

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SCDMH Administration
2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201
November 6, 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 Friday, November 6, 2020, at 10:30 a.m. Mr. Greg Pearce, Chair, was present in person. Other Commission members 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

Due to technical issues, the meeting was relocated to Room 323. Chairman Pearce called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. Mr. Stewart Cooner provided the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Chairman Pearce welcomed everyone. Visitors present virtually via Zoom were: Beth Franco, Protection & Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Inc.; Bill Lindsay, Executive Director, NAMI SC; and Jocelyn Piccone, Liberty Healthcare.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Pearce expressed heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Sandy Hyre, Director of Evaluation, Training and Research, upon the passing of her husband, Robert G. "Bob" Hyre, Jr., on October 7, 2020.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Pearce expressed heartfelt condolences to the family of Ms. Monique Danielle Lee, J.D., who passed away on October 15, 2020. He recognized Mark Binkley for remarks. Ms. Lee worked in the legal department at DMH for the past 22 years. Mr. Binkley commemorated her work with the Department and said Ms. Lee was a very optimistic and outgoing person, well known, and highly regarded throughout the state for her expertise with forensics. Ms. Louise Haynes also expressed warm and kind words of sympathy and said Ms. Lee was a spectacular young woman.

INTRODUCTION OF CHIEF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION OFFICER

Dr. Rogers introduced Ms. Janet Bell, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer. She began her new responsibilities at the Department of Mental Health on October 17, 2020.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Dr. Alison Evans, seconded by Ms. Haynes, the Commission approved the Agenda for today's Business Meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the minutes from the Business Meeting of October 2, 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 for the month of October a total of three pending investigations by the Office of Public Safety.

Ms. Hutto reported a total of 17 pending SLED investigations. One case had been assigned to SLED, of which the oldest is from May 2020; Eight cases were assigned to Long-term Care Ombudsman Office of which the oldest is from September 2019; Four were assigned to local law enforcement, of which the oldest is from 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 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:

- 61 calls to patient advocacy in September 2020; a total of 429 year to date.
- 80 complaints were resolved in September 2020.
- 595 complaints have been resolved year-to-date.
- The number of complaints by category resolved year to date is 740 (*complaints are broken out by category, a single patient complaint may have more than one category*).

Ms. Hutto reported the Patient Advocacy Team assisted 224 patients with voter registration and absentee voting.

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Coronavirus Response

Community Mental Health Services

On behalf of 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.

Below are highlights from Mr. Barnes-Young report:

- As of October 27, 2020, .15% of the patients in the community had not been seen by the Centers, down from .25% on October 2, 2020.
- Eight of the mental health centers met productivity expectations for the month of September. The mental health centers are serving more patients telephonically and through telehealth, but the duration of services is less. This is creating less billable time compared to serving patients face to face.
- Ms. Haynes asked if there has been any modification to patient services because of payment issues for telehealth. Mr. Barnes-Young replied the only service that has been impacted is group therapy. The S.C. Department of Health and Human Services has not approved reimbursement for group therapy during the pandemic.
- As more South Carolina schools are returning to face to face learning, school mental health clinicians are delivering services in the school as well as telehealth services.

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 Dr. Bellamy's report:

- On September 30, 2020 a Focus Group was appointed to assess current services and operations at Morris Village. The Focus Group participants include internal and external stakeholders and partners. Dr. Allyson Sipes, Director of Clinical Services, serves as Chair, and Jill Cosgrove, DIS Certified Trainer and Development for A&D Treatment, serves as Vice-Chair. The Focus Group will recommend changes or initiatives that would ensure the facility is positioned to continue to provide appropriate substance use disorders treatment and would serve to move the facility towards financial sustainability. Commission members requested an interim report be submitted to the Commission before final recommendations are presented.
- The COVID-19 Task Force continues to work to mitigate risks stemming from the pandemic making sure recommended safety measures are in accordance with CDC and DHEC guidelines to protect the safety of patients, residents, and staff.

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
NOVEMBER 6, 2020

- Due to staffing challenges and the need to take actions that will enable DIS to continue to provide patient services as effectively and efficiently as possible, DIS has temporarily consolidated several patient lodges across Bryan Psychiatric Hospital. The consolidation of lodges will decrease operational bed capacity and will affect the admission process as there will likely be an increase in the wait list and increased time between referral and admission.
- Dr. Bellamy talked about the effect of mitigation strategies on the daily census. Comparing September to February 2020, she reported a 21% decrease to the overall average daily census.

Forensic Waiting List Update

Dr. Kelly Gothard reported the forensic waitlist remains stable. Twenty-five individuals from the waitlist were admitted to the new Alternate Care Site.

Administrative Services

Ms. Debbie Calcote presented the Administrative Services Report. She said Administrative Services, which includes Public Safety, Physical Plant Services, Financial Services, Public Information, and Network Information Technically, continues to provide support services in all areas of the organization and patient care across the system.

Issue Action Paper (IAP)

Ms. Calcote presented an IAP requesting the Commission approve and record in Commission minutes a resolution authorizing the Department to name the new DMH State Veterans Nursing Home located in Florence County Veteran Village and the new DMH State Veterans Nursing Home located in Cherokee County Palmetto Patriots Home. It is anticipated that both facilities will be completed in early 2021.

On a motion by Mr. Bob Hiott, and seconded by Dr. Evans, the Commission approved the recommendation as presented.

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

Financial Status Update

Ms. Calcote presented the monthly financial report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. As of September 30, 2020 the Department is projected to end FY21 with a balance of \$3,762,163.

Ms. Calcote reported that the Department presented the FY22 budget request to the Executive Budget Office staff and the Governor's Office staff on October 28, 2020.

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 November 6, 2020 minutes in the Office of the State Director.

P&A Consent Decree Implementation Update

Ms. Hutto briefed the Commission on the settlement agreement with Protection & Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Inc. (P&A). In May 2017, P&A brought a lawsuit against DMH to require compliance with the integration of the American Disabilities Act (ADA) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The Supreme Court Olmstead recognized that unnecessary institutionalization of people with disabilities is a form of unlawful discrimination under the ADA. Instead, people with disabilities should be able to live in the least restrictive environment to suit their needs. States have the responsibility to develop adequate community based services to make this possible. DMH & P&A settled this lawsuit in March 2019. The settlement agreement called for certain deliverables. One of the most important was the creation of

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
NOVEMBER 6, 2020

the Olmstead plan. In late 2019 and early 2020 DMH updated the Continuity of Care Plan Policy and Manual. The updated Continuity of Care of Plan serves as the Olmstead plan.

Each directive in the Continuity of Care Plan begins with this policy statement: “It is the policy of SCDMH to provide needed treatment in local communities whenever possible; however, whenever inpatient care is needed, adequate information about patients’ treatment history and current treatment needs will be shared in a timely manner between SCDMH hospitals (inpatient) and community mental health centers (CMHCs) when patients are admitted to or discharged from inpatient care. SCDMH strives for and is committed to an effective and efficient transition between outpatient and inpatient services.” The Plan provides the framework for staff to refer to in working towards moving the patients into integrated care. The three areas of the Agency with major responsibility for placing patients in least restrictive settings are: DIS, Transition Services, and Community Mental Health Services.

Dr. Bellamy said as part of the P&A settlement and to improve the preparation of patients to be discharged from hospitals and into the community successfully, a life-skills learning lab is underway at G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital. She reported a dedicated discharge coordinator is in place and keeps leadership informed of patient discharges and works collaboratively with social workers. Tracy Richardson, Director of the Office of Transition Programs, tracks the discharge data.

Ms. Richardson shared with the Commission about the work of the Office of Transition Programs, “Building Bridges to the Community.” She said their goal is to assist the patients with their identified needs so that they can access community resources in an effective and efficient manner post discharge. A copy of her presentation is filed with the November 6, 2020 minutes in the Office of the State Director.

Mr. Christian Barnes-Young talked about the work in Community Services.

- In 2019 Community Services funded the expansion of four programs across the state: (1) Permanent Supported Housing in the form of Rental Assistance; (2) Peer Support Services; (3) supported employment services in the form of Individual Placement and Support (IPS); and (4) Intensive Community Treatment (ICT).
- As of October 2020, all mental health centers have permanent supported housing, peer support services and ICT programs. All but one mental health center has implemented IPS programs.
- ICT programs follow four fidelity requirements: (1) low caseloads for ICT clinicians (fewer than 35 cases); (2) services must be offered at least weekly; (3) services should be offered at times that are convenient to patients; and (4) ICT patients must receive services from an interdisciplinary team as needed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Rogers reported the following:

- Dr. Rogers, Chairman Pearce, and Rochelle Caton, Director of Patient Advocacy, met with the Governor on October 14, 2020 to request funds from the COVID-19 Response Reserve Account for expenditures related to the increase in need for crisis psychiatric hospitalization of indigent patients.
- On October 15, 2020, Dr. Rogers participated in a roundtable discussion with CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield, Governor McMaster, officials with DHEC, and officials with health-serving agencies about the impacts of COVID-19 on South Carolina Communities.
- DMH supports various integrated/whole person care services throughout the state. An Integrated Care Work Group has been formed to guide the development of integrated care initiatives. The workgroup will establish a set of priorities/goals for integrated care services; define a shared set of outcomes that DMH can use to measure progress towards the goals; and coordinate the development of infrastructure to support broader adoption of integrated care services based on these shared goals and defined outcomes. Their first meeting was held on October 26, 2020.
- On November 4, 2020, Dr. Rogers visited the Veteran’s Victory House and Coastal Empire Mental Health Center.
- Dr. Rogers’ participated in DIS’ Nursing Town Hall on October 30, 2020.
- Dr. Rogers announced the next DMH Employee Town Hall is scheduled on Monday, December 7, 2020.

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Pearce extended congratulations to Gateway House, a long-standing and valuable non-profit mental health resource in Greenville County, upon their grand opening of their new facility on November 6, 2020.

Chairman Pearce reminded everyone the Anderson-Oconee-Pickens (AOP) Mental Health Center will give a presentation at the December 4, 2020 Commission Business Meeting at 9:30 a.m.

There were no public comments.

Ms. Haynes made a motion to amend the agenda to add an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Mr. Hiott seconded the motion.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:30 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Hiott, seconded by Ms. Haynes, the Commission adjourned the Business Meeting and entered into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Upon convening in open session at 1:00 p.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
Mr. Bob Hiott

Visitors/Staff

Dr. Robert Bank	Dr. Patria Handley	<u>present virtually via Zoom</u>	<u>present virtually via Zoom</u>
Christian Barnes-Young	Elizabeth Hutto	Peter Camelo	Grace Lambert
Janet Bell	Valarie Perkins	Anna Maria Conner	Bill Lindsey
Dr. Versie Bellamy	Leah Ann Reavis	Melanie Ferretti	Stacy Mathis
Mark Binkley	Tracy Richardson	Beth Franco	Jocelyn Piccone
Debbie Calcote	Dr. Kenneth Rogers	Maryjane Hicks	Willie Priester
Stewart Cooner	Brett Williams	Kevin Hoyle	Noelle Wriston
Kelly Gothard			

APPROVALS



L. Gregory Pearce, Jr.
Chair



Kim Ballentine
Recording Secretary

