

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
Catawba Community Mental Health Center's York Adult Services Clinic
205 Piedmont Blvd, Rock Hill, SC 29732
October 4, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

The October 4, 2019 meeting of the South Carolina Mental Health Commission was called to order at 10:19 a.m. by Mr. Greg Pearce, Chair, at Catawba Community Mental Health Center's (CCMHC) York Adult Services Clinic, 205 Piedmont Blvd, Rock Hill, SC 29732. Mrs. Elizabeth Shrum provided the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Mr. Pearce had welcomed the following guests during the earlier Center Presentation: Mr. Bill Lindsay, Executive Director of NAMI SC, and CCMHC Board Members: Karen Nichols, Brenda Artemes, Bennie Thompson, Dr. Thomas Muller, Melanie Saxon, and Alexa Esposito, Board Chair.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Ms. Louise Haynes, seconded by Dr. Alison Evans, the Commission approved the Agenda for today's Business Meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Mark Binkley noted that the spelling of staff member Margaret Meriwether's name had been corrected, copies of the revised minutes were provided to the Commission.

On a motion by Ms. Louise Haynes, seconded by Dr. Alison Evans, the Commission approved the Minutes from the Business Meeting of September 6, 2019.

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

MONTHLY/QUARTERLY INFORMATION REPORTS

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

The Office of Public Safety report shows four (4) open cases, all originating from Hall, no change from last month.

Ms. Hutto reported a total of 28 open SLED investigations as of October 3, 2019. Seven (7) had been assigned to SLED, fourteen (14) were assigned to Long-term Care Ombudsman Office, five (5) are assigned to the Attorney General's Office, one (1) was assigned to local law enforcement, and one (1) was assigned to DMH as a non-criminal allegation. The oldest pending case was reported in August 2017.

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

- 68 complaints were resolved in August 2019, which is in-line with previous months.
- 572 complaints have been resolved year-to-date.

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- The average number of complaints resolved each month is in the low 70s.
- Complaints are broken out by type, a single patient complaint may have more than one type of complaint. The number of complaints resolved, broken out by type, year to date, is 735. 40% of the complaints pertain to treatment. The most frequent type of treatment complaints pertain to accessibility to services, which includes the length of time to get an appointment, difficulty obtaining transportation to services, etc.

The Commission had no questions. Mr. Pearce stated the reports were informational only.

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Community Update/Monthly Management Report

Ms. Deborah Blalock complimented the Catawba staff and Board for their outstanding hospitality and for leading the way in integration initiatives. As presented earlier, Catawba has created a health home within the Center for many of its patients, by providing primary health screening and treatment services through its Primary Care Behavioral Health grant initiative. There are a few different bi-directional models of primary health care. Mr. Binkley and Ms. Blalock are working on a grant opportunity to research which health care integration methods produce the best results.

Currently, six DMH mental health centers have some sort of primary health care model. There are two FQHCs in Rock Hill. A primary benefit of embedding Mental Health Center MHPs in FQHCs or having primary care providers in a Center is reducing patient transportation needs by providing 'one stop health shops'.

DMH recently purchased:

- Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) for all DMH hospitals and MHC clinics;
- Narcan for its Centers, in response to the opioid crisis;
- Nicotine Replacement Therapy programs for Center patients;
- Evidence-based Mental Health First Aid training for two clinicians per MHC. Trained clinicians will be certified to train lay members of the community, such as church and civic groups.

DMH is moving rapidly to fill a Co-occurring Liaison position between DMH and DAODAS, the position closed on October 3, 2019.

Last Wednesday, DMH center directors successfully met with the state's Alcohol and Drug Commission directors. As a result, MHC directors are working with local substance use treatment directors, making plans to meet regularly in the future to do co-occurring trainings and to create learning collaboratives and consortiums to ensure patients aren't 'falling through the cracks'. With block grant money, DMH purchased co-occurring best practice training for both MHCs and their Alcohol and Drug counterparts.

A Center Director retreat, with an ambitious agenda, will be held October 8-10 at Devil's Fork State Park.

The full-time employee (FTE) graph, copies of which had been provided to the Commission, shows growth but all DMH MHCs continue to have position vacancies. The growth was made possible through additional appropriations from the general assembly. DMH received 4.4 million dollars to grow programs designed to keep mental health patients within their community and divert mental health patients from hospital emergency rooms, when possible. This money allows DMH to expand: Individual Placement and Support (IPS), Intensive Community Treatment Teams, now in every county, Housing Services, Peer Support Services, etc. DMH Children's Services received two million dollars for Multi-Dimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) for community engagement, especially for those high

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risk youth involved with the Department of Juvenile Justice. DMH also received 2.2 million for School Mental Health Services. These funds are all recurring.

Community Crisis Response and Intervention (CCRI) began in May 2018 and is now in every county in the state. CCRI has served 2,208 individuals so far, and of those, 61% have been diverted from the emergency department. The data includes Mobile Crisis Program data. Follow-up with patients is a big part of CCRI services. Copies of the CCRI data had been provided to the Commission.

Ms. Blalock presented the Community Mental Health Services Trends and Transparency Monthly Indicators (TMI) spreadsheets, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.

Forensic Waiting List Update/Presentation

Dr. Versie Bellamy presented the Forensic Waiting List Update. She reported that as of October 4 there are 43 patients on the forensic waiting list. In September there were 21 admissions and 23 discharges. The Division of Inpatient Services (DIS) management continues to identify and remove barriers to patient flow through the system of care continuum.

Dr. Alison Evans noted she had been served yesterday with legal papers. The papers pertained to the provision of mental health services to judicially committed patients awaiting trial. Dr. Evans was asked to forward the papers via fax or email to DMH General Counsel, Elizabeth Hutto. The DMH legal team is aware of the issue and has already taken steps to resolve this matter.

Financial Status Update

Ms. Debbie Calcote highlighted certain information on the monthly financial report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.

Per the financial report of August 31, 2019, DMH is on track to end FY20 with a \$1,514,106 surplus, which Ms. Calcote attributes mostly to statewide position vacancies.

There were no questions on the Medicaid and MCO Revenue Summary report.

The Department will meet with the Executive Budget Office on October 29th, which will be first step in the review of the FY21 DMH budget request which the Commission previously approved.

Mr. Pearce inquired about early news on potential bonds for construction. Per Mr. Binkley, the General Assembly hasn't issued General Obligation Bonds for State Agency and Higher Education building needs/capital construction since 1999. General Obligation Bonds are rarely approved during an election year.

House Legislative Oversight Committee (HLOC) Update

Per Mr. Binkley, the House Legislative Oversight Subcommittee (HLOC) meetings, which started January 2019, continue. The 13th and 14th meetings occurred in September. The 14th meeting was a joint hearing meeting with DMH and the Department of Corrections. The subcommittee legislators were interested in how the two Agencies collaborate on the provision of mental health treatment for inmates in the criminal justice system. Additional HLOC meetings are scheduled with DMH in October and November.

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During the final meeting Chair Jay West will give a report summary to the full HLOC. The summary will include DMH recommendations for legislative actions they could adopt or champion. Mr. Binkley hopes the HLOC process will conclude prior to his successor coming onboard.

Resident Enrichment at Long Term Care

Dr. Kimberly Rudd, Chief Medical Director-DIS, Assistant Deputy Director for Long Term Care and Dr. Michele Dreher, Performance Improvement Director for Long-Term Care, gave a presentation on recent resident enrichment in long term care efforts. The award of Civil Money Penalty Fund Mini Grants allowed DMH to purchase Sensory Modulation Carts filled with a variety of engaging and sensory stimulating activities designed to enhance the lives and moods of long term care residents.

The cart Dr. Rudd demonstrated contained: music CDs, lava lamps, aromatherapy diffusers, bubble wrap, fidget spinners, fidget aprons, stress balls, weighted lap pads to reduce anxiety, color changing fiber optic lights, and more. CNAs are trained on activity uses and operation. Each patient has individualized interactions and the carts are a hit in the long term care facilities. 100% of resident feedback has been positive. 70% of residents report mood changes from a one to a five, on a happiness scale of five, after using the items in the cart. The interactions are documented and reported to CMS.

DMH has plans to increase art and gardening opportunities for residents and to create day rooms and night rooms for residents who struggle with sleep issues.

The commissioners expressed their whole hearted support of these initiatives. A copy of the presentation is on file with the minutes in the Office of the State Director.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Binkley reported the following:

- The next Suicide Prevention Coalition meeting is scheduled on December 11th.
- SCYSPI Director Dr. Alex Karydi moved to New York to head Project 2025 for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Jennifer Butler has taken over as interim SCYSPI director and is doing an excellent job.
- The workgroup reviewing emergency admission transportation of adult patients met on September 25th. Virginia and North Carolina have been successful contracting with companies which provide some transportation services in specially modified, safe, unmarked cars with unarmed drivers dressed in plain clothes. Law enforcement would still be in the mix but involvement would vary by case. The County Probate Courts have been asked to record actual emergency admission numbers to help guide informed decisions on future transportation policies and procedures.
- DMH leadership recently met with Department of Juvenile Justice leadership to discuss alternative options for delinquent youth with mental illness in the Family Court system. Additional supportive community services for youth are needed. Discussions will continue.
- As previously discussed, the Center Directors and Alcohol and Drug Abuse directors are working together to get both systems staffed with front-line people who are trained to assist those with complex co-occurring disorders.
- DMH held its second Zero Suicide Academy this week. Leadership of SCDMH and representatives from the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center participated in the suicide prevention academy. There are new evidence based treatments and initiatives available to help take the mystery out of suicide.

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- Mr. Binkley and Ms. Calcote attended a Joint Bond Review Committee last Wednesday and received approval for the design and construction of two more State Veteran Nursing Homes in 2020. Sumter is a potential location for a new veteran nursing homes and DMH is looking for a second underserved area that would most benefit from a new veteran nursing home. Ms. Calcote will present a report to the Governor's Office and the General Assembly on this soon to help with the decision.
- Mr. Binkley met with a group from the U.S. Census Bureau to address special efforts that will need to be made to count those in psychiatric and long term care facilities. Mental health patients and facility residents are often underreported. Center Directors will be asked to spread the word on the importance of their patients being counted. Deborah Blalock came up with the slogan: 'Don't you want to be counted?' Also, the criteria for census workers may be a good fit for DMH MHC patients looking for employment.
- On October 3, the SCDMH Administration Building had a kick off meeting for the United Way campaign. Historically, DMH has been #1 in the state in number of state employees who donate and in the amount of money raised. These numbers have declined in recent years, but Mr. Binkley is hoping for renewed employee participation and generosity this year.

Mr. Pearce said DMH is in very good hands and its employees are enthusiastic and compassionate.

Mr. Pearce reported:

- He inspected the empty buildings on the Crafts-Farrow property, none are usable in their current state.
- He recently met with leaders of the USC clinical rehabilitation counseling program which has been moved to the medical school. All the students coming out of that program have LPC potential.
- He attended the Department's CME conference and a Mental Health America (MHA) board meeting. Everyone he's met and talked with have been most hospitable.

Louise Haynes thanked Dr. Cornley and his wonderful staff for their hospitality and a great dinner. She was impressed that so many board members and staff members participated.

Mr. Bill Lindsay, NAMI SC Director, brought Mrs. Elizabeth Shrum to the front of the room and thanked her for the fantastic paintings she creates and has donated to NAMI for its fund raising auctions for the past two years.

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 11:44 p.m., on a motion by Louise Haynes, seconded by Dr. Evans, the Commission adjourned the Business Meeting and entered into Executive Session to receive legal advice concerning pending litigation and to discuss recruitment efforts for a permanent State Director. Upon convening in open session at 1:15 p.m., it was noted that only information was received; no votes or actions were taken.

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members

L. Gregory Pearce, Jr. Chair
Dr. Alison Evans (via telephone)

Louise Haynes, Vice Chair

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Visitors/Staff

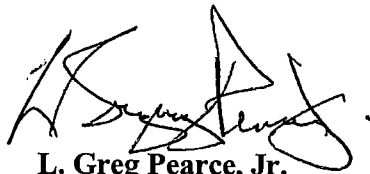
Mark Binkley, JD
Dr. Versie Bellamy
Debbie Blalock
Debbie Calcote
Elizabeth Hutto

Eleanor Odom
Ernestine Middleton
Dr. Kimberly Rudd
Dr. Michele Dreher
Dr. Paul Cornley
Elizabeth Shrum
Alexa Esposito

Karen Nichols
Brenda Artemes
Bennie Thompson
Dr. Thomas Muller,
Melanie Saxon
Mr. Bill Lindsay, NAMI
Betsy O'Brien, NAMI

Dana McNeal
Jenny Sexton
Liz Seeger
Jaelyn Piccone, Liberty
Healthcare

APPROVALS



L. Greg Pearce, Jr.
Chair



Melanie Ferretti
Recording Secretary