

## SAMC Lean Projects Save Time For Nurses

Southeast Alabama Medical Center has been implementing Lean, or continuous improvement, for several years. The goal of Lean tools and methodologies is to always strive to eliminate waste with a focus on customers. Companies that adopt Lean concentrate on increasing efficiency and quality while reducing costs and promoting a healthy organization.

SAMC has built its own Lean department, calling it "Operational Effectiveness." Their purpose is to continuously spread Lean throughout the Medical Center by promoting improvement and healthy culture, conducting training and events, and supporting the teams involved in improving processes.

As Lean spreads through the organization, departments realize the impact of incremental changes to their areas. Orthopedics has used many Lean tools, including 5S Workplace Organization, Rapid Improvement Events, Value Stream Maps of processes and Visual Boards.

They have improved productivity and nurse satisfaction, while becoming more accurate in their paperwork. This has improved the quality of patient care and is expected to result in increased patient satisfaction as well.

The Operational Effectiveness team conducted time and motion studies with the Orthopedic floor. By shadowing nurses to learn the barriers in their processes, the team identifies ways to eliminate waste and recover nursing time.

"If we can eliminate waste and give time back to the nurses, they can spend more time caring for the patients, which is why we are here," said Jan Wynn, RN, director of Orthopedics.

The Urology/Nephrology unit implemented similar tools, finding immediate results. The most recent Lean Champion class conducted a 5S event in their storage areas. These improvements included

organizing, labeling and moving items closer to where they are needed most.

By relocating commonly used supplies to cabinets at the far ends of the halls, the Urology/Nephrology unit saved its nurses from walking to the main storage area near the center of the unit. This change will save these nurses roughly 5,052 miles of walking per year – the equivalent of walking to Vancouver, Canada and back.

Urology RN Crissie Rogers said she has seen a difference. "It helps save time already. By having the supplies closer to where we use them, we can give better patient care."

Lean projects like these encourage team members house-wide to remove waste from their work lives to improve patient care. Similar events are occurring in more areas than just nursing, including In-House Construction, Nutrition and Food Services, Environmental Services, and more. Lean provides the tools and techniques to make progress happen.



Registered nurses (l-r) Mary Holder and Kares Trawick use many Lean tools in their day-to-day operations on the Southeast Alabama Medical Center's Orthopedic floor.

## James Boy Realty Welcomes New Real Estate Agents



Elisa Donn



Sandi Houston



Curtis Coachman

James Boy Realty is excited to add three new agents to their team. Elisa Donn, Sandi Houston, and Curtis Coachman are all experienced real estate professionals who will be helping clients buy and sell homes in the Dothan area. James Boy Realty has a long history of providing excellent service to its clients, and these new agents will continue that tradition.

Elisa Donn has over 25 years of experience in real estate and is excited to start her new career at James Boy Realty. Sandi Houston has over 10 years of experience and is excited to help clients achieve their real estate goals. Curtis Coachman has over 15 years of experience and is excited to help clients buy and sell homes in the Dothan area.

Coastal Wiregrass

spent the past 27 years serving the State Trooper. He also spent time in the Army Reserve. He knows the area and is excited to get started with listing properties.

Be sure to contact the James Boy Realty team at (334) 764-7211 to help with your real estate needs.

## WITH STROKE, TIME LOST IS BRAIN LOST.

### SAMC IS THE REGION'S GOLD STANDARD FOR STROKE CARE.

SAMC is the region's first hospital to earn the prestigious Gold Plus Stroke Award from the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association.

From the area's first responders to SAMC's highly trained stroke team of physicians, nurses and clinical team members, patients receive the latest stroke care available.

This means a coordinated and quicker response time, which in turn means less damage caused by the stroke.

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Twitter is a free service that lets you get in touch with people through quick, frequent answers to questions. What are you doing? Join the conversation. DothanAreaChamb tweets.

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