



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
MARK W. BINKLEY, JD, INTERIM STATE DIRECTOR

THE BECKMAN CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MELANIE E. GAMBRELL

July 2019

DMH OPERATES A NETWORK OF 16 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS, WITH CLINICS SERVING ALL SC COUNTIES, FOUR HOSPITALS, THREE VETERANS' NURSING HOMES, ONE COMMUNITY NURSING HOME, A FORENSIC PROGRAM, AND A SVPTP.

DMH HISTORY AND DEMOGRAPHICS

South Carolina has a long history of caring for those suffering from mental illness. In 1694, the Lords Proprietors of South Carolina established that the destitute mentally ill should be cared for by local governments. The concept of "Outdoor Relief," based upon Elizabethan Poor Laws, affirmed that the poor, sick and/or disabled should be taken in or boarded at public expense. In 1762, the Fellowship Society of Charleston established an infirmary for the mentally ill. It was not until the 1800's that the mental health movement received legislative attention at the state level.

Championing the mentally ill, South Carolina Legislators Colonel Samuel Farrow and Major William Crafts worked zealously to sensitize their fellow lawmakers to the needs of the mentally ill, and on December 20, 1821, the South Carolina State Legislature passed a statute-at-large approving \$30,000 to build the South Carolina Lunatic Asylum and a school for the 'deaf and dumb'.

The Mills Building, designed by renowned architect Robert Mills, was completed and operational in 1828 as the South Carolina Lunatic Asylum. The facilities grew through the decades to meet demand, until inpatient occupancy peaked in the 1960's at well

over 6,000 patients on any given day. Since the 1820's, South Carolina state-run hospitals and nursing homes have treated approximately one million patients and provided over 150 million bed days.

In the 1920's, treatment of the mentally ill began to include outpatient care as well as institutional care. The first outpatient center in South Carolina was established in Columbia in 1923.

The 1950's saw the use of phenothiazines, "miracle drugs" that controlled many severe symptoms of mental illness, making it possible to "unlock" wards. These drugs enabled many patients to function in society and work towards recovery, reducing the need for prolonged hospitalization. Government support and spending increased in the 1960's. The South Carolina Community Mental Health Services Act (1961) and the Federal Community Health Centers Act (1963) provided more funds for local mental health care.

The South Carolina Department of Mental Health (DMH) was founded in 1964. In 1967, the first mental healthcare complex in the South, the Columbia Area Mental Health Center, was built. Since then, the Centers and clinics have served more than three million patients, and provided more than 42 million clinical contacts.

Today, DMH operates a network of 16 community mental health centers, multiple clinics, four hospitals, three veterans' nursing homes, one community nursing home, a Forensic Program, and a Sexually Violent Predator Treatment Program (SVPTP). DMH is one of the largest hospital and community-based systems of care in SC.

In response to community needs, DMH has developed multiple innovative blue-ribbon programs, two of which are its School Mental Health Services (SMHS) and Telepsychiatry. As of July 2019, DMH's SMHS has mental health professionals embedded in more than 700 public schools and serves thousands of children per year. DMH Telepsychiatry utilizes state-of-the-art equipment that allows doctors to see, speak with, and evaluate patients from remote locations. DMH provides telepsychiatry in its clinics, hospitals, and 23 community hospital emergency departments. DMH Telepsychiatry programs have provided more than 118,000 comprehensive evaluations and services.

DMH HOSPITALS AND NURSING HOMES	
Columbia, SC	
G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital	
William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute (Child & Adolescents)	
Morris Village Alcohol & Drug Addiction Treatment Center	
C.M. Tucker, Jr. Nursing Care Center - Stone Pavilion (Veterans Nursing Home)	
C.M. Tucker, Jr. Nursing Care Center - Roddey Pavilion	
Anderson, SC	
Patrick B. Harris Psychiatric Hospital	
Richard M. Campbell Veterans Nursing Home	
Walterboro, SC	
Veterans Victory House (Veterans Nursing Home)	

DMH MISSION: TO SUPPORT THE RECOVERY OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES.



THE BECKMAN CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

1547 Parkway
Greenwood, SC 29646
(864) 229-7120

Counties Served: Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens,
McCormick, Newberry, and Saluda

THE BECKMAN CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MELANIE E. GAMBRELL

Executive Director Melanie E. Gambrell, LPC, is a 21 year veteran of the Beckman Center for Mental Health Services (Beckman). Beginning as a school-based mental health therapist with the Edgefield Mental Health Clinic in 1997, she rose through the ranks to become center director in 2007. Along the way she served as the Edgefield clinic director; director of services to Children, Adolescents and their Families; and assistant director of Clinical Services. This journey has given her unique perspective and vision related to mental health center operations.

When asked what Beckman does best, Ms. Gambrell is quick to respond, “Serve our patients in the community.” This is done by assisting staff to provide the best services to each of the patients and their families through innovative and unique programs at the Center. Several of these innovations are highlighted in this profile.

Ms. Gambrell also believes that partnering with the community is something Beckman does best. Forging strong community relationships has long been a necessity due to the

Center’s large catchment area. Beckman works alongside seven probate judges, seven county sheriffs and substantially more police departments, 11 school districts, five hospitals, and assorted configurations of social service and assistance providers. In addition, the area includes four four-year colleges and universities and a seven-county Technical College system with campuses in each county. Partnering has long been a way of life in this area.

Today, Beckman is especially proud to be a leader in partnership with a federally qualified health care provider, Carolina Health Centers. The Center has collocated staff in the Children’s Center, McCormick Family Practice, Calhoun Falls Family Practice and in the Uptown Family Practice. In recent years, Beckman has expanded into LC4, a primary health care center, Carolina Health Centers, located in the old Laurens Hospital Emergency Department. LC4 is designed to treat those with urgent, rather than emergent needs.

The news is filled with information affecting possible systemic challenges. When asked, however, about future chal-

lenges a bit more personal to Beckman, Ms. Gambrell cited the Center’s changing leadership structure. Currently key to Beckman’s strength is its 12 member management team.

Within the next three to five years, approximately a third of these members face retirement potential. Many in the group are long-term Beckman employees with a valuable sense of history and experience not easily replaced. Both short-term and long-range planning have embraced the need for on-going mentoring and succession planning. Ms. Gambrell has accepted this as a professional challenge she will navigate through transition.

Another key leadership structure is Beckman’s Quality Improvement Team (QIT). This seven member group serves as Beckman’s leadership processing unit, filtering information and formulating recommendations for the Management Team. During its monthly meeting, many of Beckman’s innovations are born. Simply put, Ms. Gambrell’s goal for Beckman is “that we provide good quality services to our patients. If we can continue to do that, all else will follow.”



Melanie E. Gambrell
Executive Director

The Beckman
Center for Mental
Health Services
Vision Statement:

*“To empower people to
live healthy and
fulfilled lives.”*

In 2018, Beckman
served more than
4,700 individuals
and provided more
than 56,000
services.

BECKMAN CENTER ADDITIONS: CLINICAL HIGH RISK FOR PSYCHOSIS PROGRAM (CHR-P) AND INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENT AND SUPPORTS (IPS)



Dray Wideman, CHR-P Program Coordinator, and Susan Bates, CHR-P Administrative Assistant

In September of 2018, Beckman was awarded a four year SAMHSA grant to run a Clinical High Risk for Psychosis Program (CHR-P). The grant focuses on youth and young adults and their families who are 10 to 25 years old. The goals of the program are as follows:

- 1) Delay or prevent the onset of psychosis;
- 2) Minimize the duration of untreated psychosis for those who develop psychotic symptoms;
- 3) Improve symptomatic and behaviors functioning; and
- 4) Enable youth and young

adults to resume age appropriate social, academic, and/or vocational activity.

The program manager for the CHR-P is Dray Wideman. Susan Bates serves as the programs administrative assistant.

The Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Program is also new to Beckman. IPS is a model of supported employment for people with serious mental illness (e.g. schizophrenia spectrum disorder, bipolar, depression). IPS supported employment

helps people living with mental health conditions work at a job of their choosing. Although variations of supported employment exist, IPS refers to the evidence-based practice of supported employment. The program currently serves patients in Abbeville and Greenwood counties.

The IPS Program is led by Gloria Holmes, program manager, and assisted by Hobson Chandler in Abbeville and Jessica Crosby in Greenwood.

TELEPSYCHIATRY AT BECKMAN



*L to R seated: Holly Clark, MD, Medical Director Eman Sharawy, MD, and Lisa Cometto, APRN
L to R standing: Judith Tolhurst, MD and Al Ebert, MD*

Beckman is fortunate to have a full caring and compassionate medical team. Eman Sharawy, MD, serves as medical director for the Center. In addition, Beckman has two full-time adult psychiatrists, one part-time and two full-time child psychiatrists, and two Advance Practice Nurses providing services to children and adults.

Medical services are provided to patients face-to-face and via telepsychiatry.

Telepsychiatry services are widely used across Beckman's catchment area and are utilized to provide routine and urgent psychiatric medical assessments. These services are provided by video conference with a prescribed provider using SCDMH equipment at the Center.

As programs and services expand within the Beckman catchment area, telepsychiatry is expected to expand as well, increasing

accessibility and improving positive outcomes for patients.

In addition to telepsychiatry, the Beckman medical staff also participate in E-Scripts, which allows electronic delivery of some prescriptions directly to the pharmacy of a patient's choosing.

THE BECKMAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Beckman is guided by a dedicated group of board members representing per capita populations of the counties it serves.

Chair Terri Mostiller has served on the Board for 11 years. She is an employee at Wesley Commons Assisted Living Center in Greenwood, SC. Her interest in Mental Health goes back to 2001, when family moved to the Greenwood area, and her son attempted suicide. He began receiving services from a Beckman school mental health counselor. Ms. Mostiller says that this was a “Godsend.” She gives credit to the school mental health counselor who worked with

her son for assisting him in his recovery progress. He graduated from high school, holds a full-time job, and is married.

In addition to her interest in Mental Health, Ms. Mostiller has been essential in helping local 301 alcohol and drug services develop memoranda's of agreement with other state agencies and with the adoption of the evidence-based Global Assessment of Individual Needs-Short Screener (Gain-SS) five-minute screening tool.

Vice Chair Jerman Disasa, PhD, has been a member of the Board for approximately seven years. Having earned

his doctorate in Educational Administration, Dr. Disasa has served both the Laurens School District as a teacher and Presbyterian College as the lead for the CHAMPS program, dedicated to assisting and motivating promising students.

All Board members agree that the primary role of the Board is to support the functions of Beckman Center for Mental Health Services.

When asked about her vision for Beckman over the next few years, Ms. Mostiller stated she would like to see Beckman widen its ability to serve the needs of more people.

BECKMAN BOARD MEMBERS AND THE COUNTY THEY REPRESENT:

Terri Mostiller, Greenwood
 Jerman Disasa, PhD, Laurens
 Jean Agan, Abbeville
 Jane Leverich, Abbeville
 Beth Cali, PhD, Edgefield
 Barbara Jackson, Greenwood
 Rauch Wise, Greenwood
 Heather Faulkner, Laurens
 Victor MacDonald, Laurens
 Paula Goldman, McCormick
 Gerald Mount, Newberry
 Patricia Johnson, Newberry
 Robert Wilson, Saluda

COMING SOON!!!

MULTI-DIMENSIONAL FAMILY THERAPY (MDFT) AND INTENSIVE COMMUNITY TREATMENT (ICT) TEAMS

Multi-dimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) is an integrated, comprehensive, family-centered treatment for youth who have emotional problems and mental health disorders. MDFT reduces out-of-home placements.

MDFT focuses on key areas of the adolescent's life and provides effective and cost-efficient treatment. MDFT addresses a range of youth problem behaviors, including substance abuse, delinquency, antisocial and aggressive behaviors, school and family problems, and emotional difficulties. It can be imple-

mented in substance abuse and mental health treatment, child welfare, and juvenile justice systems, including detention centers and juvenile drug courts.

MDFT has strong research outcomes and high satisfaction ratings from teens, young adults, parents, therapists, and community partners.

The Beckman MDFT team will consist of one supervisor, two Mental Health Professionals (MHPs), and a Case Manager.

Intensive Community Treatment (ICT) focuses on patients who exhibit ongoing problems. The goal is to meet with the patient in the community, e.g. homes, churches, parks, free health clinics, or any safe location, to accommodate their needs. Patients will have access to the full array of clinic services and access to medical and care coordination services.

Beckman ICT will operate two teams, each consisting of two MHPs and a Peer Support Specialist. All seven counties in the Beckman area will be served.



SOUTH CAROLINA YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION INITIATIVE, ZERO SUICIDE, AND CCRI



The South Carolina Department of Mental Health has collaborated with statewide community-based organizations, state and local agencies, academic institutions, and many others to reduce the number of suicides in youth and young adults in South Carolina. The South Carolina Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative (SCYSPI) is piloting the Zero Suicide program in several areas of the state. Beckman was chosen to be a pilot site in the second round.

Zero Suicide is a dedication to suicide prevention. The

vision of the initiative is “A South Carolina free of suicide in youth and young adults”. Beckman is proud to be a part of this initiative.

Through the Initiative, Beckman will have access to suicide prevention trainings on various populations, patient engagement, screening and assessment tools, and effective safety planning.

In addition, Beckman will also participate in the 24/7 crisis call center. The Community Crisis Response and

Intervention (CCRI) program will provide real-time mobile crisis response and stabilization services by qualified mental health professionals.

CCRI focuses on:

- ◆ Avoiding harm;
- ◆ Intervening in person-centered ways;
- ◆ Shared responsibility;
- ◆ Addressing trauma;
- ◆ Establishing feelings of personal safety;
- ◆ Treating the whole person; and
- ◆ Treatment based on individual strengths.

SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



A few of Beckman’s School Mental Health Services staff who participated in the APEX Peer Exchange.

Beckman provides School Mental Health Services (SMHS) in 47 schools in the Center’s service area and is expected to expand in 2019. Through SMHS, Beckman is able to provide individual therapy, group therapy, and family therapy in schools. This helps to overcome transportation barriers that may prevent students from receiving services in a clinic. SMHS provides students a wide array of benefits, one of the most important of which is in-

creased access to care. Students have access to their therapist if they are in crisis while at school. Since the students are receiving services in their schools, they do not have to be dismissed for appointments, resulting in less class time lost.

SMHS also benefits schools. The goal of school mental health professionals (MHPs) is to integrate themselves into their schools. MHPs work with school staff on how to

manage common behavior problems, intervene when students are in crisis, and assist schools in the development of prevention plans for dealing with students who might be suicidal.

SMHS is a valuable tool for students, their families, and schools. Through this partnership, Beckman is able to help empower students to live healthy and fulfilled lives.

GEORGIA APEX PEER EXCHANGE SITE VISIT WITH BECKMAN



The Georgia Apex is a partnership comprising the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) Office of Children, Young Adults, and Families, community-based mental health providers, local schools/school districts and the Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) - Center of Excellence for Children's Behavioral Health (COE) that helps to address the mental health needs of students in Georgia in a school-based setting. DBHDD has provided annual funding for four years to 30 community mental health providers statewide to implement and increase capacity for School Mental Health Services (SMHS).

The Apex staff approached Beckman to develop a peer-to-peer learning exchange, so providers from Georgia could learn from a state that has been providing SMHS for more than 30 years. Presently, Beckman provides SMHS in 47 schools in its service area.

The Georgia Apex Beckman Peer learning exchange was a great opportunity for two mental health organizations to come together and discuss innovative ideas for providing school-based mental health services. Beckman drew from its 25 plus years of experience in providing school mental health services while the Georgia Apex group was able to provide a fresh set of eyes on providing the services. The peer learning exchange was a two day event that covered multiple topics.



On day one, Apex group members were able to conduct site visits at schools where Beckman provides school mental health services. During these site visits, Beckman school-based clinicians and Apex providers were able to discuss topics such as the referral process, productivity expectations, and family engagement. While most of the Apex clinical staff and school representatives were touring the schools, Apex administrators met with Beckman administrators and DMH SMHS staff to discuss program development, program history, program funding, and program sustainability.

On day two, everyone from the Georgia Apex program and Beckman staff met to continue learning from each other on how to improve services.



Topics covered on day two included how to provide services during school breaks, how to build relationships with school partners, and how to ensure program sustainability. These topics were covered in small group table discussions, breakout sessions, mini-presentations, and through a panel discussion. The highlight of the day was a presentation from Dr. Rex Ward, Superintendent of Greenwood School District 52. Dr. Ward shared the very positive experiences that he has had with Beckman's school-based services.





TO SUPPORT THE RECOVERY OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES.

SC DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

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THE BECKMAN CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

1547 Parkway
Greenwood, SC 29646
(864) 229-7120

Satellite Clinics:

Abbeville Mental Health Clinic
101 Commercial Drive, Abbeville, S.C. 29620
(864) 459-9671

Edgefield Mental Health Clinic
200 Ridge Medical Plaza Rd., Edgefield, S.C. 29824
(803) 637-5788

Laurens Mental Health Clinic
442 Professional Park Road, Clinton, S.C. 29325
(864) 938-0912

McCormick Mental Health Clinic
202 Hwy. 28 North, McCormick, S.C. 29835
(864) 465-2412

Newberry Mental Health Clinic (also serving Saluda)
2043 Medical Park Drive, Newberry, S.C. 29108
(803) 276-8000

RECOVERY SPOTLIGHT – NINA B.



Nina B., a patient at the Beckman Center for Mental Health Services, has agreed to share her story of recovery to help inspire and motivate others.

My name is Nina and I have been diagnosed with Bipolar I Disorder with Psychotic features. Coping with the symptoms has been something that I have struggled with in the past, but with each passing day I grow in strength, resolve, and faith. Through medication management and therapy services, Beckman staff have helped me to live a happy, joy-filled life that allows me the freedom to be myself and be a productive member of the community while maintaining a regular job.

In addition to attending my appointments, I pray regularly throughout the day, listen to music, draw, and paint to help manage the symptoms of anxiety and changes in my mood.

And while all of these things are vitally important, the love and support that I have received from my family and friends has been amazing for my recovery.

I am so thankful for the life I lead today. I am ever-grateful for all of the resources that are available to me, including the staff at Beckman, my family, and my friends. The amount of support they all give me has helped me to become the person I am today and keeps me focused on my recovery.

I am not ashamed to say that I have a mental illness. I am happy and living an abundant life. My life is proof that recovery is possible.