

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
Columbia Area Mental Health Center
2715 Colonial Drive, Columbia, SC, 29203
March 6, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The March 6, 2020 meeting of the South Carolina Mental Health Commission was called to order at 10:17 a.m. by Mr. Greg Pearce, Chair, at the Columbia Area Mental Health Center, 2715 Colonial Drive, Columbia, SC. Mr. Stephen Hattrich provided the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Mr. Pearce welcomed everyone to the meeting. Visitors present were Jocelyn Piccine, Liberty Healthcare, and Bill Lindsey, Executive Director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness-South Carolina (NAMI-SC).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Ms. Louise Haynes, seconded by Mr. Robert 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. Alison Evans, and seconded by Ms. Haynes, the Commission approved the minutes from the Business Meeting of February 7, 2020.

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

APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED LOCATION OF THE APRIL 3 COMMISSION BUSINESS MEETING

Because the building is better suited to host the April 3 Commission Business Meeting, the Anderson Oconee Pickens Mental Health Center (AOPMHC) staff had requested to move the April 3, 2020 business meeting location from AOPMHC, 200 McGee Road, Anderson, SC 29625 to DayBreak Recovery Center, 515B Camson Road, Anderson, SC 29625.

On a motion by Ms. Haynes, seconded by Mr. Hiott, the Commission approved the change.

All voted in favor to the above motion; the motion carried. The April 3, 2020 Commission Business Meeting will be held at DayBreak Recovery Center, 515B Camson Road, Anderson, SC 29625.

MONTHLY/QUARTERLY INFORMATIONAL 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 the Office of Public Safety started the month with four cases pending investigation, one was investigated and closed, and the month ended with three open cases.

Ms. Hutto reported that as of March 6, 2020, the number of open cases under SLED investigation has dropped from 26 to 12. Of the 12 open cases, three were assigned to SLED, three were assigned to the Long-term Care Ombudsman Office, four were assigned to the Attorney General's Office, and two were assigned to local law enforcement.

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

- In January 2020, 78 complaints were resolved.
- The year to date number of complaints, by category, resolved is 98. (Complaints are broken out by category, a single patient complaint may have complaints in more than one category.)
- The most frequent type of complaint filed, more than 30%, regard access to treatment at the Mental Health Centers.

Ms. Hutto gave a review of patient advocacy reports, a comparison from 2015-2019. Copies of the report were provided to the Commission. The report is on file with the March minutes in the Office of the State Director.

Of note, in 2019, there were 812 patient complaints. The high of 92 complaints occurred in May and the low of 42 were received in December. The 812 patient complaints represent less than 1% of DMH patients served in 2019. Patient complaints have been trending downward since 2016.

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Community Update/Monthly Management Report

Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) has been focusing on implementing Zero Suicide initiatives. CMHS is requiring that all patients have a safety plan in place after they begin receiving services in the event they experience any suicidal ideation. This process is done electronically, but the patient receives a hardcopy. So far, 66% of CMHS patients have a safety plan. Mrs. Blalock projects all Center patients will have a safety plan in place by April 1, 2020.

The Spartanburg Area MHC, Beckman MHC, Columbia Area MHC, and Santee-Wateree MHC recreational vehicles (RVs) have arrived and are part of the State fleet. They still need to be retrofitted and wrapped. The RVs will be used for disaster response, health fairs, in parades to promote anti-stigma, and service provision within the community, especially in rural areas.

Ms. Blalock commended the efforts of the Lexington Mental Health Center staff, especially Director Sarah Main, in regard to their outstanding work in the community and schools following the recent murder of 6-year-old Faye Marie Swetlik. Ms. Main spoke eloquently at the community memorial service, which was covered by local media. Mr. Pearce announced he has written Ms. Main a letter to commend her for her outstanding work and for going above and beyond the call of duty. Mr. Pearce said the Mayor and other leaders of the local municipal government are now more aware of the good work done by the Center.

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

Ms. Blalock is optimistic that Santee Wateree MHC will not end the year in a deficit. SWMHC has not had an administrator for a few months, but Pee Dee MHC has sent their administrator to help.

Forensic Waiting List Update

Dr. Versie Bellamy gave a report on the Impacts of the Forensic Action Plan. Copies of the report were provided to the Commission. The report is on file with the March minutes in the Office of the State Director.

The average wait time on the Forensic waiting list is currently less than 30 days. It's trending downward in comparison to previous months.

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DIS Update

Kelly Gothard, Ph.D., has been appointed Interim Director, Bryan Hospital-Forensics Division and continues to serve as Director, Forensic Evaluation and Outpatient Services.

According to Dr. Gothard the number of court orders vary from month-to-month and it is difficult to get patients ready for release prior to the 60 day restoration period allocated. DIS is remodeling staff levels and reassigning beds to make necessary adjustments in real time. It's a balancing act.

DIS medical team new hires and promotions:

- Medical Director, Dr. Shaw
- Team psychiatrist, Dr. Wang
- Interim Medical Director of Forensics, Dr. Jeff Raynor

Mr. Pearce expressed concerns that Crafts-Farrow area facilities are unattractive or not up to standard, with insufficient HV/AC and peeling plaster, which may be demoralizing to staff and contribute to staff turn-over. Dr. Bellamy assured Mr. Pearce that management is reevaluating office space needs and her goal is to be able to provide staff/clinicians with appropriate workspaces. Per Debbie Calcote, some of the buildings on Crafts-Farrow campus are currently being retrofitted and/or renovated. Management is aware of the issues and is working to improve the situation.

Twelve nurses from DMH were nominated to be recognized as one of the top one hundred nurses in South Carolina nominations for the Palmetto Gold awards. There are approximately 50,000 nurses statewide. Of the twelve nominees, six received the award. The nurses will be honored on April 18, 2020 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. The Commission would like to recognize them during the May Commission business meeting.

Like CMHS, DIS facilities are also fully participating in the ZeroSuicide initiative.

The SC legislature has approved funding for construction of additional State veterans nursing homes in both Sumter county and Horry county. Veterans long-term care facilities in Florence and Gaffney are currently under construction.

DMH currently contracts the operation of its veterans nursing homes in Walterboro and Anderson. Measures are in place to have strong contract management oversight. DIS plans to expand the contract management team to prepare for the opening of the additional nursing homes and has already hired an administrative coordinator to focus specifically on the contract veteran long-term care facilities. Tucker-Stone Pavilion is operated by DMH employees and its operations are not contracted. DMH will eventually have about 950 veteran long-term care beds, which will exceed the number of DIS psychiatric beds.

As part of the Protection and Advocacy settlement, to improve the preparation of patients to be discharged from hospitals and into the community successfully, a life-skills learning lab at G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital is now ready for operations, pending DHEC approval. The learning lab will be used to teach basic life skills such as how to shop, cook, and do laundry. Outcomes will be tracked.

Morris Village and DAODAS are collaborating to allow DMH hospitals to become Naloxone (Narcan) distributors for patients with opioid use disorders.

Regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19), Monday, March 2, Dr. Bellamy met with DIS leadership, a task force will be appointed to prepare how to respond in SCDMH hospitals. The "COVID-19 Task Force", co-chaired by Dr. Breen and Dr. Rudd, will:

- Actively monitor information and recommendations from the CDC and SC DHEC in order to recommend precautions/actions to prevent transmission of the virus.

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- Assess and identify the need and availability of essential supplies to include personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks, gowns, gloves, goggles, and face shields.
- Assess and identify the need and availability for infection control products such as hand sanitizer.
- Assess and identify the need and availability of environmental services cleaning supplies and resources.
- Assess and identify the need for other patient care supplies.

There are currently no known cases of COVID-19 in DIS facilities. Staff are being cross-trained in various jobs to prepare for potential staff shortages.

Six Month Report of Collections

Ms. Hutto presented the Six Month Report of Medical Care Accounts, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.

From July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 \$107,080 has been collected. \$46,370, approximately 40%, came from Debt Set-Off Collections, which has increased over the past year.

Financial Status Update

Debbie Calcote presented the monthly financial report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. As of January 31, 2020 the Department is projected to end FY20 \$2,749,700 over budget.

Mr. Pearce asked Ms. Calcote to thank Physical Plant Services for the excellent job they did on the repair of the rear steps of the Administration Building.

Compliance Report

Lynelle Reavis, Ph.D., Director of Quality Management and Compliance, Division of Medical Affairs, gave a SCDMH Compliance Program Review. Copies of the report were provided to the Commission. The report is on file with the March minutes in the Office of the State Director.

The Division of Quality Management and Compliance promotes adherence to state and federal guidelines. It's important to identify areas of risk and take steps to reduce incidences of noncompliance. Common violations are frequently careless mistakes. The top compliance issues for FY20 are: improper Medicare billing for services rendered by unlicensed clinicians, documentation not individualized (Copy and Paste or Cloning), and evaluation and management coding errors. From July through December 2019 there were 32 compliance issues reported.

The other areas DMH Compliance tracks are related to Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), and Health information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH)--in a nutshell these are patient privacy protections, and security controls for health and medical records and other forms of protected health information (PHI). DMH Compliance tracks these events, and is accountable for informing patients of breaches of their information and what steps they can take to protect their information when a breach has occurred. Compliance is accountable to the US Department of Health and Human services Office for Civil Rights, and must report incidents that are deemed to have high risk of re-disclosure. There are civil and criminal penalties attached to violations as well. Common violations that occur are sending emails to the wrong addresses, loss or theft of cellphones or laptops, and giving the wrong document to a patient. The 2019 report has been sent to the US Department of Health and Human Services.

House Legislative Oversight Update

Mr. Binkley said the House Legislative Oversight Committee (HLOC) process is wrapping up. DMH has had 19 meetings total with the HLOC. The final report has 27 recommendations. One doesn't pertain to DMH, it pertains to

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the Vulnerable Adult Fatalities Review Committee, and two recommendations also involve the Department of Corrections. About half of the recommendations will require periodic reporting back to the HLOC staff over a two-year period, mostly on a quarterly basis. DMH is working to implement the recommendations.

Legislative News

Copies of the Legislative News were provided to the Commission. The Legislative News document is on file with the March minutes in the Office of the State Director.

S 303, the Mental Health Transportation Bill for patients being emergently admitted has not moved, but there is discussion ongoing about appropriating funds for a pilot alternative transportation program that may be accompanied by a budget proviso.

S 1110, introduced by Senator Alexander, is a concurrent resolution recognizing the month of May 2020 as "Mental Health Month" in South Carolina and to raise awareness and understanding about mental illness and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all individuals with mental illness. This will be presented on Mental Health Advocacy Day at the State House lobby on March 11, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

S 197, Department of Aging and Vulnerable Adult Services, Dr. Evans asked if it were to pass would DMH relinquish its responsibility for nursing homes. Mr. Binkley responded that if the responsibility was to transfer anywhere, it would probably go under the newly formed SC Department for Veterans Affairs.

H 4938, Electronic Prescriptions, DMH MHCs and DMH hospitals would be excluded from the requirement to e-prescribe, because some DMH MHCs are located in remote areas of SC which do not have adequate internet bandwidth, and many DMH patients must price shop their prescriptions, so they do not use a single pharmacy.

H 5123, Mental Health Restoration, a bill to increase the length of time DMH has to restore individuals unfit to stand trial may not go anywhere this session.

Budget Update

The House Ways and Means recommended DMH receive more total recurring funds than originally requested, a total of \$27,289,516. DMH didn't do as well in the non-recurring funds category, but Mr. Binkley is hopeful the Senate will recommend more.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Binkley reported the following:

- Mental Health Advocacy Day will be held at the State House lobby on March 11, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Binkley, Governor McMaster, a few legislators (potentially Senator Alexander and Representative Herbkersman), and others are scheduled to speak.
- 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. DMH leadership met with leadership from DDSN to address resources for adolescent children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders who become violent, to potentially divert the children from hospital emergency rooms and psychiatric hospitals to places more suitable.
- Mr. Binkley, Chairman Pearce, and senior management have a scheduled follow-up meeting scheduled Monday with the CFO of PRISMA, Gregory Rusnak, and staff to discussion the future of state funded inpatient beds and the future of crisis stabilization centers.

Mr. Pearce announced the sad passing of DMH Counsel L. Kimble "Kim" Carter, J.D. A brief time of remembrance and memorial in his honor will be held at the DMH Administration Building on Tuesday at 3:30 in room 323.

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Bill Lindsay said that there is more momentum going for this Advocacy Day than ever before because the SC Behavioral Health Coalition has gotten behind it and are pushing the agenda. Representative Herbkersman stood up on the floor of the House and said the House is championing Mental Health this session.

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 12:02 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Hiott, seconded by Ms. Haynes, the Commission adjourned the Business Meeting and entered into Executive Session to receive legal advice concerning pending litigation. 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

L. Gregory Pearce, Jr., Chair	Dr. Alison Evans
Louise Haynes, Vice Chair	Robert Hiott

Visitors/Staff

Mark Binkley	Debbie Blalock	Lynelle Reavis	Stephen Hattrich
Dr. Robert Bank	Debbie Calcote	Valarie Perkins	Veronica Gates
Dr. Versie Bellamy	Elizabeth Hutto	Denise Morgan	Jocelyn Piccine
Dr. Kimberly Rudd	Dr. Kelly Gothard	Grace Lambert	Bill Lindsey

APPROVALS


L. Gregory Pearce, Jr.
Chair


Melanie Ferretti
Recording Secretary