

Your Health Matters

ALEXANDER AND THE TERRIBLE, HORRIBLE, NO GOOD, VERY BAD DAY!

This past weekend, my husband and I watched the movie; “Alexander, and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day!” I love this movie! Alexander’s day begins with gum stuck in his hair, followed by more calamities: sitting in the middle of the backseat, third best friend status, no dessert at lunch, lima beans, railroad pajamas and kissing on TV all in one day – Maybe he’ll just move to Australia. Alexander was not having a great day.

Have you ever had a Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day? I certainly have! I had one of those days when I first came on as the Administrator here at the Health Department. My Director of Nursing resigned in the middle of the implementation of the electronic medical record system. She was supposed to be the expert in home health. I did not have home health experience. It was a Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day. Maybe I’ll just move to Australia with Alexander! I know you have had days like this too.

It was an uncertain time for me. Though I have worked in health care since the age of 16, I had never worked in a home health agency. I was apprehensive. I needed someone with the knowledge of home health. We were in the middle of implementing electronic medical records system for home health. Following that, we had to get ready for our home health survey. I needed someone who was already experienced. I needed someone who could jump right in and take care of our home health patients.

Most of you already know Geneva Allison. She served Montgomery County Health Department as the Director of Nursing and Administrator for a number of years. Geneva has served tirelessly to improve the health care of the residents of Montgomery County. She is very well respected.

I heard that Geneva was working as a home health nurse in Lincoln County. I went to meet with Geneva. I asked her, “Would you consider coming back to work here at the Montgomery County Health Department? I need some help with our home health agency.”

I was relieved and grateful that Geneva said yes. She was willing to come and help me. Geneva was willing to help an Administrator that was having a Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day! She was a comfort to me. This is when our friendship began.

Geneva has become so much more than a nurse to me. She is a friend, a mentor and a counselor. Having Geneva work here at the Health Department, has done wonders for my growth. I have had Geneva to answer my questions, give counsel, offer encouragement, and just plain enjoy her friendship.

This past Monday, August 31st was Geneva’s last day with us. She wants to retire again. Who can blame her? Geneva will be working with us on as needed basis twice a month in home health.

So, congratulations on your retirement. It is well deserved. I want to take a moment to say, “Thank you, Geneva Allison, for being my mentor, my counselor, and my friend. Thank you for helping me on my Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day! Now, I do not have to move to Australia!”

Thank you, Geneva, for your amazing career! ■



9.2.15

