

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SCDMH Administration
2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201
July 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, July 9, 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 announced Ms. Louise Haynes has tendered her resignation from the Commission to be effective after the August 2021 Commission meeting.

Chairman Pearce called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. Mr. Stewart Cooner, Director of Administrative Services, provided the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Chairman Pearce welcomed everyone. Visitors present virtually via Zoom were: Caroline Biederman, Victim Service Advocate, Tri-County SPEAKS; Jill Gran, Associate Director, State Government Affairs & Advocacy, Otsuka America; Elizabeth Harmon, SCHA – SC Behavioral Health Coalition; Bill Lindsay, Executive Director, NAMI SC; Jocelyn Piccone, Executive Director, Liberty Healthcare Corporation; Lynn Scombordi, Pee Dee Regional Program Coordinator, Ending the Silence, NAMI; and Keith Spates, Sales Executive, Beacon Health Options.

MOMENT OF COMMEMORATING 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF DMH

Chairman Pearce referred to George Santayana's aphorism, "Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it." He said the history of DMH somewhat personifies that adage. In 1821 the South Carolina State Legislature approved \$30,000 to build the South Carolina Lunatic Asylum. Additional funds were needed to complete the asylum and the legislature approved additional funds of \$16,500 in 1822 and \$5,000 in 1823. There was still not enough funds to complete the project. In 1824 the legislature refused to allocate additional funding. The asylum was not complete and programs were not in place. The Board of Regents borrowed money from a local bank without the authority to do so and with no way to pay the loan. In 1825 the legislature still refused to allocate additional funds. It wasn't until 1827 under the leadership of Governor Richard Manning that the legislature allocated enough funding to complete the project. The South Carolina Lunatic Asylum began its operations in 1828.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Ms. Haynes, 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

By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the minutes from the Center Presentation of June 4, 2021, and the minutes from the Business Meeting of June 4, 2021.

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

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Dr. Alison Evans nominated Mr. Greg Pearce to be re-elected Chair. Mr. Bob Hiott seconded the nomination. No further nominations were received. Mr. Pearce was re-elected by acclamation as Chair.

Chairman Pearce said it is an honor and privilege for him to serve in this capacity. He appreciates the confidence the Commission has shown in electing him as Chair.

Ms. Haynes nominated Dr. Elliott Levy to serve as Vice-Chair. Dr. Evans seconded the nomination. No further nominations were received. Dr. Levy was elected by acclamation as Vice-Chair.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Kenneth Rogers said in follow up to questions raised by Dr. Levy at the June 4, 2021 Commission meeting related to an issue with the distribution of pride flags at one of the schools in Charleston, and subsequently taken back, Ms. Janet Bell, Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, will give a presentation on that scenario at the August 6, 2021 Commission meeting.

Dr. Rogers reported that he along with Amanda Whittle, State Child Advocate and State Director, SC Department of Children's Advocacy; Michael Leach, State Director, SC Department of Social Services (DSS); and Freddie Pugh, Executive Director, SC Department of Juvenile Justice Director had a positive meeting with Director Robert Kerr, SC Department of Health and Human Services last month. The discussion included developing a psychiatric residential treatment facility (PRTF) for delinquent juveniles with a serious mental illness, or "subclass" juveniles. There are approximately 20 "subclass" juveniles currently at DJJ and DMH is responsible for providing mental health services to those individuals. The discussion also included how to revive programs, such as partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient programs, in a cost effective way to provide services across the state to children and adolescents struggling with mental health symptoms.

Chairman Pearce announced the following:

- The Task Force to Strengthen the Health and Promote the Environment of South Carolina (SHaPE SC) is scheduled to meet on Friday, July 30, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Pastides Alumni Center at the University of South Carolina. Dr. Rogers and Chairman Pearce are not available to attend the task force meeting due to prior commitments to attend the July 28-30, 2021 Lowcountry Mental Health Conference in Charleston. Chairman Pearce said he wrote the Director of the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and explained his unavailability to be present at the task force meeting. Chairman Pearce asked Commission members to let him know if anyone would like represent the Commission at the task force meeting.
- Chairman Pearce attended the dedication of the 19-acre park on the former state hospital property in the Bull Street District on June 21, 2021. The park was named in honor of Page Ellington.
- As past president, Chairman Pearce will attend the South Carolina Association of Counties annual conference scheduled on August 1-3, 2021. The conference is being held at Hilton Head. He will have the opportunity to apprise the attendees on South Carolina Senate Bill 2.

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 alleged abuse cases from May 2021 and three abuse allegations reported in June 2021 for a total of six cases subject to investigation. Three cases were investigated. Two cases were deemed

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 9, 2021

unfounded. On May 11, 2021, Public Safety received a report of an assault involving two juvenile patients at William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute. The investigator presented the case to Richland County Family Court for criminal charges, and the case was deemed founded. The Solicitor concurred with the recommendation and charged the subject with Assault and Battery, 3rd degree. Dr. Levy asked about the protocol for such incidents. Ms. Hutto explained the parents or guardian are alerted, and patients are separated for safety. In this incident, one of the juveniles went to the ED and returned to Hall. The juveniles remain separated.

Ms. Hutto reported a total of three alleged abuse cases pending investigation at the end of June 2021.

Ms. Hutto reported a total of 19 pending SLED investigations. Two cases were assigned to SLED, of which the oldest is from May 2021; 12 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 two cases were assigned to local law enforcement, of which the oldest is from April 2020. One case is with DMH Advocacy. The case originated out of the Sexually Violent Predator Treatment Center (SVPTC) located on Broad River Road. Ms. Hutto explained SVP residents are not part of the vulnerable adult statute. SVP alleged abuse cases are referred to DMH to investigate.

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

- 32 calls to patient advocacy in May; a total of 270 year to date.
- 76 complaints were resolved in May; a total of 371 complaints have been resolved year to date.
- The number of complaints by category resolved in May is 89; a total of 444 resolved year to date (*complaints are broken out by category, a single patient complaint may have more than one category*). Ms. Hutto reported a total of five complaints under category 1) Abuse & Neglect, d. Verbal Abuse or Violations of Dignity. Complaints captured in this category are allegations of a staff matter, staff attitude that is rude, specific complaints or threats or an applied threat, inappropriate or disrespectful statements, and inappropriate or disrespectful actions. When there is an allegation that is unfounded staff are reminded that rude or disrespectful behavior can be abusive in that many of the mental health patients have trauma history and words can substantially affect their wellbeing.

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Financial Status Update

Mr. Paul Morris presented the monthly financial report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. Below are highlights from the report:

- As of May 31, 2021, the Department is projected to end FY21 with a balance of \$10,072,137.
- The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has provided the proposed Medicaid rates to be effective October 1, 2021. The proposed reimbursement rates reflect an approximate \$3.1 million increase the Department would receive annually. Mr. Morris will provide information on HHS reimbursement rates and mental health services at the August Commission business meeting.
- The final FY22 State budget for DMH includes \$4.4 million for sustainability of its workforce. Capital funds include \$1.6 million each for Coastal-Empire Mental Health Center and Waccamaw Community Mental Health Center HVAC, Sprinkler System, Fire Alarm & Roof, and \$1.2 million for Crafts-Farrow Campus Electrical Distribution System. All state employees are receiving a 2.5% general salary increase.

HR Report

Ms. Zina Hampton presented the HR Report. Ms. Hampton talked about how DMH's workforce has changed from the last fiscal year to the current fiscal year. She distributed a report on staffing numbers by position type, a copy of which is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director. She reported that DMH workforce in FY2019 decreased by 30 people; in FY2020 DMH workforce decreased by 456 people. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to negatively

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 9, 2021

impact recruiting efforts. At the August Commission meeting Ms. Hampton will provide statistics on the percentage of loss of employees in the critical areas, such as nursing, BHAs, and MHPs. Ms. Haynes requested Ms. Hampton include the number of employees by Divisions in her report so there is a comparable rate. Dr. Maxwell asked if the Department experienced layoffs. Ms. Hampton said the Department has not experienced layoffs during this time period.

Community Mental Health Services

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

- Under the leadership of Tamara Smith, Executive Director, the Aiken-Barnwell Mental Health Center is partnering with Chick-fil-A to conduct a customer service training to the staff.
- It is projected that all mental health centers will end FY21 in the black financially.
- Ms. Blalock expressed appreciation to the community mental health services staff for their cooperation with the change from a 37.5 hours a week schedule to work 40 hours a week during the past year. Staff returned to a 37.5 hours a week schedule on July 1, 2021. She also expressed appreciation to the HR staff for making the necessary system changes.
- At the request of Chairman Pearce, Ms. Blalock reported that despite the pandemic, the mental health centers served all but .002% of approximately 60,000 patients in the community. At the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, staff at the centers were physically going out into the community to find patients they could not reach telephonically or serve via telehealth. The staff's efforts were enormous during a time when they were experiencing some of the same stresses and anxieties from the pandemic.
- Two new first episode psychosis (FEP) programs will be created using funds from the CARES Act. One FEP program will be at the Greater Greenville Mental Health Center. The second location is being determined. Ms. Blalock will provide information about the first episode psychoses program to the Commissioners. The FEP program focuses on family education and support and involves family members as much as possible with the patient and a team of specialists to create a treatment plan.
- Three of the nine RVs were received this week. Once they are highway ready they will go to the Waccamaw Mental Health Center, Pee Dee Mental Health Center and Tri County Mental Health Center.
- As of this morning, the SC Hopes call center has served 3,122 callers since inception on June 1, 2020. Efforts are being made to restart the Crisis Stabilization Units (CSU) after being closed due to COVID-19. Ms. Blalock reported the CSU in Charleston has restarted and there is momentum to create programs in Kershaw and Florence.
- The Coastal Empire Mental Health Center (CEMHC) Board is conducting interviews for the executive director position. Dr. Rogers and Ms. Blalock will conduct interviews with the top two candidates put forth by the CEMHC Board.
- CMHS is conducting a contest to rename "productivity." The purpose of the contest is to have a positive emphasis in community services on meeting productivity. Contest entries must be submitted by July 15th. Senior Management will select the best name. The person who submits the selected name will win a financial award. Ms. Blalock noted that the financial award will not be provided using State dollars.
- Ms. Blalock announced the Lowcountry Mental Health Conference is scheduled on July 28-20, 2021 in Charleston.
- CMHS is looking at the possibility of adding certified peer support specialists to mobile crisis teams. Ms. Blalock said that in addition to mental health professionals (MHP), peer support will be a valuable addition to mobile crisis services.
- Ms. Blalock presented the CHS Trends and Transparency Monthly Indicators (TMI) spreadsheets, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. Dr. Levy asked about the protocol for centers that do not meet the productivity standard. Ms. Blalock said there are strategies in place at the centers for improvement. She said the biggest reason in her opinion for not meeting productivity has to do with individual clinician schedules. Supervisors should be addressing "white space" on the schedules. Clinicians are responsible for rescheduling their no show patients. Center directors are having conversations about how the successful centers are successful and what centers that are not successful need to do to be successful in meeting the productivity standard. There

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 9, 2021

has been discussion with Senior Management about how to give performance increases, and this could be related to productivity. However, if an employee is not doing their job, then that is substandard performance. Some centers have started issuing notice of substandard performance. Dr. Levy asked if the center directors have accountability or are they at risk if the center is not meeting productivity. Ms. Blalock explained that the center's productivity is reflected on the center director's Employee Performance Management System (EPMS). Mr. Hiott asked if the productivity standard of 780 hours is at 100%. Ms. Blalock explained that productivity is determined using the data from the staff registry that the centers are required to enter for each clinician. The 780 hours is the average for each center.

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 said she anticipates the Joint Commission will conduct a triennial survey at Patrick B. Harris and G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospitals any day now, probably beginning sometime in August.
- Dr. Bellamy announced construction has been completed on the two new veterans homes in Gaffney and Florence. The contractor is following up on items from the punch list. HMR Veterans Services will manage the nursing homes and is in the process of hiring their key leadership staff. Dr. Bellamy said the Division is ramping up plans for more contract oversight and monitoring with the addition of the new nursing homes.
- Dr. Bellamy said that a while back she reported to the Commission that South Carolina was projected to have the worst nursing shortage in the nation by the year 2030. She said that time is now, in 2021. Currently, DIS is experiencing an overall 35% vacancy rate. There is a 47% vacancy rate in nursing and a 36% vacancy rate for BHAs and CNAs positions. She talked about the challenges in planning the daily staffing and making adjustments when staff are out because of illnesses or other reasons. Dr. Bellamy acknowledged and commended the staff for their work despite the stressful challenges at this time. Staff continues to strive to provide the best care to the patients and make adjustments as necessary to ensure patient safety.
- Dr. Bellamy reported DIS has an overall 51% vaccination rate. DIS continues efforts to encourage increased vaccination participation.

Chairman Pearce asked if the vacancy rates include staffing of contract employees. Dr. Bellamy explained that a contract agency employee is not captured in the numbers. The numbers of temporary DMH employees are included.

Dr. Rogers stated that staffing issues, especially at Bryan, have affected the average daily census in the lodges. Lodge E was recently closed, which took about 30 beds offline. Capacity is at about 55%. If staffing becomes an increasing issue, additional beds will have to be removed offline to provide quality of service.

Chairman Pearce noted that Dr. Rogers recently worked at Bryan. On Monday, May 31, 2021, a state holiday, Dr. Rogers was MAPS certified and worked as a BHA at Bryan.

Forensic Waiting List

Dr. Bellamy presented the Forensic Waitlist report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. As of June 21, 2021, there is a total of 87 individuals on the Ready for Admission Waitlist. New orders for admission decreased slightly in June. Despite some COVID-related challenges, weekly admissions continued throughout the month. Waiting time for restoration admissions continues to trend downward, with a 25% decrease in waiting time from May 2021 to present. She reported a total of 21 patients in the Broad River Alternate Care Site.

Approval of Minutes of the Governing Body for Inpatient Facilities of April 14, 2021

Dr. Bellamy presented the April 14, 2021 quarterly Inpatient Facilities Governing Body Meeting minutes, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.

By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the Inpatient Facilities Governing Body minutes from the April 14, 2021 meeting.

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

Chairman Pearce thanked Dr. Bellamy and Ms. Blalock for their work and requested they convey the Commission's appreciation to their staff.

Dr. Bellamy thanked Dr. Levy for visiting Bryan facilities last month. She said the staff were very appreciative of his visit. Dr. Levy said it was time well spent and that he appreciated the opportunity; the doctors were very gracious of their time.

Dr. Bellamy announced Dr. Maxwell is scheduled to tour the facilities today following the Commission meeting.

Administrative Services

Mr. Cooner presented the Administrative Services report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. Below are highlights from his report.

- In response to Chairman Pearce's request from the June 4, 2021 Commission meeting, Mr. Cooner introduced Ms. Christal Yarbrough, IT Manager, Office of Network Information Technology (ONIT). Ms. Yarbrough has been responsible not only for ensuring that the agency enrolled in 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, but that the agency has benefited from the program since inception over \$4 million. The Commission welcomed Ms. Yarbrough and thanked her for her contributions to the agency. Ms. Yarbrough expressed appreciation for the words of affirmation and said she is fortunate to work with a very dedicated group of individuals.
- Mr. Cooner introduced Barry Lloyd, Director, ONIT. He said IT is responsible for a lot of what happens at the Agency in partnership with Community Services, Inpatient Services, Administrative Services, and other areas within the Department. IT is responsible for over \$100 million worth of billed earned revenue; all of the hardware, software, infrastructure network across the agency; and thousands of internal users on a daily basis. They are also responsible for inpatient and outpatient electronic medical records, which both serve as the backbone for the Agency's service delivery. Mr. Cooner thanked Mr. Lloyd for his leadership.
- DMH was allocated \$21.5 million from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The funds will be divided equally over a 4-year period, September 1, 2021 and ending September 30, 2025, in an effort to start programs that can be sustainable after the end of the project period. On June 18, 2021, DMH held a virtual stakeholder forum to receive input as DMH develops its proposal for the use of the ARPA funds. Approximately 40 stakeholders attended the virtual meeting. Two of the proposed allocations being discussed as priority include workforce development, which would be used for individuals who would like to get additional education and licensure opportunities; and workforce sustainability. The funding plan is due to SAMHSA by August 2, 2021.
- SAMHSA will conduct a financial compliance monitoring visit beginning on August 2, 2021.
- The FY22-23 Mental health Block Grant Application is due to SAMHSA on Wednesday, September 1, 2021.

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Pearce talked about Naomi Osaka, a 23 year old professional tennis player who has come out very strongly about mental health issues. Ms. Osaka received a lot of criticism for withdrawing from the French Open citing concerns for her mental health. He requested that if the Commission did not object, that the Commission's records reflect a statement that the Commission supports Ms. Osaka's speaking up for the importance of caring for your mental health, and encourage more people of national notoriety to speak out about their struggles to help break down stigma, spark

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 9, 2021

important discussions, and inspire people to seek treatment. He said the minutes of DMH are kept for perpetuity and are one of the archival documents that serves as written documentation of actions taken, and the Commission's support of or honoring occasions.

Ms. Haynes requested a report from the focus group which was appointed to assess current services and operations at Morris Village at next month's Commission meeting.

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:00 p.m., on a motion by Ms. Haynes, 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 12:50 p.m., it was noted that only information was received; no votes or actions were taken.

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members

L. Gregory Pearce, Jr., Chair	Mr. Bobby Mann
Ms. Louise Haynes, Vice Chair	Dr. Crystal Maxwell
Dr. Alison Evans	Mr. Bob Hiott
Dr. Elliott Levy	

Visitors/Staff

Deborah Blalock
Dr. Versie Bellamy
Stewart Cooner
Zina Hampton
Elizabeth Hutto

Visitors/Staff

Barry Lloyd
Paul Morris
Dr. Kenneth Rogers
Brett Williams
Crystal Yarbrough

present virtually via Zoom

Jennifer Alleyne
Robert Bank
Janet Bell
Carolina Biederman
Jackie Brown
Peter Camelo
Pete Creighton
Matthew Dorman
Kelly Gothard

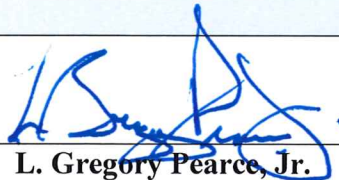
present virtually via Zoom

Jill Gran
Elizabeth Harmon
Maryjane Hicks
Louise Johnson
Tracy LaPointe
Bill Lindsay
Sarah Main
Eleanor Odom-Martin
Valarie Perkins

present virtually via Zoom

Jocelyn Piccone
Lynelle Reavis
Kimberly Rudd
Lynn Scombordi
Stuart Shields
Tamara Smith
Keith Spates
Lindsay Walker
Noelle Wriston

APPROVALS



L. Gregory Pearce, Jr.
Chair



Kim Ballentine
Recording Secretary

