

**S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING**  
**SCDMH Administration**  
**2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201**  
**January 10, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The January 10, 2020 meeting of the South Carolina Mental Health Commission was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Mr. Greg Pearce, Chair, in Conference Room 320 at the SC Department of Mental Health Administration Building, 2414 Bull Street, Columbia, SC. Mr. Stewart Cooner provided the invocation.

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS**

Mr. Pearce welcomed everyone. Visitors present were Beth Franco, Protection and Advocacy; Janie Simpson, Chair, State Planning Council; and Susan von Schenk, Capital Information Affiliates.

Mr. Pearce welcomed students from The South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics. He recognized Dr. Alison Evans. Dr. Evans said the students are taking a course entitled *Mental Health in Pop Culture: The Psychology of Adriane Monk*. Each student stated his/her name and the location of residence, and each senior student provided the name of their research topic. Following the business meeting, the students will tour G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

Mr. Pearce gave a touching tribute in memory of Dr. Hazel Ann Gantt Seigler Josey, Ph.D., who passed away at the age of 103 on January 3, 2020. Dr. Josey was the first female psychologist hired by the South Carolina State Hospital and was Chief Psychologist at the State Hospital for many years. She was instrumental in the establishment of a separate inpatient treatment for adolescents with psychological disorders.

Mr. Pearce introduced Mr. John Scott, Activities Therapeutic Supervisor, and Mr. Ted J. Jones, Administrator, C. M. Tucker Nursing Care Center, Roddey Pavilion. Mr. Pearce commended Mr. Scott for his care, compassion, enthusiasm, commitment and dedication to serving the residents at Tucker. Mr. Scott has served the Department for 47 years. Mr. Scott talked about how he came to work at the Department. While attending college he worked at the Department as a Therapist Aide II. He graduated with a degree in secondary education and continued working at the Department. Later he went back to college and earned a degree in therapeutic recreation and continued his work in therapeutic recreation with the Department. He expressed appreciation to the Commission for the recognition of his work and years that he has with the Department.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

***On a motion by Dr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Bob Hiott, the Commission approved the Agenda for today's Business Meeting.***

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***On a motion by Dr. Evans, and seconded by Mr. Hiott, the Commission approved the minutes from the Center Presentation of December 6, 2019, the minutes from the Business Meeting of December 6, 2019, and the minutes from the Special Called Business Meeting of December 19, 2019.***

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

Ms. Hutto reported a total of three (3) pending allegations by the Office of Public Safety. All three are awaiting a court date. She noted one case closed and added one case during the month of December.

Ms. Hutto reported a total of 25 open SLED investigations as of January 9, 2020. Six (6), of which the oldest is from May 2019, had been assigned to SLED; thirteen (13), of which the oldest is from March 2019, were assigned to Long-term Care Ombudsman Office; two (2) were assigned to local law enforcement; and four (4) were assigned to the Attorney General's Office (AGO). Ms. Hutto noted that one of the cases assigned to the AGO goes back to 2017. The AGO has been unable to locate the defendant. She explained AGO wants to pursue so the case will be open until the defendant is located or until the AGO decides not to pursue any longer.

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

- 41 calls to patient advocacy in November 2019; a total of 488 year to date.
- 55 complaints were resolved in November 2019.
- 770 complaints have been resolved year-to-date.
- The number of complaints by category resolved year to date is 975 (*complaints are broken out by category, a single patient complaint may have more than one category*).
- Access to treatment is the most frequent type of complaint filed.

**Strategic Plan Update – IT Department**

Mr. Barry Lloyd, Director of the Office of Network and Information Technology (ONIT) gave an update on the information technology strategic plan goal: State-of-the-Art Technology. The goal encompasses clinical, medical, nursing, administrative, and information technology practices. Below are highlights from the update:

- Outpatient Electronic Medical Records (EMR) Certification
  - Completed initial GAP Analysis of the Outpatient EMR Certification requirements
  - Currently working with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) Certified Lab on Testing Criteria
- Electronic Health Records (EHR) Implementation – C.M. Tucker
  - Netsmart's Long Term Care Module will be implemented at C.M. Tucker
  - ONIT is working with Netsmart on a project scope of work to be completed by the end of February 2020
- Telepsychiatry
  - ONIT is currently designing a network to deliver Telepsychiatry services to all inpatient facilities that works with Emergency Department (ED) and Community Telepsychiatry. This should be completed September 2020.
  - Currently providing Telepsychiatry in 45 schools
- Project Management
  - Hired a Project Manager in April 2019
  - Implemented new project management processes/software
  - Kick-off meeting of Steering Committee is scheduled on January 28, 2020

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There was discussion about the South Carolina Department of Administration's (DOA) End-User Computing Devices Standard. State Agencies are required to purchase information technology devices from an authorized vendor of devices covered through the End-User Computer Device Standard. At Mr. Pearce's request, Ms. Calcote will provide additional information in regard to IT purchases and the exception process for purchases of nonstandard devices.

There was discussion about the SCDMH School Mental Health telepsychiatry program. School mental health services (SMHS) are available in almost 800 schools. Telepsychiatry is an expansion to the mental health services already provided in many of the public schools across the state. Telepsychiatry expansion requires additional technology and use of bandwidth.

**Community Update/Monthly Management Report**

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

Ms. Blalock distributed copies of the 2019 Community Mental Health Services Patient Satisfaction Survey to the Commission. During the month of May every patient at each of the mental health centers is asked to complete a survey for every service they received. Below are highlights from the report:

- A total of 18,503 individuals were surveyed in the month of May 2019.
- 29,609 surveys were received in the month of May 2019.
- Question 1: It was easy for me to get my appointment: 97.2% responded agree or strongly agree.
- Question 2: For today's appointment, I did not have to wait long: 95.7% responded agree or strongly agree.
- Question 3: I would recommend this Center's services to someone who needed help: 97% responded agree or strongly agree.
- Question 4: After coming here today, I believe I will get better: 95.7% responded agree or strongly agree.
- Question 5: I felt listened to and respected by my provider today: 98.2% responded agree or strongly agree.
- Question 6: I received helpful services today: 98.1% responded agree or strongly agree.

Ms. Blalock stated that the survey results demonstrate the staffs' phenomenal work. Ms. Haynes asked how many patients were seen during that period of time. Ms. Blalock will follow-up and provide the total number of services provided and the total number of patients seen. She explained that a family member completes the survey for children; adolescents complete a survey themselves (youth from age 12 and up).

Ms. Blalock announced that Community Mental Health Services Directors met with the Department of Social Services (DSS) County directors recently. Below are action items from the meeting:

- Leadership from DMH CMHCs and local DSS will have routine meetings – at least twice per year.
- Agencies will share contact information; Ms. Blalock reported she has forwarded to the DSS system the contact information for all DMH Center Directors.
- Local directors will ensure timeliness in reeducating their respective staffs on needs and protocols.
- On a regular basis, the local directors of DMH and DSS will meet privately outside the larger stakeholder meetings.
- DSS requested that DMH be aware of the timeliness in doing trauma narrative in the schools.
- Train each other in evidenced based programming and practices; do evidence based treatment planning together and include both agencies in the treatment planning.
- DMH would make DSS staff aware of why DMH could generally not split services.
- DMH include potential treatment modalities not provided by DMH on the initial clinical assessment (ICA) form in an effort to avoid additional assessments.

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- DSS Director Michael Leach said that money should never be a barrier to families served by DSS if a family is unable to pay; DSS has funds to pay for services that DMH may not offer.

Following are additional highlights from Ms. Blalock's report:

- In addition to the Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center, Columbia Area Mental Health Center (CAMHC), Beckman Center for Mental Health Services, and Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center now have RVs and offer mobile mental health services in rural areas.
- The memorandum of agreement with the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is near completion.
- Telepsychiatry is spreading in the schools as well as in law enforcement entities across the state.
- CAMHC, Santee-Wateree Mental Health Center, Orangeburg Area Mental Health Center are continuing to move forward identifying site locations for crisis stabilization units.
- The Mental Health America of Greenville County (MHA-Greenville) is South Carolina's certified lifeline call center for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Their goal is to accept 70% of lifeline calls from South Carolina. Currently, MHA-Greenville is answering 27.7% of the calls, up from 17%. Ms. Blalock will provide the Commissioners the data fact sheets as provided by National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.
- Dr. Paul Cornley, Center Director at Catawba Community Mental Health Center, announced his retirement effective in April 2020.

**Forensic Waiting List Update / DIS Update**

Dr. Bellamy reported that as of today there are 37 patients on the forensic waiting list. The Division of Inpatient Services (DIS) management continues to identify and remove barriers to maintain capacity for treating forensic patients within the specified timeframe and in accordance with the action plan.

At the request of Dr. Evans, and for the benefit of the students, Dr. Bellamy explained the forensic admissions process for patients who are referred through the criminal justice system. The students will hear more detail from forensic experts about this process when they visit Bryan Psychiatric Hospital later today. She introduced Dr. Kelly Gothard, Director, Forensic Evaluation & Outreach Services. Dr. Gothard talked briefly about Forensic Evaluation Services (FES) and court-ordered evaluations. Dr. Bellamy said by law the Department is mandated to comply with court orders for the evaluation of criminal defendants' capacity to stand trial, and the efficient and effective treatment of patients who are referred through the criminal justice system is the Department's top priority.

Dr. Bellamy distributed a handout comparing forensic waiting list and court ordered admissions for 2017, 2018, and 2019 (a copy of the handout is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director). Dr. Bellamy noted that in 2019 the restoration orders increased by 24% from 2018. She explained that by law defendants who are court ordered for treatment are hospitalized for up to 60 days in an effort to restore to competency. If a defendant is not restored to competency within 60 days then they are found unlikely to become competent and recommitted to the Department for continuing care. Legislation has been drafted to increase the period for competency restoration to 180 days so that more of those defendants would be able to be restored and then go back into the criminal justice system to have their charges addressed rather than remain in the hospital for long periods of time.

Dr. Bellamy recognized Dr. Kimberly Rudd, Medical Director, Inpatient Services. Dr. Rudd talked about court ordered admissions and restructuring processes. Upon admission, a patient is stabilized psychiatrically. A social worker will hold two individual sessions with the patient to educate them about the judicial process. A psychiatrist meets with the patient weekly adjusting medications and also educating them about the legal process. Noting the 24% increase in restoration orders, Dr. Rudd said there are not enough psychiatrists. Recruiting efforts have increased to fill key positions:

- Hired a new Medical Doctor who is a family practitioner and also a psychiatrist.
- Have a new appointment for Chief of Forensic Psychiatry Services.
- Hired a new forensics psychiatrist who is also an addiction psychiatrist who will begin in February.

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- The psychiatrist spends a lot of time educating the patients on the judicial process. The Division will recruit a forensic psychologist who will take on that responsibility thereby allowing the psychiatrist to see more patients and to focus more on patient behavior.

Dr. Gothard reported that she has met with the University of South Carolina's clinical community psychology faculty to talk about engaging potential student internships and involving postdoctoral fellows and practicum graduate students in this process. Mr. Pearce requested the Commission be informed of the progress.

**Issue Action Paper (IAP): Tucker Center Accreditation**

Mr. Pearce said a recommendation was presented at the December 6, 2019 Commission Business Meeting that the contract with The Joint Commission (TJC) be ended and that Senior Management not renew the contract with TJC for Tucker Center. The Commission agreed to defer making a decision until the January Commission Business Meeting.

***Mr. Hiott made a motion to approve the recommendation as presented. Dr. Evans seconded the motion. There was discussion.***

Dr. Rudd said TJC accreditation is not a requirement, and there is no practical or financial benefit to the Department for continuing TJC accreditation. As presented in the recommendation, a cost/benefit analysis of continuing to contract with TJC indicates that the cost is no longer worth the benefit. TJC surveys have not generally resulted in the identification of opportunities to improve safety or the quality of care, unlike the feedback received from required surveys from DHEC, CMS, or the VA. It would a greater benefit to use the TJC funds for training and resources for the staff in the nursing homes.

***The vote was taken. All voted in favor to the above motion; the motion carried.***

**Financial Status Update**

Ms. Noelle Wriston presented the monthly financial report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. As of November 30, 2019 the Department is projected to end FY20 under budget. Management continues to focus their attention concerning the decrease in revenue for Hall Institute.

There was some discussion about the prior year carry forward monies. Ms. Wriston explained the carry forward money is being used for the automated prescription dispensing machines. Also, the Centers use the carry forward monies for one-time purchases for the current fiscal year. The carry forward includes inpatient, outpatient, and some administrative areas.

The Department will present its FY21 budget request to the House Ways and Means Healthcare Subcommittee on January 22, 2020.

**House Legislative Oversight Update**

Dr. Bank reported Mr. Binkley went before the full House Legislative Oversight Committee on December 9. The Committee had just received the final report of the Subcommittee. The decision was made to postpone any action until the next meeting, which is anticipated to be scheduled for later in January.

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***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

On behalf of Mr. Binkley, Dr. Bank reported the following:

- On December 12<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Binkley along with the Director of the State's Medicaid agency and several other State agency directors and other healthcare leaders in the State participated in the Governor's Press Conference in Greenville to announce that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) had approved the State's Medicaid Waiver, known as the "Community Engagement Waiver," which, among other things, will provide temporary Medicaid coverage to adults at risk for homelessness, to include individuals being released from prison who also have a mental illness.
- On December 16<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Binkley and Rochelle Caton, Director of the Department's Office of Patient Advocacy, had a conference call with Senator Kimpson to brief him on the results of the S.303 Workgroup – Transportation of Mental Health Patients.
- On December 18<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Binkley and Ken Roey, Project Executive for SCDMH State Veterans Nursing Homes, met with Representative Murrell Smith to brief him on what is needed for additional State Veterans Nursing Homes.
- Construction of the two new State Veterans Nursing Homes located in Florence and Gaffney continues to proceed on schedule and within budget.
- In October 2019, the Department received approval from the Joint Bond Review Committee (JBRC) and the State Fiscal Accountability Authority (SFAA) to begin design work in anticipation of submitting applications for VA construction grant funding for one or two additional State Veterans Nursing Homes in April 2020. A meeting is scheduled on January 29<sup>th</sup> with JBRC to report on the status.
- On December 18<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Binkley, Dr. Bank and Ms. Blalock met with Director Baker and staff of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the State's Medicaid agency, to urge that DHHS cover telemental health assessments performed by the Department's mobile crisis teams, as well as consider improved reimbursement or other measures to increase the availability of intensive wraparound services for high risk adolescents and their families.

Ms. Calcote announced that the Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center and the Santee-Wateree Mental Health Center are exploring sites for small clinics in their Gaffney and Bishopville locations. Physical Plant Services is assisting them and evaluating spaces they have identified.

Miscellaneous

Ms. Simpson expressed appreciation for all the information that was presented today. She thanked the staff for their great work and for providing assistance to individuals who need help with mental health issues.

Dr. Evans introduced Olivia Hough, Resident Assistant at The South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics.

Mr. Pearce welcomed Joy Jay, Executive Director, Mental Health America of South Carolina, and also Bill Lindsay, Executive Director, NAMI South Carolina.

Mr. Pearce announced the Department's new State Director Dr. Kenneth Rogers will visit the staff next week for a meet and greet time. Mr. Pearce will also introduce him to the Governor.

***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.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

*At 12:17 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Hiott, seconded by Dr. Evans, the Commission adjourned the Business Meeting and entered into Executive Session to receive legal advice concerning pending litigation. 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      Louise Haynes, Vice Chair  
Dr. Alison Evans                      Robert Hiott

**Visitors/Staff**

Dr. Robert Bank	Beth Franco	Barry Lord	Dr. Kimberly Rudd
Dr. Versie Bellamy	Elizabeth Hutto	Ernestine Middleton	John Scott
Debbie Blalock	Joy Jay	Eleanor Odom	Janie Simpson
Debbie Calcote	Ted Jones	Jocelyn Piccine	Susan von Schenk
Stewart Cooner	Tracy LaPointe	Valarie Perkins	Noelle Wriston
Melanie Ferretti	Bill Lindsay	Lynelle Reavis	

**APPROVALS**

  
L. Gregory Pearce, Jr.  
Chair

  
Kim Ballentine  
Recording Secretary

