

SOUTH CAROLINA MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
Lexington County Community Mental Health Center
301 Palmetto Park Blvd., Lexington, South Carolina 29072 – 803-996-1500
August 2, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

The August 2, 2019 meeting of the South Carolina Mental Health Commission was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Mr. Greg Pearce, Chairperson, in the Conference Room at the Lexington County Community Mental Health Center, 301 Palmetto Park Blvd., Lexington, South Carolina. Ms. Ginavra Gibson provided the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Mr. Pearce welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION

Mr. Pearce presented a resolution from the Commission upon the retirement of Alan Powell, General Counsel, South Carolina Department of Mental Health. Mr. Powell's resolution read as follows:

Whereas: The South Carolina Mental Health Commission and the State Director of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health recognize the retirement of Alan Powell; and

Whereas: Mental health is critical to the well-being and vitality of all South Carolinians; and

Whereas: Mental illness affects people regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion or economic status; and

Whereas: The service of Alan Powell has improved the lives of individuals living with mental illness, serving the people of South Carolina with professionalism and compassion; and

Whereas: Mr. Powell, for 32 years, has embodied the Mission of the Department of Mental Health, to support the recovery of people with mental illnesses; and

Whereas: The South Carolina Mental Health Commission and the State Director of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health recognize Mr. Powell not only for his distinguished service as the General Counsel for the SC Department of Mental Health, but also for his dedication to ensuring individuals with mental illness receive the highest quality care, providing unwavering service and exemplary leadership to SCDMH;

Now, therefore: We express our profound appreciation to Mr. Alan Powell for his outstanding service to the mentally ill and his invaluable service to the South Carolina Department of Mental Health; offer him our sincere gratitude and best wishes; and order that a copy of this Resolution be made a part of the Commission's permanent records.

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APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Mr. Bob Hiott, seconded by Ms. Louise Haynes, the Commission approved the Agenda for today's Business Meeting.

All voted in favor to the above motion; motion carried.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Ms. Haynes, and seconded by Mr. Hiott, the Commission approved the Minutes from the Business Meeting of July 12, 2019.

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

MONTHLY/QUARTERLY INFORMATION REPORTS

Elizabeth Hutto presented the items listed under Monthly/Quarterly Informational Reports, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.

Ms. Hutto reported a total of 28 pending SLED investigations as of August 1, 2019. Eleven (11) were assigned to SLED, twelve (12) were assigned to Long-term Care Ombudsman Office, four (4) were assigned to the Attorney General's Office, and one (1) was assigned to local law enforcement.

Ms. Hutto highlighted the following from the Patient Advocacy Report:

- 80 complaints were resolved in June 2019.
- 437 complaints have been resolved year-to-date.
- The number of complaints resolved year to date is 574. Ms. Hutto explained that the total number of complaints will not necessarily equal the total for types of complaint resolved as a complaint may involve more than one category. The most frequent type of complaint regards treatment and access to treatment. Those types of complaints are most often seen within the community concerning individuals getting to and from appointments.

Mr. Pearce noted for the record and for all public disclosure, "That all investigative summaries of incidents of alleged patient abuse or neglect, patient injuries, and deaths are sent to the Solicitor's Office, the State Ombudsman, General Counsel-SCDMH, Quality Improvement-SCDMH, DSS Child Protective Services, and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) upon completion by the Office of Public Safety Records. These reports are sent and they are discussed openly in this meeting at every Commission meeting."

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Community Update/Monthly Management Report

On behalf of Ms. Deborah Blalock, Mr. Christian Barnes-Young presented the report.

In response to Mr. Pearce's request from the July 12, 2019 Commission Meeting for information related to school districts funding for school mental health services (SMHS), Mr. Barnes-Young provided SMHS FY 2019 data. He said that the FY 2020 data will become available as the Mental Health Centers receive contracts from their local school districts. He reported an average amount of contribution per position from the school districts of \$11,525.76. There are a number of districts that participate in SMHS that are not contributing financially. Mr. Pearce said the Governor has set a goal to have SMHS in every school. Mr. Pearce said that he would like to know how many schools are not participating, and if the schools are participating in some other way. Mr. Barnes-Young reported SMHS were available in 739 schools in FY 2019, approximately 57% of public schools in South Carolina.

Mr. Barnes-Young reported that the Center Directors will hold a strategic planning retreat on October 9-10, 2019 at Devil's Fork State Park.

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Mr. Barnes-Young reported that effective August 17, 2019 all counties in the State have available 24/7 coverage for Community Crisis Response and Intervention (CCRI) through every DMH mental health center.

There was discussion about Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) and differentiating all manners of behavioral crises. Mr. Barnes-Young said CIT training is evidence-based training. Community Mental Health Services Division is looking to expand evidence-based services across the State and creating mechanisms that will help monitor the fidelity of evidence-based interventions. Mr. Pearce requested an update at the September Commission Business Meeting.

Mr. Barnes-Young referred everyone to the Transparency Monthly Indicators (TMI) spreadsheets, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. The Commission Members stated they would like to see future reports include present trends.

New Nursing Homes Update

Mr. Mark Binkley announced construction has begun on two (2) new nursing homes in Gaffney and in Florence. Groundbreaking ceremonies will be scheduled in the future. The expected completion and occupancy is in the summer of 2021. Mr. Binkley explained that under the VA formula, South Carolina is currently able to apply for construction and operational support from the VA for up to 1,089 state veterans long-term care beds. Upon completion of the Gaffney and Florence nursing homes, there will be 738 state veterans nursing home beds in operation. Mr. Binkley said the Department has been in discussions with the State legislative leaders about submitting applications in April 2020 for additional state veterans nursing homes.

Forensic Waiting List Update

Dr. Versie Bellamy presented the Forensic Waiting List Update. She reported that as of August 1 there were 44 patients on the forensic waiting list. In July there were 26 admissions and 20 discharges. The Division of Inpatient Services (DIS) management continues to assess, identify, and remove barriers to patient flow through the system of care.

Mr. Pearce asked about the status of hiring and developing transitional specialists. Dr. Robert Bank reported four (4) of the six (6) positions have been filled. There is a need to hire two (2) transitional specialists in the upstate. There has been a total of 38 inpatient referrals. Medical Services is looking at adding another transitional specialist specifically for forensics.

Financial Status Update

Ms. Debbie Calcote presented the FY 2019 Financial Report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. Mr. Binkley noted FY 2019 was the first time the Department finished the year with an operating budget of over \$450 million.

House Legislative Oversight Update

Mr. Binkley reported the House Legislative Oversight Subcommittee met on July 23, 2019. For two (2) hours, the meeting involved a lot of questions related to stories that appeared in the media that the Department could not confirm or comment on, as it involved an allegation of a person being in a hospital who died during a restraint procedure. The subcommittee subsequently followed up with a detailed letter requiring a response before the next meeting, which is scheduled on August 12, 2019. At the August 12th meeting, while the panel will have opportunity to ask follow-up questions, the Department will have opportunity to make requests/recommendations in regard to legislative matters to the subcommittee for consideration.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Binkley reported the following:

- The 2019 NAMI South Carolina Conference will be held on Friday, August 23, through Saturday, August 24, 2019 at the Marriott in Columbia.
- On Thursday, August 1, on behalf of SCDMH, Mr. Binkley brought greetings and gave opening remarks at the 2019 Lowcountry Mental Health Conference held August 1-2, 2019 at the Gaillard Performance Hall in Charleston. There were over 1,400 participants at the conference.
- SCDMH received a letter from the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission recognizing the Department's affirmative action goals. Over the past year, the Department's achievement of goals increased from 86.4% to 88.5%.
- Effective July 1, 2019, the South Carolina Medicaid Program added to managed care an additional category of services that will include psychiatric hospitalization for individuals who are under the age of 21. This impacts the billing processes at the William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute (Hall Institute).
- A draft of the proposed FY 2021 budget request will be provided to Commission members prior to the September 6 Commission Business Meeting.

Bill Lindsay thanked Mr. Binkley for announcing the 2019 NAMI Conference and shared that the conference will feature a special awards ceremony on Friday evening. One of the key speakers is Katrina Gay, National Director, Strategic Partnerships, NAMI.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:40, on a motion by Ms. Haynes, seconded by Mr. Hiott, the Commission adjourned the Business Meeting and entered into Executive Session to discuss a potential litigation and the recruitment for a permanent State Director. Upon convening in open session at 12:30 p.m., it was noted that only information was received; no votes or actions were taken.

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members

Mr. Greg Pearce, Chair

Ms. Louise Haynes, Vice Chair

Mr. Robert Hiott

Visitors/Staff

Mark Binkley, JD

Debbie Calcote

Ernestine Middleton

Dr. Robert Bank

Elizabeth Hutto

Eleanor Odom

Christian Barnes-Young

Bill Lindsey

Alan Powell

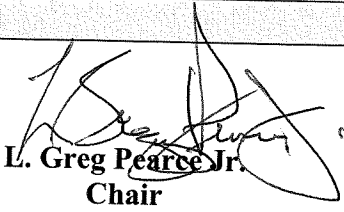
Dr. Versie Bellamy

Sarah Main

Janie Simpson

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APPROVALS


L. Greg Pearce Jr.
Chair


Kim Ballentine
Recording Secretary