



## EzaseKhangela

## NEWS

APRIL 2023

# SHOW YOU CARE—BE ASD AWARE



**A**pril is Autism awareness month where Autism awareness day is celebrated on the second of April, globally each year.

“Show you care, be Autism Spectrum Disorder aware (ASD)” – Autism South Africa.

On the 21st of April 2023, KEH occupational therapists along with the department of Speech therapy, Psychology and Social Work got together at P.O.P.D to create awareness around Autism. The presentation was presented to parents in the queue as well as staff in the vicinity. The aim of this

**I Support People with Autism**

presentation was to provide parents of autistic children with information about autism. It also aimed to help eliminate the stigma around this neurological condition and fight the discrimination faced by those with the condition.

After each departmental presentation and the role they play, parents were given the opportunity to ask questions. Pamphlets and posters were made and distributed amongst the parents. These included

information about the condition, its causes, and some of the signs that are associated with the condition.

It has been noted that around 2% of children in South Africa have been diagnosed with Autism, thereby posing an increased need for parents to be educated and advised around children with Autism.

The day was a success as parents in the queue engaged well with the presenting team. They were advised about schooling options, available supports from organisations and services such as occupational therapy, speech therapy, psychology and social workers.

*Article by Minenhle Mhlongo*

# MOCK DRILL



Eight wards in N Block participated in fire drill which took place on 26th April 2023.

Many of the departments reacted well when they heard the alarm. Action cards were issued/ distributed and the recommended actions were seen performed.

Facility swept well by the in charge of the wards that participated.

Walk ways and emergency exit doors were kept free of obstacles.

No emergency exit door declared (during training/planning sessions)/ observed.

At the assembly point, wards segregated themselves for easy identification.

Roll call registers were visible at the assembly points.

Roll calls conducted for both staff and patients.

First aid equipment was visible and used at the assembly point.

The closest assembly point was used by the all that participated.

Injured patients provided with first aid services.

*Article by Siyabonga Ntuli*



1. Have an evacuation strategy. ...
2. Maintain fire safety equipment. ...
3. Train your employees. ...
4. Conduct routine fire drills. ...
5. Post clear exits and escape routes. ...
6. Practice good housekeeping. ...
7. Properly store and dispose of hazardous materials. ...
8. Schedule routine equipment maintenance.

# Multiple Myeloma Support Group



**H**aematology Department launched multiple myeloma support group on 29 March 2023.

Social Worker from Briston Myers Squibb Foundation In partnership with CANSA Association and King Edward VIII Hospital indicated that the reason to launch the support group is to share experiences

among patients. She indicated that there has been communication although it hasn't been structured.

Patients shared their testimony, indicating that when they started the clinic and treatment, some of them could not walk but with encouragement from other patients, they have done away with walking aids and feel stronger than they ever did.

CANSA association pledged their support to patients in with multiple myeloma, Lorraine Govender was in attendance on behalf of the organization.

A big thank you to Briston Myers Squibb Foundation, NHLS and CANSA Association.



Dr Rapiti and Dr Chili thanked the clinic team for being a second home for patients who desperately need love and care. Matron Mchunu echoed words of appreciation.



**Dr L Chili**

# Blood Drive Campaign

Blood drive took place at King Edward VIII Hospital on 29 March 2023.

The call was made to everyone in the hospital to donate blood. The response was impressive considering that this was the first blood drive in the hospital. We are hopeful that as the clinic gain momentum, even the number of donors will increase.



# WORLD TB DAY

World TB Day was held on 24 March 2023. The theme of World TB Day 2023—Yes! We can end TB!

Dr Rosie Mqibisa shared the message of the day and emphasized the importance of early screening so that treatment can be started early. TB is a treatable medical condition, it is important to take medication accordingly.



# WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

March 21 is the official day where Down syndrome is globally acknowledged and celebrated every year, through education that promotes acceptance and awareness.

How great is it that it also coincides with our national Human Rights day. People with Down syndrome are born with 3 copies of the 21st chromosome, hence the date.

**D**own syndrome affects approximately one in every seven hundred babies worldwide, and it is a genetic disorder that is experienced by multiple people of all races and socio-economic statuses. King Edward VIII Hospital Staff members from the Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy departments, got together to share the relevant information about Down Syndrome Day on 17/04/23.

This was set up in the POPD building, in the waiting area, where parents of different patients were seated. The aim of this day was to educate and equip those that were listening about Down syndrome, for themselves and those around them. This allows opportunity to reduce the stigma in their different communities and to orientate them to the support structures available to them.



The two teams issued pamphlets and used posters to describe the condition, including the different interventions, the myths, the facts, and the typical physical features of people living with Down syndrome.

The “colourful socks” theme to which the staff adhered to symbolised the chromosomes, the mismatching of socks symbolic of the embracing of our differences. The parents engaged well with the information shared by the departments, asking questions, and answering those that were posed to them.

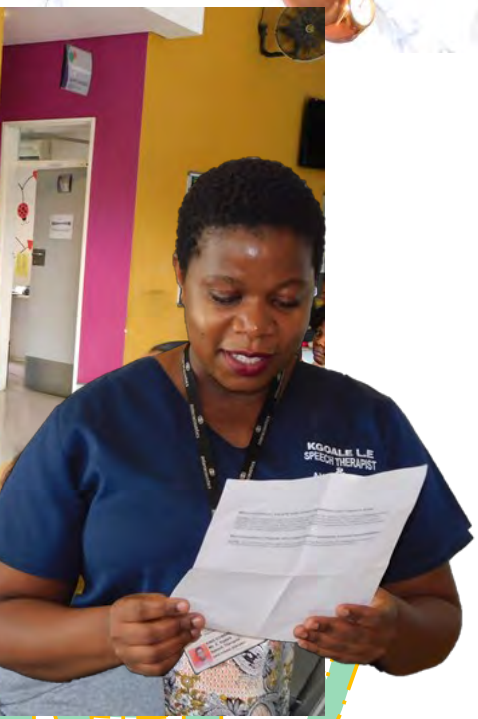
Speech therapy department touched on multiple points such as; the different tools of communication, what to look out for and how to engage with people living with Down syndrome, etc.

The occupational therapy department dived into the functional activities that are addressed from birth to adulthood, the different assessments used and some therapy modalities that are implemented in hospitals and specific schools, and more.

The theme for this years’ awareness day was: “With us, not for us”. World Down Syndrome Day is just one day, but the hard work of spreading awareness and advocating for the rights of people with Down syndrome in health, education sectors carries on throughout the year!

*Article by Siphesihle Matsebula*

# Gallery Page



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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