



Answered on 26th February 2024
Third Meeting 2023-2024 Session - First Sitting

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION
ASKED BY HON. BARBARA CONOLLY, MP,
MEMBER FOR THE ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF
GEORGE TOWN SOUTH**

TO

**THE HONOURABLE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS**

QUESTION: *Can the Honorable Minister advise*

(a) whether the Poinciana Rehabilitation Center, also known as the Long Term Mental Health Residential Facility, is still expected to be handed over to the Government by the end of March 2024;

(b) what is the expected opening date of the facility, and

(c) how many staff are presently hired to operate the facility after it opens?

ANSWER:

Mr. Speaker,

- (a) The Ministry remains in continued communications with the Project Management team at Public Works regarding the status of ongoing building inspections necessary for the handover of the facility. The latest update advised of a fault being detected in the main feeders to three of the cottages during the electrical inspections which is causing a delay of an additional 6-8 weeks, thereby possibly pushing the handover date out further into Quarter two. Building Control Unit inspections remain critical to the handover of the facility.
- (b) The opening date of Poinciana is contingent on the handover date of the facility to the Ministry which at this time is possibly pushed out into Quarter 2.
- (c) I am advised that there are presently 3 staff members, namely the Director and two HR personnel on staff. Recruitment continues across various roles however, with two senior

managers anticipated to commence in March and April. The Director and team are in the process of finalizing employment for some of the nursing roles (15) that will be needed to commence operations. There are a total of 47 budgeted positions for the Poinciana Rehabilitation Centre in 2024 with an additional 15 in 2025.

Additionally, Mister Speaker, a Trainee Psychiatric Nursing Assistant (PNA) training program is being developed which will be offered to Caymanians.

The Main aim: is to provide employment opportunities for Caymanians who desire to work as PNAs at Poinciana Rehabilitation Centre.

The Reason for the training: is due to the limited number of persons on island with this qualification/required skill set. This training will help to develop our local workforce and to provide them with an opportunity to attain employment in Mental Health services locally.

The Overview of the program:

- 29 month program: 5 months entry level training (8 weeks theory, 12 weeks practical), 24 months on the job experience.
- 18 openings (advertised locally) - Caymanians 18+
- Certifications will be issued at the end of program, and include:
 - Internal: (Poinciana); and
 - External: TVET Allied Health Level 2, First Aid, Customer Service
- Trainee PNA's on the job training to be done under supervision of the Registered Psychiatric Nurse and other senior staff.
- Trainee PNA will assist in delivering therapeutic nursing care and support to residents of Poinciana, all the while encouraging independence and participation.
- The full PNA positions will be advertised in the future and persons who successfully complete the training program will be encouraged to apply.

Further information and details regarding this program will be shortly released by the Ministry and Poinciana.