

S.C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
S.C. Department of Mental Health
Santee-Wateree Community Mental Health Center
801 N. Pike West
Sumter, SC 29153

December 14, 2018

Center Presentation

ATTENDANCE:

Commission Members:

Dr. Alison Evans, Chair
Ms. Sharon Wilson, Vice-Chair
Ms. Louise Haynes
Mr. Bob Hiott

Staff/Visitors:

Roslyn Sanders	Glen Ross	Thornwell Simmons
Lanalle Darden	Gail Hallman	Alan Powell
Susan Anderson	Leslie Barnes	Dr. Versie Bellamy
Noelle Wriston	Luther Faulk	Dr. Kimberly Rudd
Dr. Robert Bank	Sylvia Christian-James	Mark Bellamy
Debbie Blalock	Senator Kevin Johnson	Tiffany Hornsby
Kimberly Gaines	Selena Myers	Belinda Caudle
Dr. Marian Dehlinger		

The S.C. Mental Health Commission met at the Santee-Wateree Community Mental Health Center, 801 N. Pike West, Sumter, SC, 29153, 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. Jeff Ham, Executive Director.

PRESENTATION:

Ms. Lanalle Darden gave a presentation on New Initiatives in Child, Adolescent & Family Services (CAF) and Young Adult Services. In the past five (5) years, School-Based Services has expanded to over fifty-five percent (55%) of the Sumter County schools. She stated that the Santee-Wateree Community Health Center is striving to reach the Agency's goal that has been set for the State, which is to have mental health services available in all schools in the State of South Carolina by 2022. Ms. Darden stated that Sumter County was one of three districts selected to receive an \$8M Advancing Wellness and Resilience Education (AWARE) grant that is funded by SAMHSA to assist in the expansion of School-Based Services in Sumter County and Sumter will receive approximately \$ 500K per year for the next five years. It is expected that Telepsychiatry services will be available in all of the schools in the Sumter school district by 2022. The grant funding will allow the Center to hire more counselors and offer additional training for the counselors. Ms. Darden also discussed the Reaching Families Project which is a research study that is being conducted by the University of South Carolina and the University of California, Los Angeles

(UCLA). The study is designed to find ways to increase engagement in mental health services for youth and their caregivers. She stated that the Santee-Wateree Community Mental Health Center is one of only two Centers that is participating in the project, which is being followed nationally to determine if the engagement strategies can be supported by research evidence. Ms. Darden stated that the most difficult challenge in School-Based Services is keeping families engaged in the treatment services. The staff works to identify and help families who are at risk of disengaging from services. Another project that was discussed was the Healthy Transitions Row of Independence (ROI) Project that is funded by SAMHSA to assist in the delivery of responsive age/developmentally appropriate, youth driven treatment and non-treatment services to youth in a non-stigmatizing environment that will result in productive life for ages sixteen to twenty-five. The ROI Project also aims to raise awareness about mental wellness among the youth and young adults through outreach, screening, and community partnerships. Ms. Darden stated that over fifty-nine percent (59%) of the clients disengage from services when transitioning from adult services.

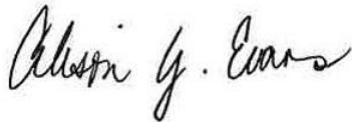
Ms. Roslyn Sanders provided a presentation about Making Employment Work. It was noted that recovery practices today reverse the conventional wisdom that people become less symptomatic first before trying to return to work, because work reduces symptoms. She stated that the Peer Support staff works with the clients that are interested in employment. Unemployment impedes recovery and makes mental illness and the symptoms worse. Besides covering basic needs, such as food, clothing, shelter, paying bills, and providing for their families, individuals also work to obtain success, pride, the feeling of fulfillment, happiness, and to stay busy. When the clients are placed in employment, the goals are to place them in jobs that pay at least minimum wage, are in the community, and are open to anyone and not open to just individuals with mental illnesses or other disabilities. Ms. Sanders stated the South Carolina Individual Placement and Supports (IPS) is a collaborative supported employment model shared between the S. C. Department of Mental Health and the S. C. Department of Vocational Rehabilitation and is an evidenced-based, best practice supported employment model used in helping individuals in recovery through employment. Participation in the program is on a volunteer basis and clients are not excluded due to prior work history, hospitalization history, substance use, symptoms, or other characteristics. Ms. Sanders stated that success in the IPS program is often defined by the proper training on the job and appropriately matching the right person to a job. As part of the IPS process, clients are allowed the opportunity to express their input for the type of work, the environment, the number of hours to work, the work shift, disclosure (or no disclosure), and location. She stated that the DMH community mental health centers' unemployment rate for people with mental illness is eighty-seven percent (87%) and seventy percent (70%) of the individuals that were surveyed in the DMH community mental health centers expressed a desire for employment. Ms. Sanders stated that for every one dollar invested in IPS patients, there is a return on investment of six dollars. There are currently twenty-three (23) jobs held by clients in the IPS Program. Due to an increase in referrals, the IPS Program was expanded to include the Camden area. Santee-Wateree Community Mental Health Center is one of two sites in South Carolina to be awarded the Supported Employment Demonstration (SED) Grant by Westat in 2017. There are currently fifty-two (52) treatment participants enrolled in the program and the Center works with the Social Security Administration and Westat to assist individuals who have been denied disability benefits.

There are currently fifty-two (52) participants enrolled in the SED Project and there are several factors/barriers measured regarding employment outcomes for treatment participants:

- Employed
- Job Searching
- Not Job Searching due to:
 - Lack of interest
 - Participant is difficult to reach
 - Participant is employed
 - Participant is a new enrollee
 - Participant has physical comorbidities
 - Other reason such as incarceration

Dr. Evans thanked all of the presenters for the excellent, informative presentations.

There being no further discussion, the center presentation concluded at 10:05 a.m.



Alison Y. Evans
PsyD, Chair



Terry Davis
Recording Secretary