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JA Prime Minister Holness commenting on partnership with Hartford HealthCare following HHC CEO Jeff Flaks' opening remarks on the background on how the partnership developed during the COVID pandemic. Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin and Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz offered welcoming remarks to the Jamaican delegation and appreciation for the ongoing partnership.

Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew P. Holness And Delegation Visit Hartford, CT

Mark D. Milward

The Most Honorable Andrew P. Holness, ON, PC, MP, prime minister of Jamaica and his delegation was hosted in Hartford by Hartford HealthCare at its Downtown Pearl Street location to a small group of invited guests. Included in the Jamaican delegation was the Honorable Senator Kamina Johnson Smith, and The Consul general from New York, Alson Wilson, OD.

The visit was aimed at strengthening ties between Jamaica and HartfordCare (HHC) and further partnering in a relationship that began during the COVID-19 pandemic.

HHC CEO Jeff Flaks opened the meeting giving some background on how the partnership developed during the COVID pandemic, the HHC donation of \$800,000 dollars of personal protective equipment (PPE) to Jamaica, and up to the point when a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between Jamaica and Hartford Healthcare.

Senator Johnson Smith spoke about the pillars of support that Jamaica aims to build with its Diaspora and expressed her satisfaction in the relationship being formed within the Hartford Diaspora, while sharing important aspects of Jamaica's National Diaspora Policy.

The objectives of the MOU signed during a previous visit by the Minister of Health, Dr. Christopher Tufton was a commitment by HHC to; assist in improving the health of patients that are served in the health facilities in Jamaica; help to increase the number of elective surgeries undertaken in the public health facilities in Jamaica help to increase the availability of medical and nursing professionals to assist with conducting elective surgeries to decrease the surgical backlog; and facilitate academic and professional exchanges between the parties to enable skill and knowledge transfer.

The establishment of this initiative and efforts to coordinate the actions were facilitat-

ed by Consul General Alison Wilson and HHC Vice President, Community liaison Keith Grant, a Jamaican.

Prime Minister Holness was very gracious in expressing his thanks to HHC for the partnership and pointed out the benefits of partnering and partnership when the exchange is beneficial on both sides.

He reflected on that fact that many doctors and nurses in the HHC organization are Jamaicans who were trained and educated in Jamaica.

In discussing the current challenges and condition of the Health care system in Jamaica, he stated that efforts are being planned to upgrade hospital facilities and cited the virtual training exchanges taking place between Jamaica and

Hartford HealthCare.

Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin and Lt Governor Susan Bysiewicz were also present and offered welcoming remarks to the Jamaican delegation and appreciation for the ongoing partnership.

Media coverage of the visit was provided by Hartford Public Access Television (HPATV) and "The Jamaica Diaspora Show."

The event will air Saturday, September 2, 2023 at 2 pm, and Sunday September 3 at 3 pm on HPATV Channel 5, and the HPA-TV YOUTUBE channel making it available for the national and international audience.

Jamaica Medical Mission

HELP Jamaica Medical Mission (HELPJaMM) travels back to Jamaica after a four-year absence September 7-14, 2023 to provide medical services for the underserved communities in Jamaica and aiming to improve the health status of its residents. The mission will cover the parishes of St. Andrew, St. Catherine, St Thomas and St. Elizabeth.

The Help Jamaica Medical Mission (HELPJaMM) will arrive at Norman Manley Airport on Wednesday, September 06, 2023. HELPJaMM is a medical non-profit organization founded in 2010 by Dr. Robert Clarke, MD with the support of Dr. Rudolph Willis, MD and an aim to provide free quality healthcare in Jamaica and New Jersey.

This year will mark its 16th year bringing free quality Healthcare to the medically underserved citizens in Jamaica.

Dr. Robert Clarke was born in Kingston, Jamaica. He is the Medical Director-Silverlake Hospital Newark NJ. He works in private practice in East Orange, Medical Practice Physician Advisor-East Orange General Hospital, and Medical Director-Windsor Garden Care Center. Dr. Clarke also maintains an office in Kingston, Jamaica and is the immediate Past President of the

National Association of Jamaican and Supportive Organizations (NAJASO). He is affiliated with multiple hospitals in the New Jersey area, including [CareWell Health Medical Center](#) and [Clara Maass Medical Center](#).

Dr. Clarke did his medical training at University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ), where he is currently a clinical instructor in medicine. He has received several US congressional awards for his work in medicine as a trailblazer including honors from the US Northeast Diaspora where he is currently the Chief Medical Advisor. Dr. Clarke was also Co-leader with Dr. Trevor Dixon of JAH JAH foundation where they helped in the fight against COVID-19 at Savannah la mar hospital in Westmoreland. An internal medicine doctor for more than 20 years, Dr. Clarke was on the frontline treating COVID-19 patients from the very beginning of the pandemic and provided medications to Jamaicans stranded in the US during that time. His efforts have been recognized with numerous awards and honors and he will be awarded the Order of Distinction (OD) at the 2023 Jamaican National Honours ceremony in October on Heroes Day for his contributions to medicine and healthcare in Jamaica, the United States and Africa.

Dr. Rudolph Willis assists in supporting the HELPJaMM mission. He was born in St. Mary, Jamaica. He graduated from Long Island University Brooklyn, New York and received his medical degree from Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (Rutgers Medical School) in New Jersey in 1982. Upon graduating from medical school, Dr. Willis' internship transition at UMDNJ-University Hospital, Newark, New Jersey. He completed his residency in Family Practice at JFK Medical Center, Edison, New Jersey and was board certified in 1996. Dr. Willis currently is in private practice at Irvington Emergent Care and Rehab Center, LLC in Irvington, New Jersey for the past 30 years. He also has a medical practice in Buffalo New York where he practices Addiction Medicine. He was an attending Physician for over 20 years at several Hospitals including, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, East Orange General Hospital and Irvington General Hospital.

In 1996, Dr. Willis co- founded the Caribbean Medical Mission; an organization that provides free medical care to the disadvantage in Jamaica. The Caribbean Medical Mission also helps other countries in the Caribbean. Dr. Willis served as President from 1996 to 2002 where the Organization brought a team of Doctors and other supportive staff to Jamaica and deliv-

ered tens of thousands of \$US of medicine and equipment to the needy in Jamaica year after year. He again served as President from 2006 to 2010. He subsequently co-founded Help Jamaica Medical Mission that continues to provide free medical services to underserved areas in Jamaica. Help Jamaica Medical Mission helps surgical patients, renal patients and many others who cannot afford their medical care. He served as President for six years and is passionate about improving the health care system in Jamaica. Dr. Willis served as Medical Co-Chair of NAJASO (National Association of Jamaican and Supportive Organizations) 2011 to 2015 and Medical Chair 2015-2019.

Dr. Willis received several Congressional Proclamations and Citations, Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition, several Certificates of Appreciation and Recognition together with other Accolades.

The medical mission is led by these exceptional doctors and includes other medical doctors and nurses. The group is comprised of medical and non-medical professionals of all disciplines.

The spirit of volunteerism is one of the many benefits that make the organization's mission possible. Team members dedicate their time and efforts towards brainstorming and raising funds to provide and administer medical supplies, medication, and medical services to those in need. Every individual deserves a chance for medical treatment regardless of financial and social status and every patient is seen at each site visited without exception.

Patients will be treated for Hypertension, Eczema, Asthma, Congestive Heart Failure, Diabetes, Obstructive Sleep, COPD Apnea, Seizure disorder, Viral Syndrome, Seasonal Allergies, Morbid Obesity, Degenerative Joint Disease, Skin Rash (fungal) Glaucoma, Post-partum Depression, Chronic Osteoarthritis, Chronic Kidney Disease, Cataract, Chronic Rheumatoid Arthritis & Pterygium. Media coverage for the mission is being provided by the *Jamaica Gleaner* and *West Indian American* newspapers in addition to coverage by *Hartford Public Access TV* and *The Jamaica Diaspora Show*. Donations to support the mission can also be made at HELPJaMM's website www.helpjamiacomission.com; and by calling Ph. 973-373-3000. Email: vedaturner4@yahoo.com

Page 4 below presents additional information.

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Thursday, September 7, 2023: Jamaica Evangelistic Center, Kingston, Rev. V. T. Williams Contact: Veda Turner 876-923-4442 or 937-1103. Email: vedaturner4@yahoo.com.

Friday, September 8, 2023: Point Hill Health Center Kitson Town, St. Catharine, Contact: Mr. Shevel Turton Email: turtonshevel@gmail.com; 876-633-8107 or 876-787-5343

Saturday, September 9, 2023: Greenvale Community Center, Mandeville Manchester; Contact; Andrew Smith majusmit21@gmail.com

Sunday, September 10, 2023: Cecil Thomas; Corporate Communications Manager, Jamaica Urban Transit Company Limited, Michael Manley Dr. Twickenham Park St. Catherine Te: 876-749-3192-9 ext. 66250; mobile 876-883-4590 Email: cthoms@jutc.com.jm

Monday, September 11, 2023: REST DAY

Tuesday, September 12, 2023: The Heartsease New Testament Church of God, Yallas, St. Thomas Rev. Farvil Holding; Contact: Laverne Lewis: 366-7086 or Bishop Holding 406-8904; Email laffy01.lewis@yahoo.com

Wednesday, September 13, 2023: Smithville Circuit of Baptist Churches Contact: Donville & Phillis Jones 632-0130 & 420-0275

Thursday, September 14, 2023: Contact, Pauline Watson-Campbel, Boulevard Baptist Church, 20 Washington St. Kingston, 876-773-9542; Email: leanycam@yahoo.com.

Friday, September 15, 2023: Mission End. Everyone remains enthusiastic and excited about playing an active role in improving the health status of many residents in underserved communities.