

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SCDMH Administration
2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201
September 10, 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, September 10, 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 Pearce called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Chaplain Daniel Loffredo, provided the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Chairman Pearce welcomed everyone. Visitors present virtually via Zoom were: Wendy Arndt Holmquist and Susan von Schenk, Capital Information Affiliates (CIA); Gail Cordial, Director, Policy & Gov't Relations, Alkermes, Inc., Elizabeth Harmon, SCHA – SC Behavioral Health Coalition; Zak Koeske, The State; Jessica Lawson, RN, Spartanburg VA Clinic; Bill Lindsay, Executive Director, and Lynn Scombordi, NAMI SC; Isabella McElveen, Bloom Mental Health; and Jocelyn Piccone, Executive Director, Liberty Healthcare Corporation.

RECOGNITION OF FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY GRADUATES

Along with Chairman Pearce, Dr. Levy, Dr. Rogers, Dr. Samantha Horsley, Chief Psychologist, DMH Forensic Evaluation Services Department, and Dr. Kelly Gothard, Forensics Services Director, recognized and congratulated two Forensic Psychology Graduates. Jacqueline R. Dye, Psy.D., and Victoria E. Hauth, Psy.D., The graduates were presented certificates of completion in the SC Department of Mental Health Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology. Both graduates have accepted full time positions with the DMH Forensic Evaluation Services Department.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGAL DEPARTMENT

Ms. Elizabeth Hutto, General Counsel, introduced the following staff members from the Legal Department:

R. Alexander Pate, II, J.D., Staff Counsel, Ebony Prioleau, J.D., Staff Counsel, Logan Royals, J.D., Staff Counsel, and Charice Jones, MSN, RN, Interim Risk Manager. Each person talked briefly about their area of expertise. Not present was Rochelle Caton, J.D., Patient Advocate and Legislative Liaison.

MOMENT OF COMMEMORATING 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF DMH

Chairman Pearce deferred the moment of commemorating the 200th anniversary of DMH until the October 1, 2021 Commission meeting.

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.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the minutes from the Center Presentation of August 6, 2021 and the Commission Business Meeting of August 6, 2021.

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

APPROVAL OF 2022 COMMISSION MEETING DATES

By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the 2022 Commission Meeting dates with the understanding that the COVID-19 pandemic presents challenges and adjustments may be made accordingly.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Kenneth Rogers reported the following:

- Dr. Rogers attended the ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, September 8, 2021, to celebrate the completion of the Veteran Village Nursing Home in Florence, S.C. He commended Ken Roey and team for their outstanding work on the project.
- President Biden's Administration is mandating the COVID-19 vaccination of staff within all Medicare and Medicaid-certified facilities across the country. DMH's Legal Department continues to monitor how that will impact the agency.
- Staffing continues to be an issue across the entire agency, but especially in the clinical areas.
- In an effort to retain staff, the Department is providing a 2% salary increase for staff members in good standing in terms of evaluations. The Department is also looking at providing focused bonuses and increases across the agency for critical areas.
- Dr. Rogers commended members of the Integrated Care Workgroup for their good work. Through their efforts, the Department was awarded a grant from Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of \$450,000 a year for five years. The grant will help fund efforts focused on pediatric integrated mental health care in the Aiken-Barnwell area.
- A listening session was held on August 18, 2021 at Bryan Psychiatric Hospital to get direct feedback from staff on what is happening in the facilities and to hear about frontline experiences. Two more sessions are scheduled in September and October.
- Mr. Troy Chisolm has joined DIS in a temporary position as a consultant to look at the structure and function within DIS as well as the environment of care and long-term projections.

MONTHLY/QUARTERLY INFORMATION REPORTS

Ms. 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 August 2021 a total of five pending cases for the Office of Public Safety.

Ms. Hutto reported that as of late last week there were 16 pending SLED investigations. One case was assigned to SLED; 11 cases were assigned to Long-term Care Ombudsman Office, of which the oldest is from February 2020; two

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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.

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

- 59 calls to patient advocacy in July; a total of 382 year to date.
- 57 complaints were resolved in July; a total of 501 complaints have been resolved year to date.
- The number of complaints by category resolved in July is 66 (*complaints are broken out by category, a single patient complaint may have more than one category*).

Ms. Hutto talked about the training process for new patient advocates.

- Every complaint is important to that person who is making that complaint.
- Whether a specific allegation is true or false is not the end of the inquiry.
- If a patient is frustrated or upset about an issue, the patient advocate should actively listen and validate the person's feelings because unless that person feels heard they are not going to concentrate on their treatment and their wellbeing.

Ms. Hutto shared four complaints illustrating the concept of the importance of the patient advocate to the process. Names were changed to protect the patients' identity.

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Financial Status Update

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

- As of July 31, 2021, the first month of the new fiscal year, the Department is projected to end FY22 with a balance of \$5.3 million. Chairman Pearce noted that the balance includes funding from non-recurring funds and adds a total of \$13 million of supplemental funding to the balance. Without the supplemental funding, the bottom line would be a negative \$7.7 million.
- Future financial statements will show a slight increase in revenues to account for the monies from the General Assembly for the 2.5% salary increase for state employees. The Department must fund the 2.5% salary increase of eligible employees' salaries that are funded through other means, such as earned revenue, grants or federal funds. Expenditures will reflect the full impact of all employees receiving the 2.5% increase.
- It is anticipated that the Department will use onetime funds to offset any shortfall in the budget.
- As of July 2021, the Department has been granted 25 competitive and 2 non-competitive grants totaling over \$88 million. Mr. Cooner noted the Department is receiving a significant amount of federal money, almost double the amount received three years ago. He also noted six federal grants are pending award status for over \$14 million.
- There was discussion on grant writing and staff who write the grants. Chairman Pearce noted that he would like to invite the grant writers to the October Commission meeting to introduce themselves and talk briefly about their work.
- Chairman Pearce asked Mr. Cooner to define State Disproportionate Share (DSN). Mr. Cooner explained that hospitals that serve Medicaid and uninsured patients receive payments from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare services offset some of the costs of providing care to uninsured patients.

Issue Action Paper (IAP) – Approval of Increase in DIS Daily Patient Charge Rates Effective October 1, 2021

On behalf of Mr. Morris, Mr. Cooner presented an IAP requesting Commission approval to increase the daily patient charge rate for residents of the DMH inpatient facilities as summarized below, to be effective October 1, 2021 and the approval to establish rates for the new VA nursing homes, Florence's Veteran Village State Veterans Home and Gaffney's Palmetto Patriots Home.

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Nursing Facilities	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
C.M. Tucker Nursing Care Center/Stone	\$362	\$394
C.M. Tucker Nursing Care Center/Roddey	\$403	\$463
Richard M. Campbell Veterans Nursing Home	\$218	\$268
Veterans Victory House	\$232	\$308
Veteran Village State Veterans Home-Florence	N/A	\$535
Palmetto Patriots Home-Gaffney	N/A	\$535
Psychiatric Hospitals		
G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital/Acute	\$601	\$750
William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute	\$1,231	\$1,250
G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital/Forensic	\$413	\$600
Patrick B. Harris Psychiatric Hospital	\$635	\$700
Earle E. Morris, Jr. A&D Treatment Center	\$448	\$450
Sexually Violent Predator Treatment Program	\$227	\$250

Following discussion, by motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the proposed rates as presented.

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

Approval of FY23 Budget Request

On behalf of Mr. Morris, Mr. Conner presented the proposed FY23 budget request, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. At Chairman Pearce's request, Mr. Cooner explained the budget request process through final approval by the Legislature.

Following discussion, by motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved a first reading of the proposed FY23 budget. A called meeting of the Commission will be scheduled to approve the proposed FY23 budget request prior to the deadline of September 24, 2021.

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

Community Mental Health Services

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

- Three of the nine RVs for the Highway to Hope (H2H) Mobile Response are now on the road and operating. They are located at the Waccamaw Mental Health Center, Pee Dee Mental Health Center, and Tri County Mental Health Center. The Department received a no cost extension on the grant that will extend to September 30, 2022.
- There are two provisos in the budget that provide DMH one-time funding to reimburse detention centers throughout the state for the administration of long acting injectables. The program is up and running. Many of the detention centers around the state have signed contracts with DMH for the reimbursement.
- Mobile crisis response to detention centers is active. A detention center that has a contract with any provider to provide mental health care during the day should contact that provider first if someone is experiencing a mental health crisis. If a detention center does not have a contract with a provider and someone is experiencing a mental health crisis, the detention center will administer the jail mental health screening and call mobile crisis for response. The service is available 24/7.
- The SC Hopes call center has served 3,709 callers since inception on June 1, 2020. SAMHSA awarded the Department a no cost extension on the grant that will extend the services of SC Hopes to May 22, 2022.
- In an effort to motivate employees to exceed performance expectations in patient care hours, a staff person who exceeds their patient care hours by 5% over a quarter will be eligible to receive a \$250 bonus.

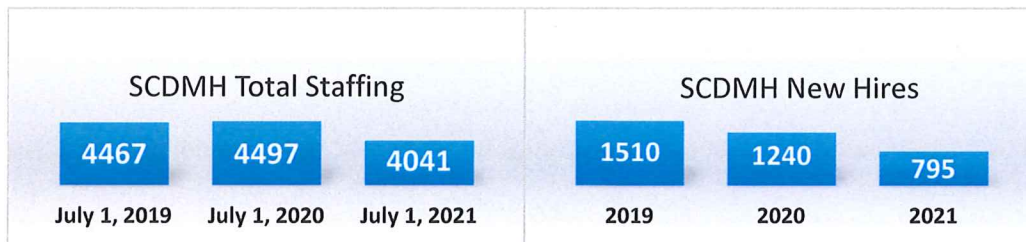
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- Most of the centers were at 80% to 100% for face to face service delivery to patients, however, the surge in COVID-19 cases related to the Delta variant is affecting the service delivery across the mental health centers outpatients systems.
- On September 17, 2021, Angie Salley will begin her responsibilities as the executive director of the Coastal Empire Community Mental Health Center (CEMHC). Ms. Blalock expressed appreciation to Mr. Matthew Dorman who served as the interim executive director as well as continued his responsibilities as executive director at Berkeley County Mental Health Center. Ms. Salley will be introduced to the Commission at the October business meeting.
- Staffing continues to be a challenge. Ms. Blalock described Community Mental Health Services as being unstable because of the staffing challenges.
- Ms. Blalock presented the CMHS Trends and Transparency Monthly Indicators (TMI) spreadsheets, copies of which had been provided to the Commission

HR Report

Ms. Zina Hampton reported the following:

- In response to Chairman Pearce’s question about the number of grant funded positions, Ms. Hampton reported a total of 141. There are a total of 29 positions which are fully funded by grants.
- Ms. Hampton presented two charts to illustrate the correlation between the number of total staffing and the number of new hires 2019 through 2021:



- Ms. Hampton said the pandemic has negatively impacted recruiting efforts. She said DMH needs to market what we do so that people will want to be a part of what we are about.
- There was discussion about tuition assistance and funding for educational development and professional licensure for staff which could encourage staff to want to stay with the agency. David Diana, Community Education and Outreach Director at the Charleston-Dorchester Mental Health Center, will lead the agency in marketing efforts to get the message out that DMH is here and provides quality mental health care.

Chairman Pearce commended Ms. Hampton for the great job she is doing with her new responsibilities.

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:

- For the month of August, COVID conditions in Forensics deteriorated significantly along with the rise of community transmissions. Three units were on quarantine status for most of the month, and one unit was on quarantine status for the entire month. As of today there is a total of 83 on the forensic ready for admission waitlist.
- Planning has continued for the jail-based restoration pilot project. It is anticipated implementation of restoration services will begin next month.
- DIS has implemented an Employee Referral and Sign-On Bonus Program with monetary bonus pay awards effective September 2, 2021.

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- DIS continues efforts to encourage increased vaccination participation. The federal mandate that health facilities that receive federal Medicare or Medicaid will have to be fully vaccinated will have an impact on DIS facilities.
- There was discussion on tracking employee COVID-19 positives, the process for screening for COVID-19 and the protocol for when an employee is tested positive. Dr. Bellamy reported DIS provides a daily COVID report on DIS staff at the Inpatient and the Long Term Care Facilities to Human Resources. In place are the recommended safety measures in accordance with CDC and DHEC guidelines which includes screening employees and anyone who enters the facilities.
- DIS is able to access monoclonal antibodies treatment for COVID-19 treatments through a partnership with local hospitals.
- The *Dr. Versie J. Bellamy Learning Center* will have its first patient at the center next week.
- The Joint Commission conducted a triennial survey at Patrick B. Harris Psychiatric Hospital on August 10-13, 2021.

Approval of Minutes of the Governing Body for Inpatient Facilities of July 21, 2021

Dr. Bellamy presented the July 21, 2021 quarterly Inpatient Facilities Governing Body Meeting minutes, copies of which has been provided to the Commission. There was discussion on the increased number of staff injuries.

Following discussion, by motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the Inpatient Facilities Governing Body minutes from the July 21, 2021 meeting.

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

Administrative Services

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

- The SAMHSA financial compliance monitoring visit related to the Mental Health Block Grant was concluded on August 6, 2021. DMH is awaiting the final report.
- DMH was awarded one-time funding of \$739,000 through SAMHSA from the American Rescue Plan Act for the period of September 1, 2021 – September 30, 2025. The funds are a special appropriation and can be used for allowable COVID-19 testing and mitigation activities. DMH has submitted a proposal to SAMHSA requesting approval for use. The due date to submit proposals is October 1, 2021.

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

In preparation for the upcoming legislative year, Chairman Pearce requested DMH staff develop a list of DMH priorities that the Commission members can advocate for as they are in their communities. Dr. Rogers said he will ask Mark Binkley, Director, Governmental and Legislative Affairs, to prepare the document.

Chairman Pearce announced the next scheduled meeting of the SC SHaPE Task Force is on Friday, September 17, 2021. He stated that he has requested that the Mental Health Commission and DMH Senior Management have an opportunity to review any report involving the future of DMH before a final report is presented to anyone.

Chairman Pearce recounted his family's personal experience with COVID-19. He urged everyone to encourage others to get the vaccine to help fight the pandemic.

There were no public comments.

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ADJOURNMENT

At 12:40 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Hiott, seconded by Dr. Levy, the Commission adjourned the Business Meeting and entered into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter and to finalize the State Director's Planning Stage for FY2021-22. Upon convening in open session at 1:25 p.m., Chairman Pearce reported that by motion duly made seconded, and unanimously carried the Commission approved the State Director's Planning Stage document for FY2021-22.

The meeting was adjourned.

ATTENDANCE

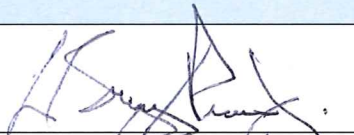
Commission Members

L. Gregory Pearce, Jr., Chair	Mr. Bob Hiott
Dr. Elliott Levy, Vice Chair	Mr. Bobby Mann
Dr. Alison Evans (<i>virtually via Zoom</i>)	Dr. Crystal Maxwell


Visitors/Staff

	<u><i>present virtually via Zoom</i></u>	<u><i>present virtually via Zoom</i></u>	<u><i>present virtually via Zoom</i></u>
Dr. Versie Bellamy	Dr. Robert Bank	Elizabeth Harmon	Stephen Pullie
Stewart Cooner	Janet Bell	Kyle Herbert	Lynelle Reavis
Dr. Jacqueline Dye	Mark Binkley	Maryjane Hicks	Vicki Redding
Dr. Kelly Gothard	Julie Bonnette	Wendy Holmquist	Shawnta Reeder-Locks
Dr. Samantha Horsley	Pat Bresnan	Robin Jacobs	Angie Salley
Dr. Victoria Hauth	Jacqueline Brown	Zak Koeske	Lynn Scombordi
Elizabeth Hutto	Richard Brown	Grace Lambert	Natashia Smith
Charice Jones	Peter Camelo	Tracy LaPointe	Jessica Suber
Chaplain Daniel Loffredo	Troy Chisolm	Jessica Lawson	Eric Turner
Alexander Pate	Gail Cordial	Bill Lindsay	Susan von Schenk
Ebony Prioleau	Pete Creighton	Sarah Main	Lindsay Walker
Dr. Kenneth Rogers	Matthew Dorman	Eleanor Odom Martin	Bryant Williams
Logan Royals	Dr. Eve Fields	Isabella McElveen	Roger Williams
Brett Williams	Jeffery Ham	Valarie Perkins	
	Dr. Patricia Handley	Jocelyn Piccone	

APPROVALS



L. Gregory Pearce, Jr.
Chair



Kim Ballentine
Recording Secretary

