

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SCDMH Administration
2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201
September 9, 2020

A Business Meeting of the S.C. Mental Health Commission was held in Room 320 at the S.C. Department of Mental Health Administration Building on Wednesday, September 9, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Greg Pearce, Chair, was present in person. Ms. Louise Haynes and Dr. Alison Evans were present virtually via Zoom. The meeting notice and agenda were posted prior to the meeting and notice made to all individuals and news media who requested information in accordance with State law.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pearce called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Stewart Cooner provided the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Chairman Pearce welcomed everyone. Visitors present virtually via Zoom were Bill Lindsay, Executive Director, NAMI SC; Jocelyn Piccone, Liberty Healthcare; Janie Simpson, Chair, SC Mental Health State Planning Council; and Isabella Cueto, Reporter, The State newspaper.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Pearce expressed heartfelt condolences to the family of Mack Timothy Brooker upon the passing of Mr. Brooker on August 12, 2020. Mr. Brooker was employed by WellPath and worked as a correctional officer at the facility housing G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital's forensic program for over 12 years.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Ms. Haynes, seconded by Dr. Evans, 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 Ms. Haynes, and seconded by Dr. Evans, the Commission approved the minutes from the Business Meeting of August 7, 2020

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

DISCUSSION CONCERNING 2021 COMMISSION DATES/LOCATIONS

Chairman Pearce said that due to safety precautions related to COVID-19 Commission meetings have not been held at the mental health centers or inpatient facilities of the Department during 2020. Because the DMH Administration building has remained closed to visitors, the meetings have been held virtually via Zoom. Following discussion, the Commission requested staff to explore the possibility of holding virtual meetings at the mental health centers and inpatient facilities and bring a recommendation at the next Commission meeting, October 2, 2020.

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 for the month of August a total of three pending investigations by the Office of Public Safety.

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

Ms. Hutto reported that as of September 4, 2020 there were 13 pending SLED investigations. Two cases had been assigned to SLED, of which the oldest is from May 2020; four cases were assigned to Long-term Care Ombudsman Office of which the oldest is from September 2019; three were assigned to local law enforcement, of which the oldest is from January 2019; and four were assigned to the Attorney General's Office (AGO). She noted that one of the cases assigned to the AGO goes back to August 2017. She explained the case will remain 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:

- 44 calls to patient advocacy in July 2020; a total of 316 year to date.
- 65 complaints were resolved in July 2020.
- 441 complaints have been resolved year-to-date.
- The number of complaints by category resolved year to date is 551 (*complaints are broken out by category, a single patient complaint may include more than one category*).

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Coronavirus Response

Community Mental Health Services

On behalf Ms. Deborah Blalock, Christian Barnes-Young presented the Community Mental Health Services Trends and Transparency Monthly Indicators (TMI) spreadsheets, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. This was received as information.

Below are highlights from Mr. Barnes-Young report:

- He referred everyone to the graph showing the percentage of patients seen on or before March 13, 2020 versus open cases. As of September 3, 2020, .45% of the patients in the community had not been seen, down from 1.44% in August 2020.
- Last week the Community Mental Health Services Division submitted a grant application to Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for funds to supply recreational vehicles (RVs) for the Waccamaw Mental Health Center, Tri-County Mental Health Center, and Pee Dee Mental Health Center that will serve residents in the Waccamaw, Tri-County, and Pee Dee catchment areas impacted by Hurricane Florence. The RVs will be staffed by MHPs and primary care staff who will provide integrated whole-health care for patients in those rural areas. He commended Allison Farrell and Stacey Gardner for their outstanding work completing the application in a very short timeframe.
- Safe Baby Courts are coming to South Carolina. These courts will start at the Columbia Area Mental Health Center, Beckman Mental Health Center, and Spartanburg Mental Health Center.
- To date the SC Hopes call center has received 421 calls. Marketing of the availability of SC Hopes is provided by Gray Media.

Division of Inpatient Services (DIS)

Dr. Versie Bellamy presented the Division of Inpatient Services report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. Below are highlights from the report:

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, the SCDMH Nursing team has continued to deliver and carry out their core 24/7, 365 days a year mission of nursing care. Dr. Bellamy said the nursing staff is providing exceptional care despite the challenges and uncertainties of the pandemic. She expressed appreciation for the nurses' skills, dedication and compassion.
- SCDMH nurses are an integral part of SCDMH's complex health system. They work at Bryan and Harris Psychiatric Hospitals, Morris Village Alcohol and Substance Treatment Facility, Tucker Long Term Care Facilities, clinic settings, and community mental health centers.

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

- Dr Bellamy announced Laura Griffith, MBA, BSN, RN recently joined Inpatient Services as Nurse Executive for the Bryan Psychiatric Hospital.
- Due to a number of mitigation strategies, every facility has experienced some degree of decrease in the average daily census (ADC) over the past six months. The combined ADC for July represents an 18% decrease as compared to the combined ADC for February. Morris Village, Hall, and Bryan Forensics are most affected with higher percentages.
- Dr. Bellamy reported the DIS COVID-19 Task Force, chaired by Dr. Robert Breen, is encouraged by the progress that has been made in identifying and mitigating patient safety risks but remain concerned there could be another rapid increase in new cases in September after reopening schools. Staff remain at risk if widespread community transmission recurs. There could be an increase in staff shortages, particularly if staff must quarantine at home while caring for young family members.
- A contract amendment was executed in August to support the opening of a proposed Alternate Care Site for Bryan Forensics. The alternate care site will allow for large cohorts of new admissions to be safely admitted and housed separately from the main facility for observation periods for COVID-19. Use of the Alternate Care Site is pending final approval by DHEC.

Dr. Bellamy recognized Dr. Patricia Handley, DNP, Chief Nursing Officer. Dr. Handley expressed appreciation to the nursing services team members and for all that the frontline nursing staff do every day in taking care of and meeting the needs of the patients and residents.

Dr. Bellamy announced that she was recently invited to serve on the Center for Nursing Leadership Advisory Board at the University of South Carolina. The Center for Nursing Leadership is a statewide organization that works with healthcare organizations, clinicians, and educators in South Carolina and across the nation.

Forensic Waiting List Update

Dr. Kelly Gothard reported that as of August 24, 2020 there were 86 patients on the forensic waiting list and 15 patients on the referral waitlist. During the month of August, the number of COVID-19 positive patients decreased which allowed bed space previously used to quarantine or isolate patients to return to normal function.

Dr. Gothard announced the forensic psychology postdoctoral fellows are in orientation this week.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Pearce expressed appreciation to the DIS, Forensics, and Community Mental Health Services staff for all they are doing to deliver exceptional care to DMH patients and residents, and for their dedication and commitment to the safety of the patients and residents.

Administrative Services

Ms. Debbie Calcote presented the Administrative Services Report. She said Administrative Services' staff continues to work behind the scenes fulfilling their responsibilities in all areas of the organization.

Issue Action Paper (IAP) Requests

Ms. Calcote presented an IAP requesting Commission approval declaring the building and property located at 424 Water Street, Allendale, SC, 29810, 0.34 acres (14,810 sf) of land with a 1,209-square-foot single story family residence, as surplus to the needs of the Agency with the understanding the Department of Administration will proceed to seek another owner as described.

On a motion by Ms. Haynes, and seconded by Dr. Evans, the Commission approved the recommendation as presented.

Ms. Calcote presented an Issue Action Paper (IAP) requesting Commission approval of the sale of the building and property designated as the Allendale County Mental Health Clinic located at 603 Barnwell Highway, Allendale, SC, 29810, 1.50 acres (65,340 sf) of land with a 2,946-square-foot single story office building in accordance with the authority and procedures of the SFAA and SCDOA.

On a motion by Dr. Evans, and seconded by Ms. Haynes, the Commission approved the recommendation as presented.

Report of the Inpatient Facilities Governing Body Meeting of July 8, 2020 and Approval of the Minutes

Dr. Bellamy presented the July 8, 2020 quarterly Inpatient Facilities Governing Body Meeting minutes, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.

Dr. Evans made a motion to approve the Inpatient Facilities Governing Body minutes from the July 8, 2020 meeting. The motion was duly seconded. All voted in favor to the motion; the motion carried.

Financial Status Update

Ms. Calcote presented the monthly financial report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. DMH ended FY2020 with a balance of \$2.6 million.

Approval of FY22 Budget Request

Debbie Calcote presented the proposed FY22 Budget Request. Ms. Calcote highlighted the following from the request:

- Sustainability of workforce remains a priority. \$22.6 million is requested to adequately sustain the current workforce and to improve recruitment of critical positions.
- Sustainability of Services - \$16.3 million is requested to fund recurring operations in the Inpatient and Administrative Divisions. One-time funding has been utilized to fund recurring operations in both inpatient and administrative divisions as costs have escalated without any increase in appropriations or revenue. The one-time funding is projected to be utilized in the FY21 budget.
- \$20.8 million is requested for contractual increases in inpatient services: Forensics, operations of the Veterans Nursing Homes, and the expected state share for the management of the new VA nursing homes in Cherokee and Florence counties.
- \$1.2 million is requested for the Sexually Violent Predator Program to offset the increased costs based on the projected increase in the number of committed residents.
- \$45.3 million is requested for capital requests. This is a decrease from FY21 request of \$95.4 million.

Ms. Calcote said the total proposed budget request for FY22 is \$110,773,836.

Following discussion, Ms. Haynes made a motion to approve the proposed FY22 budget request. Dr. Evans seconded the motion.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Rogers reported the following:

- Senior Management has been discussing austerity measures should the state order budget cuts.
- Dr. Rogers and Senior Management held a virtual Town Hall Meeting with employees on August 31, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Approximately 600 employees signed on at various points during the meeting. This was an excellent time for DMH leadership to answer questions for the entire agency and to hear concerns from employees. Plans are to conduct the meetings once a quarter. Chairman Pearce said that he joined the meeting as an observer and thought for a first effort the meeting was exceptional.

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

- Dr. Rogers has visited Bryan and Harris Psychiatric Hospitals, Richard M. Campbell Nursing Home and nine of the 16 mental health centers. He anticipates that by the end of October he will have visited all of the DMH facilities.
- Dr. Rogers announced that Thursday, September 10th, is World Suicide Prevention Day. Senator Karina Shealy sponsored and the Senate adopted a Resolution on September 2, 2020 to recognize suicide prevention efforts in South Carolina in honor of World Suicide Prevention Day. The resolution read as follows:

A SENATE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE SUICIDE PREVENTION EFFORTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA IN HONOR OF WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY.

Whereas, since 2003, World Suicide Prevention Day has been annually observed on September tenth. On this day, individuals and organizations across the world spread awareness and encourage a worldwide commitment to action on suicide prevention; and

Whereas, in the United States, South Carolina ranks twenty-seventh for suicide deaths. Suicide is the eleventh leading cause of death in the State, and one South Carolinian dies by suicide every eleven hours; and

Whereas, aimed at addressing this critical problem, the South Carolina Suicide Prevention State Plan details statewide strategies to implement evidence-based prevention and intervention practices; and

Whereas, representing many communities across the State and nation, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, the South Carolina Suicide Prevention Coalition, the Department of Mental Health's Office of Suicide Prevention, and other national and local organizations and state agencies are leading the charge in suicide prevention efforts; and

Whereas, as a part of these suicide prevention initiatives, a number of state agencies are actively working to implement employee trainings or adopt Zero Suicide Initiative components. Among these agencies are the Department of Mental Health, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services, Department of Corrections, Department of Veterans' Affairs, Department of Health and Environmental Control, and Department of Education; and

Whereas, over the past two years, 27,201 South Carolina residents have been trained in suicide prevention across the State. Many trainings have been specifically designed for the LGBTQ+ community, Spanish-speaking residents, senior citizens, teachers, students, parents, and owners and employees of shooting ranges and pawn shops. The State is also working to provide strategies specific to service members, veterans, and their families; and

Whereas, through social media outreach, the Department of Mental Health's Office of Suicide Prevention and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention have together reached 358,299 followers; and

Whereas, new funding this year will also advance the goals of South Carolina's National Suicide Prevention Lifeline call center for answering in-state calls; and

Whereas, losing one South Carolinian to suicide is one too many, but the many state agencies, organizations, and citizens working together on prevention efforts provide hope for a suicide-free future. Now, therefore,

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize suicide prevention efforts in South Carolina in honor of World Suicide Prevention Day.

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Pearce announced that the Department will celebrate its 200th anniversary in 2021 and asked the Commission members to begin thinking about how to celebrate the historical milestone.

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:15 a.m. on a motion by Dr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Haynes, the Commission adjourned the Business Meeting and entered into Executive Session to receive legal advice concerning a pending contract and to finalize the State Director's Performance Evaluation Planning Stage. Upon convening in open session at 11:50 a.m., it was noted that only information was received; no votes or actions were taken.

ATTENDANCE

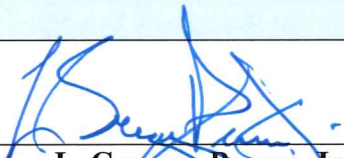
Commission Members

L. Gregory Pearce, Jr. Chair (Commission members present virtually via Zoom)
Dr. Louise Haynes, Vice Chair
Dr. Alison Evans

Visitors/Staff

Dr. Robert Bank	<u>present virtually via Zoom</u>	<u>present virtually via Zoom</u>	<u>present virtually via Zoom</u>
Christian Barnes-Young	Jennifer Alleyne	Melanie Gambrell	Sarah Main
Mark Binkley	Deborah Blalock	Douglas Glover	Anthony Minter
Debbie Calcote	Aria Bozorgi	Jeffery Ham	Jocelyn Piccone
Stewart Cooner	Pat Bresnan	Shelia Haney	Lynelle Reavis
Kelly Gothard	Jackie Brown	Kyle Herbert	Jennifer Roberts
Dr. Patricia Handley	Pete Camelo	Maryjane Hicks	Janie Simpson
Elizabeth Hutto	Pete Creighton	Kevin Hoyle	Natasha Smith
Eleanor Odom	Teresa Curry	Letitia Hughes	Tracy Turner
Valarie Perkins	Isabella Cueto	Robin Jacobs	Roger Williams
Dr. Kenneth Rogers	Matthew Dorman	Tracy LaPointe	Noelle Wriston
Dr. Kimberly Rudd	Tamara Edrington	Bill Lindsay	Brett Williams

APPROVALS


L. Gregory Pearce, Jr.
Chair


Kim Ballentine
Recording Secretary