to excel. She further elaborated on hospital theme for 2017/18 “Excellence is not an act but a habit” this simply means—being excellent does not mean preparing for an audit or assessment a week before you are assessed so that you get the accreditation and certification, but it means doing things right the first time and doing things right all the time.

Because if we do activities and tasks for the sake of compliance it becomes an act for that particular day. Whereas if we strive for excellence on a daily basis it becomes our habit and excellence becomes a part of us and who we are. Excellence is not a skill but it is passion and attitude.

Excellence never seeks excuses it strives no matter what the circumstances are. In order to achieve excellence in life you always need to seek expertise from people who are better than you (that is benchmarking best practices in our case). In the environment of public health service delivery, one can never achieve excellence as an individual, it requires team work, team effort and team spirit.

Mrs. Zungu concluded her speech by saying “Always do right even if no one is watching & Remember a journey of a thousand miles begin with one single step. We can from today start our journey to excellence in our little corners & areas of work and see how much of an impact it will have on the overall outcomes of the department”.

Mrs. J Chennels (hospital board member) gave a word of support and she thanked the hospital management and staff for doing a good job in ensuring that Eshowe District Hospital is always recommended by the community it serves.

A grateful thank you to those who supported and sponsored the event, Kadulele Cleaning Services, ZMI Butchery, Liberty Life, Hospital Tuck-shop, Dr. Britz, Coastals and Super Meats.
The party involved lots of delicious party treats, games, quizzes and entertainment provided by the Rehabilitation Team and the Spur Mascot. The children and their caregivers were then given a cooked meal for lunch prepared by the hospital kitchen staff and Eshowe Spur. In addition, the rehab team was able to assemble hampers for the children and their caregivers who were ecstatic to receive them. These consisted of many basic necessity items and toiletries, as well as toys and non-perishable food items.

**PRAYER DAY BY HCF**

Hospital Christian Fellowship rounded off 2017 on a high note by hosting a prayer session that was held in the staff residence (boardroom) on the 6 December 2017. It was good to see hospital staff attending such a precious ceremony just to thank the Lord for all the good he has done. Sermon was delivered by Dr. LT Magwaza and she read the book of PSALMS 107.

Dr. LT Magwaza is wife to Bishop LT Magwaza who usually visits the hospital on Mondays and Fridays to give sermon to out-patients and also give them hope through prayer.

A big thank you to the organizing team for such a therapeutic service.
PHC Indaba is an annual event at Eshowe District Hospital and this platform is used by hospital management for information sharing (achievements by the clinics, unmet desirable achievements, opportunities, PHC Budget) with the relevant stakeholders namely: Clinic Committees from the six feeder clinics, PHC: Operational Managers, Community Care Givers, NGOs, FBO and Traditional Health Practitioners as well as Traditional Birth attendants. Indaba was conducted on 27.10.2017 under the Theme Embracing Diverse Health Practices for Quality PHC Outcomes.

Program Director was Operational Manager of King Dinizulu Clinic: WFL Ntamane and she did an amazing job by ensuring that guests were kept entertained and also receiving the information shared. Medical Manager Dr. MS Buthelezi covered the purpose of INDABA broadly by explaining to the stakeholders the theme for the day and was followed by Dr. FN Dube (DMN) who did an overview of the 6 feeder clinics, the overview encompassed all services offered at the clinics, population serviced at the clinics and the demarcations for these clinics.

Motivation on Patient Care was done by Dr Nxele and after guest speaker commissions were done, the topics discussed included how to improve outcomes of the following:

- Family Planning uptake
- ANC first visit before 20 weeks
- MMC uptake
- HIV testing, TB Screening and Adherence to treatment.

Traditional Health Practitioners and Traditional Birth Attendants were excited to be receiving certificates of attendance for training that was conducted by Eshowe District Hospital at Ndlangubo area. To end, Miss L Maphalala (King Cetshwayo District) gave words of support, she congratulated Eshowe PHC for good performance and mentioned that she is proud to be supporting Eshowe because she knows that they are a dedicated team.

Gratitude to Metropolitan for the sponsorship.
It was a happy moment for the 3 staff members from the nursing component who are going on retirement. The three staff members are Mrs. AH Mncwabe (ANM: Night Duty services) who joined Eshowe District Hospital in 1985 and she resigned and came back in 1991. In 1998 she was appointed as unit manager until 2006. In 2006 till November 2017 she was appointed as (ANM: Night duty services).

Mrs. E Xulu (OM: Medical Ward) first joined EDH in 1977 but had to resign as she was pregnant with her third child and couldn't be granted maternity leave. Mrs. Xulu was then re appointed at Eshowe Hospital in 1984 and was allocated in ward 10 as Operational Manager until her retirement in October 2017.

Ms. SG Buthelezi (OM: Antenatal Ward) joined Eshowe family in 2006, in 2007 she was allocated to supervise GOPD and in 2012 she was appointed as Operational Manager for Antenatal Ward until December 2017.

Dr. Dube gave a heart felt speech where she congratulated all the ladies for their work performance and remarkable efforts towards the Department. She described Matron Mncwabe as a manager who was always at the forefront not just an office manager. Operational Manager Xulu will be dearly missed for her good narrating skill and Operational Manager SG. Buthelezi a punctual lady who was not much of a talker but always ensured that tasks assigned were completed.

Eshowe District Hospital management, nursing component and staff, wish you ladies all the best on your retirement. You did well despite the hardships—including the chronic issue of staff shortages, but you coped, and you were good managers.
Matron E Reynecke also shared some good advise with the ladies as they are going on retirement she made sure she gave them a survival kit which will be useful during the retirement period.

Nursing Component wishes to thank the coordinating team (MOPD OM: S. Dladla, Ward 5 OM: SPT Ndebele and Dr. Chapman aka Nursery OM: N Mdletshe) for ensuring that the day was a success. A big thank you to ANM E Reynecke for the beautiful décor.

**FAREWELLS**

**Retirement Survival Kit**

- Watch - This Is Your Time Now
- Mint - Have a Happy Retire 'Mint'
- Marker Pen - To Mark The Start of A New Journey
- Marbles - For The Ones You've Lost Over The Years
- Clover - Wishing You Good Luck & Happiness In Your Retirement
- Rubber Band - To Remind You To Always Stay Flexible
- Coffee - Because Retirement Is One Long “Coffee Break”
- Footsteps - You Can Now Live Life At Your Own Pace
- Puzzle - To Help Keep You Active
- Penny - A Contribution To Your Retirement Fund
- Globe - The World Is Now Your Oyster
- Candle - So The Future Is Always Bright
- Cushion - Because You’ve Earned A Rest
- Gold - After All Those Years You Deserve One
- Medal - You’ve Been Worth Your Weight In Gold

OM: E Xulu cutting the cake assisted by OM: S Dladla

OM: SG Buthelezi receiving a gift from OM: SPT Ndebele and behind her is OM: N Mdletshe
In celebration of Nurses Day 2017, Eshowe District Hospital held the commemoration on the 24th May 2017 with the theme "Nursing: A voice to lead - Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals".

To end off the year 2017, Eshowe District Hospital team went on a team building session on the 16 November 2017 and it was held at Clubventure: Ballito. The main objective for the team building exercise is to unwind in a conducive environment where the team can be rejuvenated. The team building idea was introduced in 2016 by the current CEO Mr. PN Sangweni and previous year it was held at Fort Nongayi. In 2017 it grew, although the desired attendance by the hospital staff hasn't been achieved but we remain optimistic that over the years it will grow bigger.

November 14 is World Diabetes Day and to empower our patients with knowledge, MOPD Team together with Dietetics held an awareness day on the 22 November 2017 at MOPD. The awareness was held on Wednesday which is clinic day for Diabetes.

Topics that were covered during the awareness included different types of food that contributes too much sugar levels on blood streams, foot care, and danger signs which may lead to amputation were further elaborated.

Dieticians conducted BMI for clients and educational material was handed out to patients which they can refer to at home.
Isibhedlela sase Showe sagubha loulusuku ngenyanga ka Mfumfu mhlaka 20 yize noma inyangza ka Mandulo yayisidlulile kodwa kwazakambiseka ukuthi esibhedelela sase Showe amagugu akusiyo into yosuku oululodwa kepha into esiziqhenyayo ngayo zinsuku zonke.

Umphathi whole kwakungu Mnumzane V. Ndlou owenza umsebenzi oncomekayo eshayela loluhlulelo no Mnumzane MS Buthelezi wakhuluma kahle kakhulu ekhumbuza izizwe zonke ngokubaluleka kokuzigqaja ngamasiko ethu wayesebalula nokuthi esikhathini esiningi uma ungumuntu ozigqajayo ngamagugu akho uuyaye ubizwe noma ubukeke njengomuntu oyiqaba okanye ibhinca nokhoke lokhu akumele uuvumule kukukhathaze okanye kwehlise umdlanda osuke unawo ngaamagugu obuzwe bakho.

Umphathi wabahlengikazi unkosikazi Dube naye wavumisa ingoma kwahlokoma ihholo, okwasijabulisa kakhulu njengabasebenzi ukwazi ukuthi sinabo abaphathi abaziqgajayo ngamagugu.


Phambili ngokwazisa amagugu ngokwezizwe ezahlukene.
The hospital staff together with hospital board member Mrs. J Chennels went around the hospital singing Christmas Carols on the 13 December 2017 for inpatients and outpatients. This was aimed at cheering up patients and reminding them that they are loved and cared for by Eshowe hospital staff and we wish them speedy recovery and a Merry Christmas.

There was also a competition for the best decorated ward/department and Ward 9 took 1st position, 2nd was Theatre, 3rd was Rehab and in 4th position was Dr. Chapman. Mrs. Chennels and the Events Committee were kind enough to sponsor gifts for the competition.

Hopefully those who didn’t make it this year will be encouraged and do beautiful decorations in 2018.
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