

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SCDMH Administration
2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201
December 4, 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, December 4, 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

Chairman Pearce called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Mr. Stewart Cooner provided the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Chairman Pearce welcomed everyone. Visitors present virtually via Zoom were: Jill Gran, Associate Director, State Government Affairs & Advocacy, Otsuka America; Bill Lindsay, Executive Director, NAMI SC; and Jocelyn Piccone, Liberty Healthcare.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Pearce expressed heartfelt condolences on the unexpected passing of Nancy V. Richards on November 26, 2020. Ms. Richards began her career at DMH in June 1978 and was actively working for the Department at the time of her death. For the last twenty years she worked at the Forensics Outreach Clinic.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the Agenda for today's Business Meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Pearce stated that the recording secretary noted the following correction to the minutes: The first paragraph under *Financial Status Update*, remove the last sentence so that the paragraph reads, "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."

By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the November 6, 2020 minutes as corrected.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Kenneth Rogers reported the following:

- As of November 20, 2020, Dr. Rogers has visited all DMH mental health centers and facilities. He expressed appreciation to all the centers and facilities directors for the courtesies extended him during his visit. He said all staff members are doing exceptionally great jobs.
- On Thursday, December 3, 2020, Dr. Rogers participated in a panel with leadership from healthcare agencies across the state at the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus Annual Retreat. The panel discussion included developing a plan to roll out and increase the acceptance of the COVID-19 vaccine in the African

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 4, 2020

American communities. Dr. Rogers will work with the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environment Control (DHEC) along with the Legislative Black Caucus on those efforts.

MONTHLY/QUARTERLY INFORMATION REPORTS

Chairman Pearce said that he received very positive feedback on Ms. Elizabeth Hutto's presentation at the Annual Board Training, which was held virtually on December 2, 2020.

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 November a total of three pending investigations by the Office of Public Safety.

Ms. Hutto reported that as of Thursday, December 3, 2020, there were 21 pending SLED investigations. One case had been assigned to SLED, of which the oldest is from May 2020; nine cases were assigned to Long-term Care Ombudsman Office of which the oldest is from September 2019; four cases were assigned to the Attorney General's Office (AGO). She noted that one of the cases assigned to the AGO goes back to 2017 and explained the case will remain open until the defendant is located or until the AGO decides not to pursue any longer. Four cases were assigned to local law enforcement, of which the oldest is from 2019. Ms. Hutto explained that three of the cases assigned to local law enforcement relate to standards of care at SVP. Per law, the Long-term Care Ombudsman does not investigate SVP. DMH is allowed to do so after SLED makes a referral.

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

- 57 calls to patient advocacy in October 2020; a total of 486 year to date.
- 66 complaints were resolved in October 2020.
- 661 complaints have been resolved year-to-date.
- The number of complaints by category resolved year to date is 821 (*complaints are broken out by category, a single patient complaint may have more than one category*).

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Changes in Management Roles and Responsibilities

Presentation of Organization Chart

Pursuant to the Bylaws of the South Carolina Mental Health Commission, Article 1, Section 7, Dr. Rogers presented a revised DMH organizational chart, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.

Approval of New Divisions

Dr. Rogers presented a recommendation for Commission approval to create two new divisions: (1) Division of Special Projects, and (2) Division of Financial Services.

The Commission reviewed the new organizational chart including the creation of the Chief of Staff position and approved the creation of Division of Special Projects and Division of Financial Services.

On a motion by Ms. Haynes, seconded by Mr. Hiott, the Commission approved the new divisions as presented.

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

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 4, 2020

Coronavirus Response

Community Mental Health Services

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.

Below are highlights from Ms. Blalock's report:

- Ms. Blalock reported the SC Hopes call center has received 842 calls since inception on June 1, 2020.
- An online mental health screener was implemented on the Agency's website on November 1, 2020. The evidence based model allows individuals out in the community to screen themselves for mental health distress. If the individual reaches out to talk to somebody, a counselor will provide guidance and resources to help connect individuals to services. There have been over 220 individuals use the screener service.
- As of December 2, 2020, less than .10% of the 58,278 patients in the community had not been seen by the Centers.
- Implemented sharing cards in the mental health centers.
- From October 15 through November 15, 2020, 25% of services in the community were delivered through telehealth, 31% were delivered telephonically, and 45% were face to face.
- CMHS is conducting a survey on staff's willingness to take a COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available. Mental health centers are registered as Closed Point of Dispensing (POD) through DHEC and will receive the vaccine at such time as it becomes available to outpatient providers.
- The Board Training held virtually via Zoom on December 2, 2020 received many positive comments. An evaluation will be sent to the participants soon. There were 111 participants in the training.
- Ms. Blalock said there are concerns about the well-being of the staff at the Centers due to COVID fatigue and heightened concerns of being exposed to the virus particularly as health care providers. Each Center's Board members are being encouraged to send letters or notes of gratitude to staff.
- Update on the Highway to Hope (H2H) Grant – anticipate receiving the RVs by the end of April 2021 and on the road by June 1, 2021.
- A grant proposal was submitted in response to NASMHPD's 2021 Transformation Transfer Initiative (TTI) funding solicitation. The proposal requests funds for staff that will coordinate and evaluate the planning of a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council in Richland County and for a liaison for LRADAC and Columbia Mental Health Center to work closely with staff to ensure individuals scheduled for release from the Detention Center to the community are engaged in treatment 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:

- Dr. Bellamy said patients and residents continue to benefit from the sensory programming at long term care. The award of Civil Money Penalty Fund Mini grants allowed for the purchase of art supplies and other items for engaging and sensory stimulating activities designed to enhance the lives and moods of long term care residents, and for the staff to create a more home life environment in the long term facilities.
- The DIS COVID-19 Task Force continues to work to protect the patients and staff from COVID-19. Point Prevalence Testing of residents, patients and staff continues as needed. Adequate supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) continues to be a priority.
- DMH is the only South Carolina State agency that operates hospital and nursing home systems. Extensive COVID-19 testing in long-term care and nursing homes is essential to preventing the spread of the virus especially for those who are at a higher risk of developing severe complications from the virus. Because asymptomatic transmission of COVID-19 from staff to residents and between residents is a concern in long-term care facilities and nursing homes more COVID-19 testing is done in an effort to further reduce the spread of the virus.

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 4, 2020

- Dr. Bellamy reported the effect of mitigation strategies on the overall average daily census is showing slight signs of recovery. Comparing October to February 2020, she reported a 20% decrease to the overall average daily census.

Dr. Bellamy recognized Dr. Allyson Sipes, Director of Clinical Services and Chair of the Morris Village Focus Group. The Focus Group was appointed on September 30, 2020 to assess current services and operations at Morris Village.

Dr. Sipes reported that the Focus Group has met on three occasions either as the whole group or with subsets of the group to look at specific components and doing analyses to identify priorities for the group. Some of the priorities identified are: diversifications of programming; exploring the expansion of programs to identify gaps in services including if there is opportunity for a broader range of integrated care as well as individualized treatment driven by the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM); increasing revenue; formalizing staff qualifications and training; improving the public perception about Morris Village as well as addressing the stigma related to substance abuse; improving retention of front-line staff and addressing the needs of Morris Village's physical plant concerns.

Dr. Sipes said discussions continue regarding the feasibility of various avenues for reimbursement and funding. She said it will take more time to do a full evaluation of options for program development and long-term financial sustainability.

Dr. Sipes commended the focus group for their work and said the members are working collaboratively and are engaged with the goal of providing excellent care to the citizens of South Carolina in substance disorder treatment.

Ms. Haynes commended Dr. Sipes for her leadership and the focus group for their work. She said this is a very important initiative to get feedback from the community and to increase the collaboration between Morris Village and partners across the state. Dr. Sipes said long-term goals and recommendations will be forthcoming.

Dr. Bellamy expressed appreciation to Dr. Sipes, Vice-Chair Jill Cosgrove, and the members of the Focus Group for their hard work on this very important project.

Forensic Waiting List Update

Dr. Kelly Gothard reported that despite the number of Orders increasing slightly in November, there continues to be a gradual reduction in the forensic waitlist. Admissions have continued at a steady pace through October and November. The next admissions surge cohort is scheduled for the beginning of December, with 25 individuals from the waitlist scheduled to be admitted.

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

Dr. Bellamy presented the October 14, 2020 quarterly Inpatient Facilities Governing Body Meeting minutes, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.

Ms. Haynes stated that she was pleased and interested to see the section on National Research Institute (NRI) Inpatient Consumer Survey and asked how the information is being used. Dr. Bellamy replied that based on the information that is received, if the trend is lower, there is a plan of correction to focus more in those areas and directors are to provide follow up on corrective measures to show what is being done to get the scores up.

Ms. Haynes made a motion to approve the Inpatient Facilities Governing Body minutes from the October 14, 2020 meeting. The motion was duly seconded by Dr. Evans. All voted in favor to the motion; the motion carried.

Administrative Services

Mr. Cooner presented the Administrative Services Report. He thanked Dr. Rogers for the opportunity to serve in this capacity and thanked the Commission, deputy directors and staff for the support extended to him as he begins his new responsibilities as Deputy Director of Administration Services. Below are highlights from Mr. Cooner's report:

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 4, 2020

- Emergency Preparedness
 - DMH has focused on two fronts of emergency preparedness: hurricane season and COVID-19. The 2020 hurricane season ended on November 30, 2020. Focus remains on COVID-19. Plans are being established as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and DHEC provide direction for the administration of the COVID-19 vaccines across the agency.
- Mental Health Block Grant
 - The Mental Health Block Grant, administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is the largest grant for DMH. This is a non-competitive grant and provides approximately \$10.3 million in funds. The funds are used for community mental health services.
- Telehealth Initiatives
 - Prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, DMH provided approximately 3,800 telehealth services per month.
 - Since March 2020, DMH has provided approximately 18,000 services per month. The Emergency Department Telepsychiatry Program saw a decline in services related to decreased demand associated with reduced emergency room use during the pandemic.
 - The most significant growth of telehealth services at DMH has occurred in the Community Telepsychiatry Program (CTP). Since March 2020, CTP has provided approximately 165,000 services via telehealth, and approximately 360,000 services provided telephonically.
 - The School Mental Health Program continues to utilize telepsychiatry as a means to connect students with clinicians. Currently, there are 135 schools using telepsychiatry.
 - DMH's telehealth success has garnered much attention. Features include a SC Telehealth Alliance report, an Institute of Medicine and Public Health report, a USC School of Medicine article to a magazine, and articles in SC Telehealth Alliance and Institute of Medicine and Public Health.
- Vehicle Management
 - The Vehicle Management department manages 675 vehicles, monitors \$450,000 fuel expenditures per year, and transports 4,000-5,000 patients per year.

Chairman Pearce thanked Mr. Cooner for his excellent report. Commission members requested Mr. Cooner email to them a brief executive summary of the Mental Health Block Grant as well as a written summary of his report.

Dr. Evans asked if the 165,000 services provided by CTP include inpatient services. Mr. Cooner replied that it does not and said that since inception, approximately 600 services are provided per month in the emergency department telepsychiatry program; approximately 58,000 inpatient telepsychiatry services have been provided since inception. It is estimated for FY 2021 the number of inpatient telepsychiatry services will be 7,740, a decrease from FY 2020 of 8,111 services.

Special Projects

Ms. Debbie Calcote presented the Special Projects report. Ms. Calcote thanked the Commission for approving the creation of the Special Projects Division. Her new role will focus on projects that involve multiple divisions in the Agency and promote the Agency's leadership and innovation in behavioral healthcare in South Carolina. The Divisions of Public Safety and Physical Plant Services, with the exception of Vehicle Management, will continue to report to Ms. Calcote.

Ms. Calcote said the Public Safety staff continues to respond to and provide support services to all areas of the organization, which includes inpatient settings and nursing homes, with the added stress of COVID-19. Public Safety takes a very therapeutic approach to their intervention and are very skilled with donning and doffing PPE equipment. She reported the Division of Public Safety provides a holiday celebration for the residents at Tucker annually, and as an alternative for this year, they organized a parade adhering to outside and distancing requirements to keep residents safe. On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Pearce requested Ms. Calcote thank the Division of Public Safety for providing the holiday celebration at Tucker.

Ms. Calcote said Physical Plant Services continues to be a strong foundation for the Agency.

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 4, 2020

Financial Status Update

Ms. Calcote presented the monthly financial report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. As of October 31, 2020 the Department is projected to end FY21 with a balance of \$2,265,062.

Ms. Calcote reported that Guidehouse, Inc., is recommending approval of \$2,074,856, which is 95% of the Department's request, from the Phase 1 submission for reimbursement of eligible expenditures from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRT). The Department is awaiting status of the Phase 2 submission of \$2,084,211.

Proposed Bylaws Amendments

Ms. Hutto explained the proposed amendments to the bylaws will change the makeup of the Governing Body Committee for Inpatient Facilities (page 8, Article VI, Section 3). The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) will replace the Deputy Director of Administrative Services on the Governing Body. Per the Joint Commission, the CFO must be a member of the Governing Body. Previously, the Deputy of Administrative Services filled this role as the supervisor of the Division of Financial Services. Now that Financial Services is being broken out as a separate Division, the CFO will join the Governing Body. DIS and the Deputy of Special Projects will continue to meet at least quarterly pending the development and opening of the new nursing homes.

Ms. Hutto presented the following amendments to the Bylaws of the South Carolina Mental Health Commission, copies of which had been provided to the Commission (*Underscore indicates new language*):

Article VI, Section 3:

“Section 3. The Governing Body Committee for Inpatient Facilities shall conduct governing body responsibilities for each inpatient hospital and nursing care center of the Department of Mental Health as directed by the Mental Health Commission. The voting members of the committee shall consist of the SCDMH Deputy Director of Inpatient Services, (Chair); the Medical Director of the Department of Mental Health; the General Counsel, the Inpatient Services Administrator, the Inpatient Services Chief Nursing Officer, the Deputy Director of Administrative Services, Chief Financial Officer, the Inpatient Services Medical Director, the Inpatient Services Director of Performance Improvement, Risk Management, Regulatory Compliance and the Inpatient Services Inpatient Services Financial Controller. The Committee will meet no less than quarterly beginning on the second Tuesday of January. A quorum of the Committee shall be a majority of the individuals occupying the designated positions. Each inpatient hospital and nursing care center of the Inpatient Services Division may have in attendance at the meetings the Director, Medical Director, Chief Nursing Officer and the Performance Improvement Director. A community advocate may be selected by the State Director to also serve on the Committee.

On a motion by Ms. Haynes, seconded by Mr. Hiott, the Commission approved the amendments to the Commission Bylaws as presented.

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

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was discussion on the planning for the celebration of the Department's 200th anniversary in 2021. Commission members were in agreement that a planning committee be formed to work with Chairman Pearce and Mark Binkley as co-chair. Chairman Pearce and Mr. Binkley will begin forming a committee.

Chairman Pearce proposed holding a contest and ask DMH employees to submit theme suggestions for the Department's 200th anniversary. Chairman Pearce will sponsor an award for the winning theme. Commission members agreed with Chairman Pearce's proposal. Chairman Pearce and Mr. Binkley will get with Dr. Rogers concerning promoting the contest.

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 4, 2020

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:01 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. 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

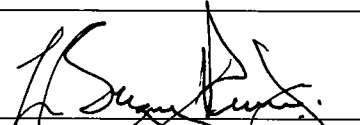
Commission Members

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

Visitors/Staff

Dr. Robert Bank	<u>present virtually via Zoom</u>	<u>present virtually via Zoom</u>
Janet Bell	Deborah Blalock	Denise Morgan
Dr. Versie Bellamy	Dr. Robert Breen	Carly Patterson
Mark Binkley	Pat Bresnan	Jocelyn Piccone
Stewart Cooner	Debbie Calcote	Lynelle Reavis
Kelly Gothard	Matthew Dorman	Stuart Shields
Dr. Patria Handley	Melanie Ferretti	Janie Simpson
Elizabeth Hutto	Jill Gran	Tamara Smith
Eleanor Odom	Maryjane Hicks	Eric Turner
Dr. Allyson Sipes	Kevin Hoyle	Tim Watt
Dr. Kenneth Rogers	Louise Johnson	Jarrold Williamson
Brett Williams	Grace Lambert	Noelle Wriston
	Bill Lindsey	

APPROVALS


L. Gregory Pearce, Jr.
Chair


Kim Ballentine
Recording Secretary

