

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SCDMH Administration
2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201
June 4, 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, June 4, 2021, at 10:30 a.m. 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 Greg Pearce called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. Mr. Stewart Cooner, Director of Administrative Services, provided the invocation. Mr. Cooner remembered in prayer Ms. Denise Morgan and her family upon the recent unexpected passing of her husband. Ms. Morgan is the Executive Director at Columbia Area Mental Health Center.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Chairman Pearce welcomed everyone. Visitors present virtually via Zoom were: Teresa Arnold, SC AARP State Director; Jill Gran, Associate Director, State Government Affairs & Advocacy, Otsuka America; Bill Lindsay, Executive Director, NAMI SC; Jocelyn Piccone, Executive Director, Liberty Healthcare Corporation; Janie Simpson, Chair, S.C. Mental Health State Planning Council; and Anne Summer, Consultant, Mental Health Partners.

MOMENT OF COMMEMORATING 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF DMH

Chairman Pearce said the two founders of the S.C. Lunatic Asylum, Colonel Samuel Farrow and Major William Crafts, did not live to see the results of their efforts. It was Dr. James Davis who fostered the completion of the institution. Chairman Pearce honored the memory of Dr. James Davis (1774-1838). Dr. Davis was born in Maryland and later his family moved to South Carolina. He was the first physician at the S.C. Lunatic Asylum. He served on the commission that built the Mills Building, and was the first physician at the S.C. State Hospital. The Davis Building at Crafts Farrow is named after him.

Chairman Pearce said that Dr. Davis was never really recognized for what he did in terms of getting the State Hospital constructed and opened. Dr. Daniel Trezevant, who succeeded Dr. Davis as physician, said that the State Hospital owed its origin in completion and its final organization to Dr. Davis' benevolent and untiring efforts.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Elliott Levy noted a correction under "Introduction of Visitors" in the May 7, 2021 Commission Business Meeting minutes. The minutes should reflect that Dr. Levy is filling the 1st Congressional district and Mr. Bobby Mann is filling the 4th Congressional district.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Kenneth Rogers announced the following:

- The new logo was presented at the April 9, 2021 Commission business meeting. The logo will be rolled out over the course of the next three to four months.
- The Integrated Care Workgroup is looking at potential opportunities to have shared healthcare delivery by collaborating and working in partnership with Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC).
- State Human Resources has granted each State Agency the discretion to determine the mandating of masks for its employees. At this time all DMH employees within the clinical areas, hospitals, and mental health centers will continue to be required to wear face-masks. Employees at the Central Administration building are required to wear face-masks when in public/common areas.
- The Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) has brought together a group of stakeholders and formed the Task Force to Strengthen the Health and Promote the Environment of S.C. (SHaPE SC). The mission of SHaPE SC is to evaluate the state of South Carolina's current organizational framework and responsibilities related to the provision of health and environmental protection services. The task force will make recommendations to the DHEC Board, General Assembly, and Governor on how to best maximize state resources to improve the quality of life for all South Carolinians by protecting and promoting the health of the public and the environment.
- Staffing continues to be problematic and is partially driven by low wages and labor shortage due to a competitive job market.
- Dr. Rogers introduced Dr. Mark Kilgus. Effective May 17, 2021, Dr. Kilgus assumed the role of executive director of the SCDMH Division of Evaluation, Training, and Research (ETR). In addition, and also effective May 17, 2021, ETR became a component of DIS and reports to Dr. Bellamy. Dr. Kilgus will also serve as Medical Chief at William S. Hall and Morris Village Alcohol and Drug Treatment Center. Dr. Rogers thanked Dr. Bank for the work he has done over the years with ETR. Ms. Sandy Hyre will continue to have duties related to education agency wide and in association with USC.
- Dr. Rogers and Mr. Binkley recently met with Dr. Meera Narasimhan at USC to discuss educational offerings for residents and residency placement within DMH.

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 three pending cases at the end of May 2021.

Ms. Hutto reported that as of yesterday there were 17 pending SLED investigations. Three cases were assigned to SLED, of which the oldest is from April 2021; eight cases were assigned to Long-term Care Ombudsman Office, of which the oldest is from February 2020; two cases were assigned to the Attorney General's Office (AGO), of which the oldest is from March 2019, and four cases were assigned to local law enforcement, of which the oldest is from April 2020.

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

- 50 calls to patient advocacy in April; a total of 238 year to date.
- 79 complaints were resolved in April; a total of 295 complaints have been resolved year to date.
- The number of complaints by category resolved in April is 94 (*complaints are broken out by category, a single patient complaint may have more than one category*).
- The Department uses the Governmental Enterprise Accounts Receivable (GEAR) program, to assist in the collection of delinquent debts owed to the Department. GEAR's setoff debt collection program allows the Department of Revenue to assist in the collection of delinquent debts through garnishment of individual

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South Carolina income tax refunds. There is normally an increase in the number of complaints during this period.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Rochelle Caton presented the June 3, 2021 publication of the *Legislative News*, copies of which were distributed 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. Ms. Caton highlighted the following:

- Ms. Caton welcomed and congratulated Dr. Crystal Maxwell on her appointment to the Commission on May 11, 2021, filing the seat for South Carolina's Fifth Congressional District.
- Senate Bill S 2: The Senate Medical Affairs Subcommittee has taken no further action. The bill will be up for further consideration when the 2022 session starts in January.
- Senate Bill S 231: Student ID Card Suicide Prevention Act – This bill was ratified by the Governor on May 13, 2021. Governor McMaster will hold a public signing of this bill in the coming weeks. Ms. Caton will inform the Commissioners when the date is set.
- House Bill H 3773: Restoration Treatment – This bill would extend the length of time certain individuals unfit to stand trial may be hospitalized from 60 to up to 180 days. It would also allow DMH to provide restoration treatment in detention centers and on an outpatient basis, where appropriate. The bill passed through the House and was referred to the Senate Medical Affairs Committee on April 21, 2021. The budget includes a proviso that would allow a pilot restoration program in a jail this summer.

Dr. Levy asked about the formation of SHaPE SC task force established by DHEC. Chairman Pearce noted the task force was not directed by the Legislature. The first meeting of the task force was held on Thursday, June 3, 2021 at the Alumni Center at the University of South Carolina. There are three subgroups: (1) Environmental Protection, (2) Health, and (3) Mental Health and Substance Abuse. The subgroups will meet throughout the summer and submit recommendations to the task force. The task force will provide a report of recommendations to the DHEC Board for review and approval prior to submission to the General Assembly. There was discussion. Dr. Rogers announced that Mr. Binkley was selected as chair of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Subcommittee.

Chairman Pearce thanked Ms. Caton for the good work she did during the legislative session.

AWARD OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT ADDITIONAL BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

Mr. Stewart announced that in May 2021 the Department was notified of \$21.5 million allocated to DMH by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). DMH agreed with SAMHSA that the funds would be divided equally over a 4-year period, September 1, 2021 through September 30, 2025, in an effort to start programs that would be sustainable after the end of the project period. Discussions on proposed uses include, but not limited to: crisis stabilization units, 988 call center integrated with crises services, embedding mental health professionals with law enforcement, funding for transitions staff, RFP (request for proposal) for non-profit partners, and licensure/education/training. Stakeholders will have opportunity to comment for ideas on the use of the funds. The ARPA Funding Plan is due July 2, 2021.

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Administrative Services

Mr. Cooner presented the Administrative Services report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. Mr. Cooner talked about the Healthcare Connect Fund, a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program which provides a 65% discount on eligible broadband connectivity expenses related to the community telepsychiatry program. To date the Department has received over \$4 million in funding from Healthcare Connect. The Office of Network Information Technology (ONIT) staff are responsible for the cost offset of more than \$660,000 per year. He commended

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Ms. Christal Yarbrough, IT Manager, ONIT, for her excellent work with managing the process for DMH since inception. Chairman Pearce requested Mr. Cooner extend an invitation to Ms. Yarbrough to attend a future Commission meeting so that the Commission could recognize her contributions to the Agency.

Financial Status Update

Mr. Paul Morris presented the monthly financial report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. As of April 30, 2021, the Department is projected to end FY21 with a balance of a little over \$7.1 million.

Mr. Morris pointed out that due to three payroll periods in April expenses were higher compared to March 2021.

Mr. Morris said he is working with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in regard to reimbursement rates and possible opportunities for additional funding. He will bring an update at a future Commission business meeting.

Mr. Morris reviewed the DMH FY22 budget request which included recommendations from the Governor's Office, the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the amended House Ways & Means recommendation.

HR Report

Ms. Zina Hampton presented the HR Report. Following are highlights from her report:

- Ms. Hampton showed a sample of an employee ID badge with the new logo.
- At the close of business on Thursday, June 3, 2021 DMH had 4,632 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, of which 3,843 were filled positions. This is a vacancy rate of 17%.
- In follow up to last month's discussion concerning employee exit interviews, Ms. Hampton presented charts on comparison of reasons for separation 2018, 2019, and 2020. Copies of the charts are filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director.
 - Not satisfied with management or agency – 31%
 - Retirement/Health/Family – 30%
 - Salary or better job opportunity – 23%
 - Other – 16%

Dr. Rogers said there is also potential risk of losing employees by not having telecommuting as an option for eligible positions in the Agency.

Dr. Maxwell asked about the element of interpersonal relationship with employees and managers in terms of people returning to work from working remotely. Ms. Hampton said she will give a report upon review of the 2021 data.

Community Mental Health Services

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

- With regard to exit interviews, Ms. Blalock reported that every center director offers and conducts face-to-face exit interviews when an employee leaves. The overwhelming response for separation is salary.
- On June 2, 2021 Vicki Redding began her responsibilities as executive director of the Anderson-Oconee-Pickens (AOP) Mental Health Center. Ms. Blalock expressed appreciation to Mr. Eric Turner for the great job he did serving as the interim executive director.
- Recruiting efforts continue for an executive director at Coast Empire Mental Health Center (CEMHC). In addition to his responsibilities as executive director at Berkeley Community Mental Health Center, Mr. Matt Dorman is serving as the interim executive director CEMHC.
- Center Directors have a goal of providing 75% of services to patients face-to-face by July 1, 2021.
- A patient satisfaction survey via text was launched on May 15, 2021. A total of 500 responses have been received.
- The SC Hopes call center has served 2,810 patients since inception on June 1, 2020.
- Of the 228 patients served through the Highway to Hope (H2H) Grant, 20% of the patients had never received services by DMH before the project existed on February 1, 2021.

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- Earlier this year the Department received a grant from the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) to support the start of a criminal justice coordination council in Richland County. The Richland County Criminal Justice Coordination Council (RCCJCC) will hold meet and greet meetings on June 10 and June 14, 2021. The RCCJCC is directed by staff from the Fifth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office.
- Ms. Blalock presented the CHS Trends and Transparency Monthly Indicators (TMH) spreadsheets, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.
- There was discussion about the Department's response when tragic events happen in the communities. Ms. Blalock stated that the mental health centers are remarkable at responding to tragedies immediately and offers support to any person involved in the event. Dr. Rogers is working with staff to develop a plan to educate the public and publicize the services provided by the Department when communities experience disasters/tragedies.
- Ms. Blalock announced the Lowcountry Mental Health Conference is scheduled on July 28-30, 2021 in Charleston.

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:

- Dr. Bellamy expressed appreciation to Dr. Rogers, Ms. Louise Johnson, Children, Adolescents, and Family (CAF) Director, and Ms. Allison Farrell, Director of Justice-Involved Programming, for their participation in a COVID-19 and mental health round table held at a local church from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on May 3, 2021.
- The "Managing Agitation in the Psychiatric and Long Term Care Setting, or MAPS," training program is designed to reduce the intensity of behavioral emergencies and to use verbal de-escalation to minimize physical intervention. Dr. Bellamy acknowledged the work of Ms. Lisa Wilson, Assistant Chief Nursing Officer, and her team: Ms. Sandy Hyre, Director, ETR; Dr. Natasha Davis, Nursing Practice Development Director; Dr. Michaela Kelly, Clinical Counseling Training Center Director at Bryan, and Ms. Julia Coons, Coordinator of Staff Development, Patrick B. Harris Psychiatric Hospital. Over 600 staff members participated in the MAPS training within a short period of time, bringing training compliance up to 99%.
- Dr. Bellamy said it is anticipated the Joint Commission will conduct a triennial survey at Patrick B. Harris and G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospitals between July and September 2021.
- The COVID-19 pandemic continues to negatively impact the average daily census (ADC). The April 2021 overall ADC represents a numerical decrease of 285 or 22% as compared to the overall ADC for February 2020.
- A total of 901, or 52.48%, of all DIS staff have received the first dose of the vaccine. DIS continues efforts to encourage increased vaccination participation.
- There was discussion on functional bed capacity and the decrease in the number of beds due to staffing.

Forensic Waiting List

Dr. Bellamy presented the Forensic Waitlist report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. She reported there was a large cohort of admissions to the Alternate Care Site in May, resulting in a positive impact on the forensic waiting list.

On Monday, May 31, 2021, Dr. Rogers was MAPS certified and worked as a Behavioral Health Assistant (BHA) at G. Weber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital. Dr. Bellamy said this made a big impression on the staff and that she was for thankful for having him serve in that capacity.

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Pearce officially welcomed Dr. Crystal A. Maxwell, MD, to the Commission. On May 11, 2021, Commissioner Maxwell received full Senate confirmation for her appointment filling the seat for South Carolina's 5th Congressional district. Dr. Maxwell's birthday was June 2 and on behalf of the Commission and everyone present, Chairman Pearce wished her a happy birthday.

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Chairman Pearce reminded everyone that the election of Commission officers are held each year at the July Commission business meeting. The chairman and vice-chairman are elected for a term of one year.

There was discussion concerning Commission members' response to matters or concerns from DMH employees or members of the community, whether patients or individuals, who are concerned about mental health services. The Commission member should bring it to the attention of the State Director.

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:45 p.m., on a motion by Dr. Evans, seconded by Dr. Levy, the Commission adjourned the Business Meeting and entered into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Upon convening in open session at 1:20 p.m., it was noted that only information was received; no votes or actions were taken.

ATTENDANCE

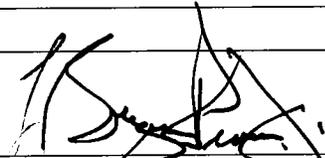
Commission Members

L. Gregory Pearce, Jr., Chair (Commission members present virtually via Zoom)
Dr. Alison Evans Ms. Louise Haynes, Vice Chair
Dr. Elliott Levy
Mr. Bobby Mann
Dr. Crystal Maxwell
Mr. Bob Hiott was absent, excused

Visitors/Staff

	<u>present virtually via Zoom</u>			
Mark Binkley	Teresa Arnold	Kelly Gothard	Sarah Main	Dr. Kimberly Rudd
Deborah Blalock	Robert Bank	Jill Gran	Eleanor Odom-Martin	Stuart Shields
Dr. Versie Bellamy	Janet Bell	Jeffery Ham	Allen McEniry	Janie Simpson
Zina Hampton	Dr. Robert Breen	Dr. Patrica Handley	Valarie Perkins	Tamara Smith
Dr. Patricia Handley	Pat Bresnan	Elizabeth Harmon	Jocelyn Piccone	Anne Summer
Elizabeth Hutto	Jackie Brown	Darla Helms	Lynelle Reavis	Roger Williams
Paul Morris	Pete Creighton	Grace Lambert	Tracy Richardson	Noelle Wriston
Dr. Kenneth Rogers	Teresa Curry	Bill Lindsay	Jennifer Roberts	
Brett Williams				

APPROVALS



L. Gregory Pearce, Jr.
Chair



Kim Ballentine
Recording Secretary