

EFFICIENCY & INNOVATION



STEVEN C. KING Department of Health and Human Services, Broughton Hospital

Steven C. King serves as the Maintenance Construction Supervisor with Broughton Hospital in Morganton. As part of his work to minimize hazards for vulnerable patients, who are at high risk for self-harm, he demonstrates exceptional innovation and problem-solving skills.

Working to meet a deadline of installing specialized hardware to doors before the winter holidays, King received a shipment that did not fit the doors. He created an outside-of-the-box solution where turning the hinge one way would fit a right-handed opening door and turning the same hinge upside down would fit a left-handed opening door. He shared his solution, which minimized patient risk, with the manufacturer. As a result, the company changed its packaging information to alert customers that the continuous hinges are not universal and included revised install instructions.

King also developed a creative workaround for moving 600-pound medical beds that would not fit through doors into rooms. The beds could not be turned on their sides because it would damage the bed rails and cost more than \$1,000 to repair. Instead, he designed a tool that allowed staff to safely move beds into rooms, saving an estimated \$14,000 in repair costs and potential injuries to hospital workers.

King's concern for the comfort of patients led him to review soft doors in bedrooms and bathrooms. He created a design which decreased the number of doors to be purchased and the amount of metal placed inside doors. The redesign saved the hospital about \$70,000 and will be used in other facilities.

In addition, the manufacturer was impressed, as the reduced cost of the doors led to increased orders.



Steven C. King is an invaluable member of his team, Broughton Hospital and an outstanding employee for the State of North Carolina.