

**S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING**  
**SCDMH Administration**  
**2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201**  
**February 7, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The February 7, 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. Commission members were present via teleconference. Mr. Stewart Cooner provided the invocation.

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS**

Mr. Pearce welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the attendees for their indulgence to move the meeting location from the Columbia Area Mental Health Center (CAMHC) to the Department of Mental Health Administration due to the hazardous weather. Visitors present were Jocelyn Piccine, Liberty Healthcare, and Beth Franco, Protection and Advocacy.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

***Mark Binkley presented a recommendation to add to the Agenda approval to amend the 2020 Schedule of Mental Health Commission Meetings. He said that in light of the changes made due to the hazardous weather, the proposed amendments are (1) to change today's meeting location to SCDMH Administration Building, and (2) change the March 6 meeting location to the Columbia Area Mental Health Center in lieu of SCDMH Administration Building.***

***On a motion by Dr. Alison Evans, seconded by Ms. Louise Haynes, the Commission approved the Agenda as amended and the recommendation as presented.***

***All voted in favor to the above motion; the motion carried. The March 6, 2020 Commission meeting will be held at the Columbia Area Mental Health Center.***

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***On a motion by Dr. Evans, and seconded by Mr. Hiott, the Commission approved the minutes from the Commission Business Meeting of January 10, 2020.***

***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 four (4) pending allegations by the Office of Public Safety. She noted since the printing of her report two cases have been closed.

Ms. Hutto reported a total of 26 open SLED investigations as of February 7, 2020. Five (5), of which the oldest is from May 2019, had been assigned to SLED; fifteen (15), of which the oldest is from March 2019, were assigned to Long-term Care Ombudsman Office; four (4), of which the oldest is from August 2017; and two (2), of which the oldest is from January 2019, were assigned to local law enforcement.

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

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- Patient Advocacy ended 2019 with a total of 812 complaints resolved.
- 42 complaints were resolved in December 2019.
- 24 calls to patient advocacy in December 2019; a total of 512 calls to patient advocacy in 2019.
- The number of complaints by category resolved year to date is 1,029 (*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. Ms. Hutto reported a total of 371 treatment complaints were resolved in 2019, which represents 36% of total complaints resolved.

**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 announced Santee-Wateree Mental Health Center will soon be getting a recreational vehicle and deploying into the community to offer mobile mental health services in rural areas. Currently, the following Centers have RVs: Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center (CDMH), CAMHC, Beckman Center for Mental Health Services, and Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center. Mr. Pearce requested to see a picture of the CDMHC's Highway to Hope RV Wrap. Ms. Blalock will email a picture to the Commissioners later today.

Ms. Blalock distributed and reviewed an update on Community Crisis Response and Intervention (CCRI) activities from May 18, 2019 through January 20, 2020. A copy of the handout will be emailed to the Commissioners and filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director. Ms. Blalock highlighted the following:

- A total of 5,129 patients across the state received CCRI services, of which 2,876 were via telephonic.
- The patient payer source was 45% self-pay.
- Patient referral source was 1,680 or 35% family members; 1,040 or 22% from law enforcement.
- 1,094 crises were for psychotic symptoms.
- 962 patients went to the Emergency Department; 47 patients went to jail; 2,747 stayed in the community
- Of the telephonic responses, over 2,000 were requests for information about services, resources, etc., and over 1200 calls were brief counseling.
- For crisis intervention diversions, of the 3,741 telephonic responses, there were 274 jail diversions and 1,548 ED or hospital diversions. There were 1,460 on-site responses of which 284 were diverted from jail and 734 were diverted from ED or hospital. Of the 1,195 all other service types, there were 80 jail diversions and 303 ED or hospital diversions.

**Forensic Waiting List Update**

Dr. Bellamy reported that as of today there are 34 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.

Dr. Bellamy distributed and reviewed an update on forensic services which included charts on 2017, 2018, 2019 and January 2020 waiting list comparisons, court orders for admissions and volume of restoration orders. A copy of the handout will be emailed to the Commissioners and filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director. Dr. Bellamy highlighted the following:

- For the month of January, there were 36 patients on the forensic waiting list. The number of patients on the waiting list continues on a downward trend.
- Added restoration beds which gives flexibility to make needed adjustments in real time.
- Hired a fulltime forensic psychiatrist.
- Court orders for admission have stabilized.

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- Daily huddle meetings, to include forensic clinical staff, social workers, navigator, and other leaders, to review how to improve bed flow have been implemented.
- As of today there are five (5) patients on the restorations waitlist.

Ms. Haynes requested an update on the initiative to hire staff at Morris Village who would be the liaison with 301 agencies. Ms. Blalock announced that in conjunction with State DAODAS, Lamar Suber was hired to fill that position effective January 2, 2020. Mr. Suber will be assisting the Behavioral Health Services Association (BHSA) in developing a resource map of services offered by 301 agencies.

Dr. Bellamy announced that Dr. Mary Jane Hicks is the new director for William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute effective January 17, 2020. Dr. Bellamy commended Ms. Holly Scaturro, MSN, RV, for her role as the Acting Director of Hall Institute during the past year.

**Financial Status Update**

Debbie Calcote presented the monthly financial report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. As of December 31, 2019 the Department is projected to end FY20 under budget.

Ms. Calcote reported the Department presented its FY21 budget request to the House Ways and Means Healthcare Subcommittee on January 22, 2020. She also explained that at the recommendation of the Joint Bond Review Committee, there was an additional request of \$8.9 million directed to the construction of the new veteran's nursing homes.

**Legislative Update**

The Commission was provided a copy of the February 7, 2020 edition of *Legislative News*. Mr. Binkley highlighted the following from the update:

S.303 – Mental Health Transport Bill crossed over to the House during the 2019 legislative session. The South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA), the Probate Judge Association, the Sheriff's Association, and DMH are working together and are considering proposing a budget proviso in the General Assembly which would direct DMH and State Procurement to issue a solicitation for a private vendor to operate alternative transportation system to law enforcement for transporting individuals who are on emergency admission papers. There is ongoing discussion about the cost involved for this type of system.

S.1018 – South Carolina Juvenile Justice Reform Act. The bill includes a section that clarifies existing law, which prohibits commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) of juveniles who are so severely handicapped by mental illness or a developmental disability that they cannot be properly cared for in DJJ facilities.

In regard to S.303, Ms. Haynes asked about the amount of funding needed for an alternative transportation system project. Mr. Binkley said for comparison the State of Virginia has appropriated \$4.5 million for up to 12,500 transports by an alternative vendor, which equals to \$360 per transport. They anticipate that law enforcement would transport the more aggressive individuals. The proposed budget proviso provides that the alternative transportation vendor would do ALL emergency transports, which based on the S.303 Workgroup's gather of data from the probate courts would be approximately 20,000 per year. The cost could be between \$6 million and \$7 million.

**House Legislative Oversight Update**

Mr. Binkley said he anticipates the House Legislative Oversight Committee will schedule a meeting later this month or the early part of March to finalize the review process.

**Bull Street Update**

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Ms. Calcote announced that the title for The Babcock Building at Bull Street was transferred to Hughes Development Corporation and from Hughes to Clachan Properties on January 13, 2020. In 2015-2016, the Commission approved the use of the initial \$4.5 million of the Bull Street sales proceeds as one-time matching funds for housing development for DMH patients. Ms. Calcote recognized Michele Murff, Director of Housing and Homeless Programs.

Ms. Murff, gave an informative presentation on Housing Development. To date, Bull Street sales proceeds of a little over \$1.2 million have been committed for development of 50 new housing units. Of the total committed, \$725,000 has been spent, \$325,000 to be spent in FY20 and \$200,000 to be spent in FY21. Additionally, \$950,000 will be committed in FY21 for 38 new housing units. A copy of the powerpoint presentation is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

Mr. Binkley reported the following:

- Mental Health Advocacy Day will be held at the State House on March 11, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
- DMH leadership continues to meet with leadership from other state health and human services agencies regularly to discuss opportunities to collaborate and partner to strengthen services for the citizens in the State. Since the last Commission meeting, DMH leadership met with leadership from DSS, DAODUS, and the Department of Children's Advocacy.
- On January 29, 2020 Mr. Binkley, Ms. Calcote and Ken Roey met with the Joint Bond Review Committee (JBRC) seeking their guidance to pursue a new grant from the Veterans Administration for construction of a new veterans nursing home in Horry County. The grant will be submitted before the April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline; however it may be FY2028 before the Department receives the funding. Discussions also included the priority for a central location for the Sumter facility. Federal funding for the Sumter facility could come through as early as FY23.
- Construction of the two new State Veterans Nursing Homes located in Florence and Gaffney continues to proceed within budget, on schedule and they are expected to be ready for occupancy by summer of 2021.
- Mr. Binkley and Chairman Pearce met with the CFO of PRISMA, Mark O'Halla, to begin discussions about the future of state funded inpatient services. Mr. Binkley said he anticipates within the next year or two to include other participants in the discussions about whether the State has an interest for additional state funded inpatient capacity.
- Mr. Binkley reported the Department is looking at how to prioritize judicial commitments and emergency admissions in an effort to avoid any future conflicts in probate court.

***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 11:51 a.m. on a motion by Mr. Hiott, seconded by Dr. Evans, the Commission adjourned the Business Meeting and entered into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Upon convening in open session at 12:20 p.m., it was noted that only information was received; no votes or actions were taken.***

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**ATTENDANCE**

**Commission Members**

L. Gregory Pearce, Jr. Chair    Dr. Alison Evans (via teleconference)  
Louise Haynes, Vice Chair (via teleconference)  
Robert Hiott (via teleconference)

**Visitors/Staff**

Mark Binkley	Debbie Calcote	Elizabeth Hutto	Jocelyn Piccine
Dr. Robert Bank	Stewart Cooner	Ernestine Middleton	Valarie Perkins
Dr. Versie Bellamy	Melanie Ferretti	Michele Murff	Dr. Kimberly Rudd
Debbie Blalock	Beth Franco	Eleanor Odom	

**APPROVALS**

  
**L. Gregory Pearce, Jr.**

  
**Kim Ballentine**