

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SCDMH Administration
2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201
April 9, 2021

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, April 9, 2021, at 10:30 a.m. Mr. Greg Pearce, Chair, was present in person. Ms. Louise Haynes was absent, excused. 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 10:35 a.m. Ms. Rochelle Caton, Director, Office of Patient Advocacy, provided the invocation. Chairman Pearce welcomed Mr. Bobby Mann, newly appointed commissioner.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Chairman Pearce welcomed everyone. Visitors present virtually via Zoom were: Bill Lindsay, Executive Director, NAMI SC, and Janie Simpson, Chair, S.C. Mental Health State Planning Council.

MOMENT OF COMMEMORATING 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF DMH

Chairman Pearce deferred the moment of commemorating the 200th anniversary of DMH to following the presentation of resolution on the agenda.

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; the motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION

Chairman Pearce presented a resolution from the Commission upon the retirement of Ms. Debbie Calcote, Deputy Director, Special Projects. The 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 Debbie Calcote; and

Whereas: Mental health is critical to the well-being and vitality of all South Carolinians. Mental illness affects people regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, or economic status; and

Whereas: Ms. Calcote has improved the lives of individuals living with mental illness. In addition to her many years as a skilled clinician, she expanded services at the Berkeley Mental Health Center, including successful IPS, Peer Support, and School Mental Health programs. As Center director, she deployed staff to support the victims, first responders, and community at-large in the wake of the Mother Emanuel Shooting in 2015.

Whereas: Ms. Calcote has furthered the cause of Mental Health by serving her community on numerous boards, including the Berkeley County Mental Health Task Force, the Dee Norton Lowcountry Children's Center

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Professional Advisory Board, the Mental Health America-Lowcountry Advisory Board, and the Roper Berkeley Community Advisory Board; and

Whereas: Ms. Calcote, for 40 years, has embodied the Mission of the Department of Mental Health, to support the recovery of people with mental illnesses, demonstrating devotion to this mission by serving at the Berkeley Mental Health Center for 37 years, 17 of which were as its executive director, and further serving as a deputy director of SCDMH, overseeing its extensive operational functions as director of the Division of Administrative Services for two years; and

Whereas: The South Carolina Mental Health Commission and the State Director of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health recognize Ms. Calcote not only for her distinguished leadership at SCDMH, but also for also her career-long dedication to improving mental health care; and

Now, therefore: We express our profound appreciation to Ms. Calcote for her dedicated service to those living with mental illness and her invaluable service to the South Carolina Department of Mental Health; offer her 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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Moment of Commemorating the 200th Anniversary of DMH

Chairman Pearce said that in 1970 the SC Mental Health Commission created the "Order of the Brick" as a way to recognize and honor those individuals who had made exemplary contributions to mental health in South Carolina. The brick came from the wall of the South Carolina State Hospital that was constructed in 1827. The wall was demolished in 1960. There have been 47 "Order of the Brick" awards presented over the past 51 years.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Pearce presented Ms. Calcote with the "Order of the Brick" award for her 40 years of service to the Department and exemplary accomplishments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the minutes from the Business Meeting of March 5, 2021 and the Special Called Meeting of March 24, 2021.

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

Chairman Pearce announced Dr. Elliott Levy and Mr. Bobby Mann were appointed to serve as members of the SC Mental Health Commission and were confirmed by the Senate on Wednesday, April 7, 2021. Dr. Levy fills the seat for South Carolina's 1st congressional district and Mr. Mann fills the seat for South Carolina's 4th congressional district.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Kenneth Rogers welcomed Mr. Mann to the Commission, and congratulated Ms. Calcote on her retirement. He announced the following:

- Senior leadership held a strategic planning retreat on Thursday, April 1.
- The Department was awarded \$5 million from the Governor's COVID-19 Response Reserve Account. At this point in time, \$198,500 has been spent to help with arranging admission to community and private hospitals for patients in need of psychiatric hospitalization. The Department is working with partners in the community to help with funding of child and adolescent patients in need of psychiatric hospitalization.

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- Dr. Rogers has continued his outreach in faith communities in the Columbia and Greenville areas to address mental health and the aftereffects of COVID as well as the distribution of the vaccine continues to be a focus.
- Dr. Rogers presented a new logo for the Department's programs and social media. The logo was designed by a team led by David Diana, Director of Community Education and Development. The logo will help build a brand identity as the Department works to build public awareness, improve access to services, promote services for the "worried well" audience and those who may be very stressed by the pandemic. The concept behind the logo uses the path as a journey theme and incorporates the state palmetto tree as well as the road to hope. The logo will be rolled out over the next several weeks. A copy of the logo is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director.

MONTHLY/QUARTERLY INFORMATION REPORTS

On behalf of Ms. Elizabeth Hutto, Ms. Caton presented the items listed under Monthly/Quarterly Informational Reports, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.

Ms. Caton reported that as of April 8 there were 17 pending investigations. No cases were assigned to SLED, ten cases were assigned to Long-term Care Ombudsman Office; two cases were assigned to the Attorney General's Office; and five cases were assigned to local law enforcement.

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

- 57 calls to patient advocacy in February; a total of 121 year to date.
- 58 complaints were resolved in February; a total of 130 complaints have been resolved year to date.
- The number of complaints by category resolved in February is 74 (*complaints are broken out by category, a single patient complaint may have more than one category*).

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Pearce commended Ms. Caton for her work during a very busy week at the S.C. Legislature. Ms. Caton is the legislative liaison for DMH.

Ms. Caton presented the March 30, 2021 publication of the *Legislative News*, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. The publication lists bills introduced in the General Assembly that may affect the Agency, mental health, healthcare issues, or state employee issues. A copy of the publication is on file with the minutes in the Office of the State Director.

HISTORICAL CHANGES IN DMH INPATIENT CAPACITY

Mark Binkley gave a presentation on DMH State funding and hospital capacity from 2000 to 2020. The presentation provided historical changes in census, admissions, and budgets for DMH psychiatric hospitals and Morris Village. A copy of the presentation is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director.

Dr. Evans said the presentation was informative and was communicated in an understandable fashion. She said she remains proud that the Department continued to provide care during those challenging times. She noted William S. Hall Institute endured some challenging times as well during that time but was not included in the report.

UPDATE ON NEW STATE VETERANS HOMES

Mr. Binkley presented an update on the new State Veterans Homes. He reported Veteran Village in Florence and Palmetto Patriots Home in Gaffney are expected to open this summer. Awards of operating contracts for the new facilities are expected this month. A copy of the presentation is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director.

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Financial Status Update

Mr. Paul Morris, CFO, presented the monthly financial report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. As of February 28, 2021, the Department is projected to end FY21 with a balance of \$4.9 million. Mr. Morris referred to the supplementary information included with the financial report in which he provided areas of note and vulnerability. He highlighted under Information Systems the current software systems for inpatient services, outpatient billing, and electronic medical records (EMR) are all outdated. The systems are not linked together for continuity, billing platforms are antiquated, and the healthcare environment is changing at a faster pace than updates can be implemented. It has been estimated that the resources required to certify the current EMR to be approximately \$10,000. This was received as information.

HR Report

Dr. Rogers reported that Human Resource (HR) updates will be forthcoming.

Community Mental Health Services

Ms. Deborah Blalock presented the Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) report. Below are highlights from her report:

- Ms. Blalock presented the CMHS Trends and Transparency Monthly Indicators (TMI) spreadsheets, and the CMHS services by method of delivery by month for March 2020-March 2021 report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.
- The SC Hopes call center has received 2,400 calls since inception on June 1, 2020.
- Per the Governor's mandate that all staff transition back to normal operations, all mental health centers' staff are back in the office except for school mental health staff at four of the mental health centers because of space issues related to physical distancing guidelines. Ms. Blalock reported the Department has 15 clinician vacancies that resulted from the mandate, with the main reason related to childcare issues.
- Center Director updates:
 - Ms. Blalock expressed appreciation to Bryant Williams for his outstanding efforts serving as the interim director of the Orangeburg Mental Health Center (OAMHC). She announced effective April 2, 2021 Dr. Natashia Smith began her new responsibilities as the executive director at OAMHC.
 - Along with his responsibilities as executive director at Berkeley Community Mental Health Center, Matt Dorman assumed the role of interim executive director of the Coastal Empire Community Mental Health Center effective April 2, 2021.
 - On June 2, 2021, Vicki S. Redding will begin her responsibilities as executive director of the Anderson-Oconee-Pickens (AOP) Mental Health Center. Eric Turner, Chief of Clinical Operations, AOP, is serving as the interim director.
- Catawba Mental Health Center reached out to schools, the medical practice, and law enforcement agencies in the Rock Hill community in response to a mass shooting on April 7, 2021 that resulted in five fatalities.

Division of Inpatient Services (DIS)

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

- In response to a request from Ms. Haynes about demographic characteristics of staff vaccinated against COVID-19, Dr. Bellamy referred to the vaccination rates report for all DIS facility vaccination sites included in her report.
- Dr. Bellamy reviewed the inpatient services admissions and ADC dashboards.
- William S. Hall Institute has been at capacity or near capacity over the past month. COVID-19 pandemic has increased the demand for mental health services for children ages 6-12. DIS continues to review services for adjustments to meet the needs of this age category.
- Dr. Bellamy reported 88 patients on the Ready for Admission Waitlist. She reported a 30% decrease in wait time since the beginning of 2021 for all categories of forensic admissions. Waiting time decreased an additional 21% in March for restoration admissions.

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- The Alternate Care Site admission cohort was completed in early March. An additional cohort of admissions was admitted to the main facility in March, resulting in the highest number of monthly admissions of 31, which is also the highest number of monthly admissions since February 2017.

Approval of Minutes of the Governing Body for Inpatient Facilities of January 13, 2021

Dr. Bellamy presented the January 13, 2021 quarterly Inpatient Facilities Governing Body Meeting minutes, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. She noted a correction on page 8, C. Nursing Vacancy Report/DIS Recruitment and Retention Initiative; the correct vacancy rate for LPNs = 42%.

By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the Inpatient Facilities Governing Body minutes from the January 13, 2021 meeting as corrected.

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

Administrative Services

On behalf of Stewart Cooner, Dr. Rogers presented the Administrative Services report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.

Dr. Rogers reported the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is releasing an additional \$825 million to states through the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG) program to assist in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. South Carolina was allotted \$12,436,240. A total of \$1,243,624 must be used to address evidence-based practices for early serious mental illness and \$621,812 must be used to address crisis services. The Department will submit its proposal on the use of the balance of \$10,570,804 to SAMHSA on May 5, 2021.

Special Projects

Ms. Debbie Calcote reported on expenditures of the \$5 million from the Governor's COVID-19 Response Reserve Account to purchase emergency inpatient beds for adults in children in need of psychiatric hospitalization. From March 22, 2020 through February 22, 2021, there were 43 admissions funded for a total amount spent of \$198,500. The average length of admission was about 7.5 days and the average cost per patient was \$4,600.

Chairman Pearce announced that Ms. Calcote has agreed to continue to serve on the Bicentennial Committee following her retirement from the Department.

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Pearce congratulated Dr. Rogers on his one year anniversary as DMH State Director. On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Pearce thanked him for his hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm.

Chairman Pearce expressed appreciation to the staff for the great work done this past year during the pandemic. He said that while we are at a point where we seem to be getting a little more back to "normal," we realize that COVID-19 is not over. However, we are beginning to talk about the future and evaluating all the things that were done to get us through the year.

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:25 p.m., by motion duly made and seconded, the Commission adjourned the Business Meeting.

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ATTENDANCE

Commission Members

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

Visitors/Staff

Dr. Robert Bank	Paul Morris	<u>present virtually via Zoom</u>	<u>present virtually via Zoom</u>
Mark Binkley	Valarie Perkins	Liz Brown	Grace Lambert
Deborah Blalock	Dr. Kenneth Rogers	Jackie Brown	Bill Lindsay
Janet Bell	Brett Williams	Mirtha Brown	Sarah Main
Dr. Versie Bellamy		Peter Camelo	Mandy Medlock
Debbie Calcote		Leigh Ann Chmura	Lynelle Reavis
Rochelle Caton		Matthew Dorman	Ken Roey
Dr. Kelly Gothard		Jill Gran	Janie Simpson
Zina Hampton		Elizabeth Harmon	Tamara Smith
Dr. Patricia Handley		Maryjane Hicks	Bryant Williams
		Ted Jones	Noelle Wriston

APPROVALS


L. Gregory Pearce, Jr.
Chair


Kim Ballentine
Recording Secretary