

# S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

Hosted by:

**William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute**  
**220 Faison Drive, Columbia, SC 29203**  
**December 8, 2017**

## ***CALL TO ORDER***

The December 8, 2017 meeting of the South Carolina Mental Health Commission was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Dr. Alison Evans, Chairperson, at William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute 220 Faison Drive, Columbia, SC 29203 and Chaplain Jeremiah Page provided the invocation.

## ***INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS***

Dr. Evans, Chair, welcomed Mrs. Ethel Rutledge, Ms. Alexis Small, and Mr. Thornwell Simmons.

## ***APPROVAL OF AGENDA***

*On a motion by Ms. Louis Haynes, seconded by Ms. Beverly Cardwell, the Commission approved the agenda for today's Business Meeting.*

*All voted in favor to the above motions; all motions carried.*

## ***APPROVAL OF MINUTES***

*On a motion by Dr. Everard Rutledge, seconded by Ms. Beverly Cardwell, the Commission approved the Minutes from the Business Meeting of November 3, 2017.*

*All voted in favor to the above motions; all motions carried.*

## ***MONTHLY/QUARTERLY INFORMATION REPORTS***

Mr. Mark Binkley presented the items listed under Monthly/Quarterly Informational Reports. He stated that the Patient Protection Reports provided by Public Safety shows there were no substantiated allegations in November. Of the (16) cases referred to SLED and pending in November, (6) were retained by SLED as potentially criminal, (8) are in the hands of the Long Term Care Ombudsman, (2) are with the Attorney General involving financial exploitation allegations. The Client Advocacy report reflects the system is processing complaints in different categories in a timely manner.

***DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE***

***Forensic Waiting List Update***

Mr. Alan Powell stated that as of December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017, there were (26) on the Forensic Waiting List and within the last week the number count was as low as (21). There are (2) scheduled discharges next week. The figures actually are cut in half from two to three months ago which is a substantial improvement. He stated the number was (60) just a year ago and (94) two years ago. He expressed the importance of sustainability over numbers decreasing. Ms. Versie Bellamy stated that the overall percentage of discharges in November are 25 % higher than the same period in 2016. The waiting list has decreased approx. 76% since 2016. The wait list time for restoration cases has decreased by 42% which is from an approx. 63 days waiting for restoration down to 36, which shows we are headed toward the goal of 30 days.

Ms. Bellamy stated that since February 2017 the wait time and day for Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program (PRP) of the Long Term Population patients have decreased 71%. Numbers show that measures put in place have continued to be effective. The second pod of Lodge E is now open as announced in November's commission meeting.

***Crisis Services Update***

Mr. Geoff Mason stated the Charleston Crisis Stabilization Unit has been opened for (6) months and within that time there has been (432) referrals and (286) admitted. Reasons of denied referrals were further explained to the Commissioners. Referrals come for MUSC, Roper, police, and various mental health centers. Mr. Mason stated the average length of stay is (3-1/2) days. Mr. Mason mentioned that out of the referrals 28% were unknown to the mental health centers, (43%) have an open case with a MHC/Charleston/Berkley. After patients are discharged from a MHC, (94%) attend the first appointment at the MHC. Mason explained that in regards to insurance, self-pay is (57%). Mr. Mason announced that he received letters from Spartanburg Regional, committing a building "Peer Support Living room". The Peer Support Living room will be with United Way and NAMI Staff to provide peer support and the mental health center will add a Clinical component to the unit.

Mr. Magill explained that the "Living Room" is not able to divert individuals from going to the hospital; this is a unit that the ER can send them afterwards for socialization.

Mr. Mason mentioned that his department is working hard to get commitment letters versus verbal commitments for a program in Greenville. Greenville hospital systems has committed to fund approx. \$300,000, St. Francis is donating the building and Miracle Hill Treatment Team w/ shelter) contributed \$50,000.

***Bull Street Update***

Mr. Mark Binkley stated that energy plant has been conveyed to the Downtown Church. Hughes Development Inc. has indicated that they want to make a number of parcel purchases before the end of December.. Mr. Binkley expressed that the overall good news is that the perspective buyer for the Babcock building continues to evidence activity that strongly suggests they are going to follow through with the purchase.

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**Carve In**

Dr. Bank stated that revenues are coming in in a timely manner. SCDMH is working with the MCOs and SCDHHS when issues arise. Overall, things are going well. SCDMH is seeing a gradual reduction in the requirements for prior authorizations. SCDMH is continuing to build relationships with the clinical staff at each MCO. SCDMH is relatively satisfied with the progress of the carve-in thus far.

**Financial Status Update**

Mr. Mark Binkley highlighted certain information on the SCDMH Financial Report, dated October 31, 2017, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.

**Telepsych/Telehealth**

Victoria Gooch stated that since the success of the emergency department side of the Telepsychiatry Program which started in 2009 and expanded into Community and Mental Health Clinics in 2013, both programs have provided over (75,000) services combined. 37,000 plus of those services are in the emergency department program and 38,000 plus are in the Community Telepsychiatry program. Ms. Gooch stated that the program is currently averaging 1800 services a month, 525 of those services are done through comprehensive evaluation recommendations in the emergency department. The community and mental health centers are averaging (1300) services. Ms. Gooch mentioned that on average there are (48) psychiatrists providing telepsychiatry services, there is a constant (15) psychiatrists in the emergency department program and can go as high as (33) seen in the telepsych program providing services.

Dr. Bank made comments on the functionality of the program. Dr. Bank added that they are looking at expansion and are sending a new grant proposal to The Duke Endowment that will allow the agency to use nurse practitioners. Dr. Bank mentioned the relationship with the South Carolina Telehealth Alliance (SCTA). The SCTA has funded (1) psychiatry slot. He added that Telepsych will become part of the alliance as a state-wide telepsychiatry hub. Funding will be involved and DMH Telepsych will expand into other areas.

Stewart Cooner explained Strategy Three of the strategic plan of the SCTA. This plan created Regional Telehealth Hubs. There are 4 telehealth hubs; Greenville Health System, Palmetto Health, McLeod Health, and MUSC Health. Mr. Cooner mentioned that the purpose of the hubs are to share communication and experience, provide information about available detailed resources, and discuss various operations on challenges across the state. Mr. Cooner explained that Mr. Magill approached the SCTA with the idea of creating a service specialty telepsychiatry hub and the SCTA agreed which resulted in a new Telehealth hub (DMH) and a new strategy (strategy 4 in the 2018 strategic plan), specifically related to mental health and addictive disease and is one of the largest strategies now of the 2018 strategic plan.

Mr. Magill added that not only will the agency be building its systems, but we will be helping MUSC further expand their systems as well.

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**SCHA Behavioral Health Coalition**

Mr. Magill gave a brief background of the SCHA Behavioral Health Coalition and asked that each member to stand and give his title/role.

Mr. Mark Binkley - Chair of Finance Committee and participates Steering Committee

Dr. Robert Bank - Co-Chair of the Care Alignment Committee

Mr. Geoff Mason – Co-Chair of the Crisis Stabilization Group along with Bill Lindsay of NAMI

***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

Dr. Alison Evans, Chairperson announced that she welcomed her granddaughter on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.

***ADJOURNMENT***

***At 11:40 a.m., on a motion by Mr. Bob Hiott, seconded by Ms. Louise Haynes, the Commission adjourned the Business Meeting and entered into Executive Session.***

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**NOTICE/AGENDA**

*A notice and agenda of the meeting were sent out to all individuals and news media who requested information, in accordance with State law.*

**ATTENDANCE**

**Commission Members:**

Dr. Alison Evans, Chair  
Ms. Sharon Wilson  
Mr. Robert Hiott

Dr. Everard Rutledge, Vice Chair  
Ms. Beverly Cardwell  
Ms. Louise Haynes

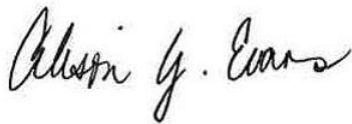
**Staff/Visitors:**

Karen F. Swaim  
Megan Phillips  
Melba Arthur  
Jeremiah Page  
Alan Powell  
Robert Bank  
Victoria Gooch

Ethel Rutledge  
Stewart Cooner  
Geoff Mason  
Tamika Jackson  
Mark Binkley  
Allison Findley  
Thornwell Simmons

Christian Holmes  
Versie Bellamy  
Alexis Small  
Dr. Kimberly Rudd  
Laketa Riley  
Geoff Mason

**APPROVALS**



**Alison Y. Evans**  
PsyD, Chair



**Shawnta Locks**  
Recording Secretary