

**S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING**  
**SCDMH Administration**  
**2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201**  
**September 6, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The September 6, 2019 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. Mr. Stewart Cooner provided the invocation.

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS**

Mr. Pearce welcomed the following guests: Mr. Joe James, Executive Director, Piedmont Center, and his family; Ms. Anne Marie Connor, Protection & Advocacy; and Jacob Kaiser, Student at the USC School Medicine.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*On a motion by Mr. Bob Hiott, seconded by Dr. Alison Evans, the Commission approved the Agenda for today's Business Meeting.*

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

**PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION**

Mr. Pearce presented a resolution from the Commission upon the retirement of Mr. Joe E. James, Executive Director, Piedmont Center for Mental Health. Mr. James' resolution read as follows:

- Whereas:** The South Carolina Mental Health Commission and the State Director of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health recognize the retirement of Joe E. James; and
- Whereas:** Mental health is critical to the well-being and vitality of all South Carolinians; and
- Whereas:** Mental illness affects people regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion or economic status; and
- Whereas:** Mr. James, while serving as an employee of the SCDMH Greenville Mental Health Center in 1977, wrote and received the initial operations funding grant for the SCDMH's Piedmont Center for Mental Health Services, resulting in its founding; and
- Whereas:** Mr. James was instrumental in the development and support of the first Multi-Systemic Therapy and first School Mental Health Services programs in SC; and
- Whereas:** Mr. James served as the first and only executive director of the Piedmont Center for Mental Health Services, a tenure of 42 years; and
- Whereas:** The South Carolina Mental Health Commission and the State Director of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health distinguish Mr. James for 55 consecutive years of service to the SCDMH; and

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- Whereas:** Mr. James has provided invaluable leadership to the SCDMH, not only as a center director, but also as a mentor in the Agency's Executive Leadership Program, training the next generation of SCDMH professionals; and
- Whereas:** Mr. James has served the people of South Carolina with integrity and compassion as an exemplary employee; and
- Now, therefore:** We express our profound appreciation to Mr. James for his dedicated service to the mentally ill and his invaluable service to the South Carolina Department of Mental Health; offer him our sincere gratitude and best wishes; and order that a copy of this Resolution be made a part of the Commission's permanent records.

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**RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE**

Mr. Pearce presented a plaque from the Commission to Dr. Alison Evans in grateful appreciation for 15 years of dedicated service as chairperson. Mr. Mark Binkley, Interim State Director, and Mr. John Magill, Retired State Director, expressed appreciation to Dr. Evans for her outstanding dedication and contributions to the Commission, the Department of Mental Health, and the citizens who have a mental illness.

Mr. Pearce presented a resolution from the Commission upon the end of her term as Chair of the Commission. Dr. Evans' resolution read as follows:

- Whereas:** The South Carolina Mental Health Commission and the State Director of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health recognize Alison Y. Evans, PsyD, upon the end of her term as Chair of the SC Mental Health Commission; and
- Whereas:** Mental health is critical to the well-being and vitality of all South Carolinians; and
- Whereas:** Mental illness affects people regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion or economic status; and
- Whereas:** Dr. Evans was appointed to the Commission in March of 2004 and was elected by her colleagues to the position of Chair that same year; and
- Whereas:** Dr. Evans served as Chair of the SC Mental Health Commission for more than 15 years; and
- Whereas:** Dr. Evans has provided invaluable leadership to the South Carolina Department of Mental Health as Chair; and
- Whereas:** Dr. Evans has guided the SCDMH, one of the largest state agencies in South Carolina, serving more than 100,000 people per year, in both trying times as well as during times of notable achievement; and
- Now, therefore:** We express our profound gratitude to Dr. Evans for her outstanding service to the mentally ill and to the South Carolina Department of Mental Health; thank her for her continued service as a member of the South Carolina Mental Health Commission, and order that a copy of this Resolution be made a part of the Commission's permanent records.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*On a motion by Mr. Hiott, and seconded by Dr. Evans, the Commission approved the minutes from the Center Presentation of August 2, 2019.*

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*On a motion by Dr. Evans, and seconded by Mr. Hiott, the Commission approved the Minutes from the Business Meeting of August 2, 2019.*

*All voted in favor to the above motions; all motions carried.*

**APPROVAL OF 2020 COMMISSION MEETING DATES**

On a motion by Mr. Hiott, and seconded by Dr. Evans, the Commission approved the 2020 Commission Meeting dates.

On a motion by Mr. Hiott, and seconded by Dr. Evans, the Commission approved revisions to the 2019 Commission Meeting Schedule, copies of which were provided to the Commission. The revisions were a change in the October 4, 2019 Commission meeting location from Northlake II Building to the York Adult Services Clinic at Catawba Community Mental Health Center, and the Internal Audit Report will be presented at the November 1, 2019 business meeting.

**All voted in favor to the above motions; all motions 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 26 pending SLED investigations as of September 5, 2019. Ten (10) had been retained by SLED, nine (9) were assigned to Long-term Care Ombudsman Office, five (5) were assigned to the Attorney General's Office, one (1) was assigned to local law enforcement, and one (1) was assigned to DMH as a non-criminal allegation.

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

- 67 complaints were resolved in July 2019.
- 326 complaints have been resolved year-to-date.
- The number of complaints resolved year to date is 656.

**DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE**

**Status Report of P & A Settlement**

Ms. Hutto said SCDMH and Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Inc. of South Carolina share the common goal of assisting persons with a mental illness recover and receive appropriate treatment in the least restrictive setting possible, avoiding the unnecessary institutionalization of persons with a mental illness.

The settlement agreement produced jointly by both parties calls for the continued expansion of SCDMH crisis services, aimed at preventing involuntary hospitalization; continuing to annually increase the amount of SCDMH community supported housing; and the creation of new SCDMH programs to improve patients' preparation for discharge and to facilitate hospitalized patients' timely access to available community resources to reduce hospital lengths of stay.

Dr. Versie Bellamy, Deputy Director, Inpatient Services, talked about the system of care and discharge planning for individuals with mental illness.

Ms. Tracy Richardson, Director, Office of Transition Programs enthusiastically shared with the Commission about the work of the Office of Transition Programs. 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.

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Ms. Deborah Blalock, Deputy Director, Community Services, reported Community Crisis Response and Intervention (CCRI) is now operational statewide in all 46 counties. DMH continues its efforts to expand crisis stabilization efforts across the state. She will provide data related to Intensive Community Treatment (ICT) Teams at the next Commission Business Meeting.

**Miscellaneous**

Mr. Pearce announced that he invited Stacey Gardner to be present at today's meeting and introduced her to the Commission. Ms. Gardner is the Performance Improvement Director for Community Mental Health Services. Her primary job responsibility is to assess and monitor the business and clinical operations of the community mental health centers. Mr. Pearce expressed his appreciation for Ms. Gardner and for her hard work and dedication.

Mr. Pearce said that he would like to arrange opportunities to highlight staff members at future Commission meetings.

Mr. Pearce expressed appreciation for the informative meeting he had recently with Ms. Debbie Calcote and Financial Services.

Ms. Blalock recognized and introduced Ms. Melanie Gambrell, Executive Director at the Beckman Center for Mental Health, and Mr. Pete Camelo, Executive Director at the Greater Greenville Mental Health Center, who were in attendance.

**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.

Dr. Margaret Meriwether, Director of School Mental Health Services, reviewed the outcomes from the Department of Mental Health School Administrator Survey 2019, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.

**Report of the Inpatient Facilities Governing Body Meeting of July 10, 2019 and Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Bellamy presented the Inpatient Facilities Governing Body Meeting minutes from the July 10, 2019 meeting, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.

Dr. Bellamy reported the following:

- The Joint Commission and CMS approved G. Berber Bryan and Patrick B. Harris Hospitals Ligature Facility Extension Requests (LFR). Monthly progress reports are submitted as required.
- Morris Village had its CARF triennial survey on July 25-26, 2019. They received official notification that a 3-year accreditation has been granted.
- CM Tucker Stone Pavilion underwent a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) survey on March 26-28, 2019. Two concerns were addressed. On May 16, 2019 Stone was granted full certification.
- Bryan Hospital continues to move forward with the use of tele-psychiatry.
- CM Tucker has been awarded two (2) Civil Money Penalty (CMP) grants from DHEC/CMS in the amount of \$2,500 each to enhance the environment for residents.
- Harris and Bryan Hospitals have trended better than the national average for restraint and seclusion hours, as well as number of patients discharged on multiple anti-psychotics.
- CASPER (Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reports) reports for the period November 1, 2018 – April 30, 2019 reflect rates at below the state and national averages for high risk pressure ulcers and urinary tract infections for Stone Pavilion and Roddey Pavilion.

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On a motion by Dr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hiott, the Commission approved the Governing Body Meeting minutes from the July 10, 2019 meeting.

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

**Forensic Waiting List Update/Presentation**

Dr. Bellamy presented the Forensic Waiting List Update. She reported that as of September 6 there were 45 patients on the forensic waiting list. In August there were 22 admissions and 22 discharges. The Division of Inpatient Services (DIS) management continues to identify and remove barriers to patient flow through the system of care.

**Approval of FY21 Budget Request**

Mr. Binkley presented the proposed FY 2021 Budget Request. Mr. Binkley said the DMH Office of Human Resources developed a Talent Acquisition and Retention Program (TARP) focusing efforts on recruiting hard-to-fill positions. The diversity of the needed workforce at DMH includes many licensed health care professionals which are in high demand in both the private and public sector. Staff are proposing that the Department's first budget request priority support its first strategic plan priority, which is recruitment and retention of needed staff. Funds are requested that would support Phase 1 of a multi-year approach to increase salaries for many hard-to-fill positions.

The budget plans are due to the Executive Budget Office on September 20, 2019.

*A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the proposed FY21 budget request.*

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

**Financial Status Update**

Ms. Noelle Wriston highlighted certain information on the monthly financial report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.

**Approval of Medical Care Account Waiver**

Ms. Hutto presented an approval request for the waiver of a patient's outstanding balance of \$ 2,100,405.92, a copy of which had been provided to the Commission.

*A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the request to grant a medical waiver to waive the patient's outstanding balance, conditional on the settlement of a pending claim.*

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

**House Legislative Oversight Update**

The House Legislative Oversight Subcommittee meetings to present information and answer questions about DMH operations are continuing. A meeting took place on August 26, and it is likely we are nearing the end of the process. Another meeting is scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup> in front of the subcommittee reviewing DMH, and on that same day there is a joint meeting between the subcommittee reviewing the Department of Corrections and the subcommittee reviewing DMH to learn about how the two agencies address mental health treatment of inmates in the criminal justice system.

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**6 Month Report of Collections**

Ms. Hutto presented the items from the 6 Month Report of Collections, copies of which were provided to the Commission. These funds are collected through involuntary means from self-pay clients.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Binkley reported the following:

- The S.303 – Transportation of Emergency Admissions Workgroup met on August 19<sup>th</sup> at DMH. Those present included representatives from the Sheriffs’ Association, Police Chiefs Association, Probate Judges, NAMI, and others.
- DMH leadership continues to have regular meetings with leadership of other agencies with overlapping responsibilities: DDSN, DAODAS, DSS, and in the near future DJJ.
- The Director attended the August 21<sup>st</sup> groundbreaking ceremony for the State Veterans Nursing Home.
- Several staff received awards at the 2019 NAMI SC State Mental Health Conference held in Columbia on August 23-24, 2019.

**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 12:30 p.m., on a motion by Dr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hiott, the Commission adjourned the Business Meeting and entered into Executive Session to receive legal advice concerning pending litigation; to finalize the State Director’s Performance Evaluation Planning Stage, and to discuss recruitment efforts for a permanent State Director. Upon convening in open session at 1:30 p.m., it was noted that only information was received; no votes are actions were taken.*

**ATTENDANCE**

***Commission Members***

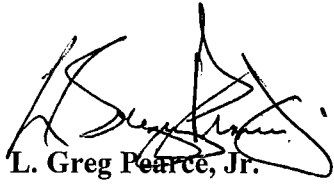
L. Gregory Pearce, Jr. Chair	Louise Haynes, Vice Chair (via telephone)
Dr. Alison Evans	Robert Hiott

***Visitors/Staff***

Mark Binkley, JD	Elizabeth Hutto	Anna Maria Conner	Margaret Meriwether
Dr. Robert Bank	Eleanor Odom	Melanie Gambrell	Lynelle Reavis
Dr. Versie Bellamy	Dr. Kimberly Rudd	Joe E. James	Tracy Richardson
Debbie Blalock	Noelle Wriston	Jacob Kaiser	Colleen Staton
Debbie Calcote	Stewart Cooner	Adrienne McGregor	

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**APPROVALS**



L. Greg Pearce, Jr.  
Chair



Kym Ballentine  
Recording Secretary

