GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

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Care Certificate Graduates Set To Strengthen Quality Care Across The Territory

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The Ministry of Health and Social Development continues to make strides in strengthening the Territory's health and social care workforce with the graduation of the second cohort of the BVI Care Certificate.

The ceremony, held on Tuesday April 28, recognized the successful completion of training by **20 participants**, bringing the total number of certified caregivers in the Virgin Islands to **38.**

Minister for Health and Social Development, **Honourable Vincent O. Wheatley**, commended the graduates for their commitment to professional growth and compassionate service.

"Your achievement today not only reflects your personal dedication but also reaffirms our collective mission of raising the standard of care across the Virgin Islands. This is more than a milestone. It is a meaningful stride forward in building a foundation of skilled, compassionate caregivers throughout our Territory."

The BVI Care Certificate Programme was designed to establish a **gold standard in caregiving**, outlining the core knowledge, skills and behaviours expected of health and social care workers. Adapted through the **UK Overseas Territories Public Health Strengthening Programme**, it is intended to become the **baseline qualification for non-regulated care workers** entering the sector.

Graduates are awarded the official **Care Certificate and Care Certified Badge**, authenticated by the Ministry of Health and Social Development.

Chief Nursing Officer and Programme Lead, **Ms. Jascinth Hannibal**, noted the transformative nature of the programme.

"The BVI Care Certificate Programme is about more than training. It is about transforming care. We are building a workforce that is not only competent, but compassionate, not only skilled, but deeply committed to dignity, respect, and accountability."

Participants in this cohort represented a wide cross-section of the care sector, including the **BVI Health Services Authority, Adina Donovan Home for the Elderly, Virgin Gorda Home for the Elderly, the Social Development**

Department's Home Care Programme, and private caregivers, reflecting a growing culture of collaboration and standardized care across the Territory.

As part of the programme, participants were trained and assessed against **16 core standards**, aligned with the internationally recognized **6Cs of Care which include Care, Compassion, Competence, Communication, Courage, and Commitment.**

Minister Whealtey also expressed appreciation to all who contributed to the programme's success, including programme coordinator **Ms. Hannibal**, local trainers, international partners, and support teams. "Together, we are building a healthcare system rooted in compassion, professionalism, and humanity," he said.

The Ministry of Health and Social Development remains committed to protecting and promoting the health and social well-being of the people of the Virgin Islands through effective policies, sustainable programmes, and strategic partnerships that support a safe, healthy, and resilient society.

For Additional Information Contact:

Natasha Lettsome-Humphrey
Public Health Communications Specialist
Ministry of Health and Social Development
Telephone: 468-2286

Email: nlettsome@gov.vg