

**S.C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION**  
**S.C. Department of Mental Health**  
**Beckman Center for Mental Health**  
**1547 Parkway, Greenwood, SC 29646**

**February 2, 2018**

**Center Presentation**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Commission Members:**

Dr. Alison Evans, Chair  
Sharon Wilson, Co-Chair  
Beverly Cardwell  
Bob Hiott

**Staff/Visitors:**

Melanie Gambrell	Shannon Aiken	Gail Smith
Penny McCoy	Heidi Hoogstraal	Kristen Chapman
Greg Ross	Dr. Eman Sharawy	Thornwell Simmons
Cherry Corbett-Parker	Tyisha Williams	Debbie Blalock
Sam O'Sheilds	Rick Leary	Versie Bellamy
Kerry Harthun	Betty Spech	Dr. Kimberly Rudd
Michael Willis	Rhonda Paxton	Mark Binkley
Calvin Lake	Tacey Perillo	Dr. Robert Bank
Koshay Arnold	Nicole Pierce	Alan Powell
Brooke Tavernier	Barbara Jackson	Stewart Cooner
Shane Parnell	Lori Pruitt	

The S.C. Mental Health Commission met at the Beckman Center for Mental Health, 1547 Parkway, Greenwood, S. C. 29646, 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 Ms. Melanie Gambrell, Executive Director.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Ms. Koshay Arnold and Ms. Booke Tavernier gave an overview of Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST), an evidence based intervention for at-risk youth. Ms. Arnold stated that the cost of detaining a child in a pretrial detention center is approximately \$ 242 per day and the approximate cost of holding a child in an evaluation center for 45 days is \$ 7K. The annual cost for confining a child to a long-term DJJ institution is approximately \$ 155K. In 2014, Greenwood County was identified as having the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest percentage of youth receiving DJJ services, which prompted Beckman administrators to research evidence based practices for juvenile offenders. Ms. Arnold stated that the ultimate goals of MST are to provide parents with skills and resources to address independently the difficulties that arise with teenagers and to provide skills to youth to cope with family, peer, school, and neighborhood problems. It was stated that the therapists are responsible for engaging the family and other key participants, such as teachers, school administrators, community members, and child-serving agencies in meeting the goals. Ms. Tavernier stated that MST services are provided through home and community based services and that the MST team consists of the MST supervisor and two (2) therapists.

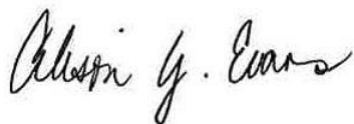
Caseloads are small (4 to 6 families per therapist) and the average length of treatment is four (4) to six (6) months. She stated that the main referral sources are the Department of Juvenile Justice (Laurens and Greenwood) and the Mental Health Center (Greenwood, Laurens, and Abbeville). Outcome data for 2017 disclosed that one hundred percent (100%) of the youth that went through the MST Program were living at home, in school, and had no new arrests. The data also disclosed that zero percent (0%) of the youth were placed out of the home.

Ms. Gambrell and Ms. Tyisha Williams presented information on the Lakelands Rural Health Network. Ms. Gambrell was invited to join the board in 2016. She stated that funding goes directly to the Network and then the Network contracts with Beckman Center for Mental Health. Ms. Williams stated that the Network provides treatment services and educational services to children, adolescents, and their families experiencing serious emotional disturbances and adults with a serious mental illness at Clinica Gratis, the Transitional Care Clinic, and Peachtree Medical. She stated that in the referral process, medical staff identify behavioral issues or the patient reveals symptoms during physical exams. The doctor or medical staff then makes a referral based on the identified need(s) for the child, adolescent, families, and adults.

Ms. Shannon Aiken gave a presentation on the partnership Beckman Center for Mental Health has with Greenville Health System/Laurens Hospital. The partnership began in 2012 with a large number of psychiatric patients entering the Emergency Department (ED). With the ED mental health professionals having access to SCDMH's electronic medical records, they are able to obtain information such as the patient's treatment history and current/past medications. Ms. Aiken stated that working with telepsychiatry assists the psychiatrist in having the most up-to-date information regarding the patient's status and progress and also assists in sharing information between the ED and the psychiatrists. She stated that she saw three hundred seventy-five (375) patients in 2017 and that one hundred eighty-three (183) of those patients were diverted out into the community for outpatient treatment. Ms. Aiken reported that the average length of stay is 2.2 days.

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

There being no further discussion, the center presentation concluded at 9:45 a.m.



**Alison Y. Evans, PsyD, Chair  
SC Mental Health Commission**



**Terry Davis, Recording Secretary  
SC Mental Health Commission**