

**S.C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
S.C. Department of Mental Health
Tri-County Community Mental Health Center
1035 Cheraw Street, Bennettsville, SC 29512**

October 6, 2017

Center Presentation

ATTENDANCE:

Commission Members:

Dr. Alison Evans, Chair
Sharon Wilson
Beverly Cardwell
Louise Haynes (via phone)

Staff/Guests:

Christian Barnes-Young
Lindsay Williams
Pamela Monroe
Sarah St. Onge
Teresa Curry
Melba Arthur
Geoff Mason
Cliff McBride
Gloria Phelps

The S.C. Mental Health Commission met at the Tri-County Community Mental Health Center, 1035 Cheraw Street, Bennettsville, SC, at 9:00 a.m. Dr. Alison Evans expressed appreciation to the Center for the courtesies extended to the Commission during its visit. Dr. Evans turned the meeting over to Mr. Christian Barnes-Young, Executive Director.

PRESENTATIONS:

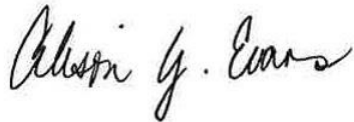
Mr. Christian Barnes-Young gave an overview of the Data-Driven Highlights of Center Outcomes handout, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. He stated that the Center experienced a 5.9% increase in the number of patients served over the past year, surpassing the 5% goal. He stated that there has been an increase in the number of referrals and that the approximate time from the referral to the first appointment is now one half day. Mr. Barnes-Young stated that the approximate time between the patient intake and the first treatment appointment is eighteen (18) days. It was stated that one hundred fifty-eight (158) patients in local emergency departments were diverted from State hospitals. Ninety percent (90%) of the clinical documentation is done collaboratively with the patients, either on the same day of the appointment or the next day. Mr. Barnes-Young stated that the Tri-County Community Mental Health Center has received an average of approximately ninety-six percent (96%) in QA audit score results. In collaborative efforts with CareSouth Carolina, labwork is drawn on-site with electronically delivered results and integrated dental services were provided in September. He stated that over sixty percent (60%) of psychiatric coverage is delivered via telepsychiatry.

Dr. Paul Robbins presented information, via teleconference, regarding Effective Telepsych Services from the Remote Physician's Perspective. He emphasized the effectiveness of Telepsych technology, which allows care to be provided to patients from other locations. Dr. Robbins stated that the Telepsych technology also allows discussions with the treatment teams and therapists at the local Centers on a regular basis. He stated that the electronic prescribing of prescriptions has minimized the amount of wait time for patients.

Ms. Pam Monroe discussed a handout outlining the importance of a Community Hospital Liaison, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. It was stated that mental illness and substance abuse account for four percent (4%) of Emergency Department visits, or nearly 5.5M visits per year, nationwide. Ms. Monroe stated that some of the challenges faced in the ED are bed shortages, physical illnesses that trigger mental health problems, psychotic and suicidal patients, and patients without insurance. Ms. Monroe stated some responsibilities of the Liaison are providing assistance to patients in crisis that enter the local EDs, providing consultations for the hospital, assessing the needs of patients, delivering Crisis Intervention Services, building relationships with hospital staff, and diverting patients to community and other appropriate services that Tri-County Community MHC is unable to provide.

Dr. Evans thanked everyone for the excellent, informative presentations.

There being no further discussion, the center presentation concluded at 9:55 a.m.



Alison Y. Evans, Psy,D, Chair
SC Mental Health Commission



Terry Davis, Recording Secretary
SC Mental Health Commission