

**SOUTH CAROLINA MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION  
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
Columbia Area Mental Health Center  
2715 Colonial Drive, Columbia, SC 29203**

**March 6, 2020**

**Center Presentation**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Commission Members:**

L. Gregory Pearce, Jr., Chair  
Louise Haynes, Vice Chair

Dr. Alison Evans  
Robert Hiott

**Visitors/Staff:**

Mark Binkley  
Dr. Robert Bank  
Margaret Scott  
David Jameson  
John Hays

Dr. Kimberly Rudd  
Debbie Blalock  
Dr. Kelly Gothard  
Elizabeth Hutto  
Avis Buchanan

Dr. Maggie Johnson  
Kathy Hugg  
Grace Lambert  
Gary Stuckey  
Denise Morgan

Dr. Monica McConnell  
Sheila Arnold  
Stephen Hattrich  
Veronica Gates  
Jocelyn Piccine  
Bill Lindsey

The SC Mental Health Commission met at the Columbia Area Mental Health Center (CAMHC), 2715 Colonial Drive, Columbia, SC 29203, at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Pearce expressed his appreciation to the Center staff for the exceptional hospitality extended to the Commission during its visit.

Mr. Pearce recognized Ms. Avis Buchanan in the audience, a wonderful nurse whom he had worked with many years ago during his first days as Director at the Crafts-Farrow state hospital. Ms. Buchanan is the CAMHC Nurse Administrator and has been with the Department for 42 years.

Mr. Pearce turned the meeting over to CAMHC Executive Director Denise Morgan. Ms. Morgan thanked Veronica Gates and Toni Mack for all they did to help with the Commission meeting and for preparing the lovely breakfast buffet.

Director Morgan introduced Ms. Kathy Hugg, who was recently promoted to CAMHC Chief-of-Staff and is the former Director of the Young Adult Program (YAP). Ms. Hugg also wrote the original young adult program grant. Ms. Hugg's presentation on the Young Adult Program included its history, an overview of operations and a case study success story of a young patient named Joseph who was able to accomplish many of his dreams with the help of the mental health center's Young Adult Program.

The following are highlights of the Presentation:


- YAP began in January 2008 with just eight patients and today it has 366.
- YAP program structure:
  - PRS Day Program
  - Case Management
  - Individual Family and Group Therapy,
  - Crisis Intervention Services
  - Nursing Services,
  - Psychiatrist / Nurse Practitioner Appointments
  - Job Coaching and Development through IPS team
  - Care Coordination
- Dr. Maggie Johnson works with YAP providing long acting injections (LAI). Bipolar disorder and schizophrenia normally first manifest in young people between the ages of 18 and 25.
- Per Dr. Johnson, LAIs work and work quickly to control mental illnesses. About 200 patients out of YAPs 366 take LAIs which, usually within one to two months, reduce hallucinations, drug use, and hospitalizations. The patients get better and are happier with LAIs, their whole affect changes for the better. Some shots work for two or three months, which is great for children who have a history of taking other forms of medication irregularly.
- Full retail price of most LAIs is about \$1,200 per month. Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and Medicaid get it for less. While LAIs are expensive, they are much less expensive than hospitalizations. It has taken a while, but most insurance companies and pharmacies have begun adding LAIs to their formulary list.

Following some discussion, Mr. Pearce thanked the presenters for the excellent, informative presentation. Mr. Pearce beseeched Dr. Johnson to never retire. A copy of the presentation PowerPoint is filed with the March 6, 2020 Commission minutes in the Office of the State Director.

Mr. Pearce recognized and welcomed the following guests in attendance:

- Bill Lindsey, CAMHC Board Secretary/Treasurer and Executive Director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness-South Carolina (NAMI-SC)
- Margaret Scott, CAMHC Board Chair-elect
- David Jameson, CAMHC Board
- John Hays, CAMHC Board

There being no further discussion, the center presentation concluded at 10:00 a.m.

  
L. Gregory Pearce, Jr., Chair  
SC Mental Health Commission

  
Melanie Ferretti, Recording Secretary  
SC Mental Health Commission