

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SCDMH Administration
2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201
October 1, 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, October 1, 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: Jill Gran, Associate Director, State Government Affairs & Advocacy, Princeton, NJ; Wendy Arndt Holmquist and Susan von Schenk, Capital Information Affiliates (CIA); Zak Koeske, The State; Bill Lindsay, Executive Director, NAMI SC; Jocelyn Piccone, Executive Director, Liberty Healthcare Corporation; and Keith Spates, Beacon Health Options.

INTRODUCTION OF GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Paul Morris, Chief Financial Officer, introduced the following staff members from Grants Administration: Katie Tilman, Director of Grants Administration; Andrew Fowler, Accountant/Fiscal Analyst III; Liza Duncan, Accountant/Fiscal Analyst III; and Pekeetia Barbour, Accountant/Fiscal Analyst II. Each person talked briefly about their area of expertise.

MOMENT OF COMMEMORATING 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF DMH

Chairman Pearce said that in 1827 legislation passed to begin operation of the S.C. Lunatic Asylum. It was also in 1827 when the legislature dismissed the board of commissioners and elected nine regents, most of which were from the Columbia area, to manage the hospital's operating plan. The Regents Board's first task was the staffing of the S.C. Lunatic Asylum, which was decided as follows: visiting physician or medical officer; resident assistant physician; superintendent, who managed the internal affairs; matron to oversee the care of the females; keepers, which were the behavioral health assistants of the 1820s; and servants. Over the years different titles were given to the leader of the asylum: superintendent, facility director, CEO, etc. Mr. William Hilliard was the first superintendent to lead the operation of the asylum. The Board of Regents hired Dr. James Davis as the first visiting physician or chief medical officer. Dr. Davis was also involved in getting the hospital built. He became ill and resigned in 1835. Dr. Daniel Trezevant, who was the head of the Board of Regents, succeeded Dr. Davis as the Chief Medical Officer. The position of resident assistant physician remained vacant for two years. It wasn't until 1836 when funds were available that Dr. Trezevant hired Dr. John W. Parker as the first resident assistant physician, and he was also given the title of superintendent.

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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PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION

Chairman Pearce and Dr. Rogers presented a resolution from the Commission to Mr. Robert (Bobby) Morgan, Director of Veterans Services and Stone Nursing Home Administrator, upon his retirement. Mr. Morgan's 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 Robert Morgan; 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: Mr. Morgan has embodied the Mission of the Department of Mental Health, to support the recovery of people with mental illnesses, and improved the lives of individuals living with mental illness by serving in increasingly more responsible roles: beginning in the Agency's Division of Reimbursement, later in the Office of Internal Audit, and since 2010, serving as administrator of Stone Veterans Nursing Home and director of Veterans Affairs in the Division of Inpatient Services; and

Whereas: Under his leadership, Stone has maintained a 5-star rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services since 2019, and he has played a major role in the development of the Agency's two newest veterans nursing homes, Palmetto Patriots Home and Veteran Village; and

Whereas: The South Carolina Mental Health Commission and the State Director of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health recognize Mr. Morgan for his 28 years of service to the Agency, not only for his distinguished service to those in the care of the Department, but also his dedication to building effective, supportive resources and environments for those the SCDMH will serve in the future;

Now, therefore: We express our profound appreciation to Mr. Morgan for his dedicated service to those living with mental illness and our nation's veterans, and his invaluable service to the South Carolina Department of Mental Health; offer him 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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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the minutes from the Commission Business Meeting of September 10, 2021 and the Called Commission Meeting of September 20, 2021.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Kenneth Rogers reported the following:

- A second listening session was held on September 21, 2021 at Bryan Psychiatric Hospital. A third session is scheduled on October 20, 2021. A listening session will be scheduled at Patrick B. Harris Psychiatric Hospital in the near future. He expressed appreciation to Dr. Bellamy, Ms. Zina Hampton, Ms. Janet Bell, and Mr. Troy

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Chisolm for their assistance with the listening sessions. Dr. Rogers noted that employees also had opportunity to share concerns privately at the conclusion of the session.

- The Department is preparing for President Biden's COVID workplace mandate that requires staff within all Medicare and Medicaid-certified facilities across the country are vaccinated. The Department is also looking at ways to track individual vaccine status.
- Dr. Rogers gave a presentation on mental health issues and poverty at the Southeastern Association of Community Action Agencies Poverty Symposium on September 14, 2021 at Myrtle Beach.
- Christian Barnes Young, Assistant Deputy Director, Community Mental Health Services, has announced his resignation from DMH. He has accepted a position with the S.C. Department of Disabilities and Special Needs.
- Dr. Rogers was elected to serve on the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) Board as the Regional Representative for the Southern Region at the NASMHPD Annual 2021 Meeting, which was held virtually September 9 through September 15. On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Pearce congratulated Dr. Rogers on his election to the Board.

Chairman Pearce congratulated Ms. Jennifer Butler, Director of the Office of Suicide Prevention, upon being awarded the state's highest civilian award, the Governor's Order of the Silver Crescent, during the South Carolina Suicide Prevention Coalition meeting on September 22, 2021.

Chairman Pearce announced Michele Frye has been selected as the next director at the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN). She will begin her new responsibilities on October 11, 2021.

Chairman Pearce announced SHaPE SC Task Force will hold its last meeting on Tuesday, October 19, 2021.

MONTHLY/QUARTERLY INFORMATION REPORTS

Ms. Elizabeth Hutto, General Counsel, 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 September 2021 a total of five pending cases for the Office of Public Safety.

Ms. Hutto reported a total of 18 pending SLED investigations. Three cases were assigned to SLED, of which the oldest is from August 2019; ten 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) and has to do with access to a doctor.

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

- 42 calls to patient advocacy in August; a total of 424 year to date.
- 69 complaints were resolved in August; a total of 570 complaints have been resolved year to date.
- The number of complaints by category resolved in August is 87 (*complaints are broken out by category, a single patient complaint may have more than one category*).

Ms. Hutto said the highest number of complaints has to do with treatment. A total of 247 complaints regarding treatment services have been received for the year.

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DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Financial Status Update

Mr. Morris presented the monthly financial report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. As of August 31, 2021, the Department is projected to end FY22 with a balance of \$5.2 million.

Mr. Morris reported the Department's revenue cycle process from admissions to the final billing and collections is under review by a revenue cycle management consultant. He anticipates providing a summary of the report at the December Commission meeting.

Grants Administration is working on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) required reporting to substantiate health care related expenses or lost revenues attributable to COVID-19.

Chairman Pearce commended Mr. Morris for his exceptional work on the FY23 budget request.

At this point in the meeting, Dr. Evans left the meeting in person and joined via Zoom.

HR Report

Ms. Zina Hampton, Chief Human Resources Officer, presented data on the positive number of COVID-19 cases among DMH staff for December 9, 2020 through June 18, 2021 and data on COVID-19 related leave December 2020 through September 2021, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. The leave data reported include staff that were on leave due to being isolated or quarantined for COVID-19.

Community Mental Health Services

On behalf of Ms. Deborah Blalock, Mr. Christian Barnes-Young, Assistant Deputy Director, presented the Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) report. Below are highlights from the report:

- Mr. Barnes-Young expressed appreciation for the partnership between Community Mental Health Services and Grants Administration.
- Mr. Barnes-Young introduced Ms. Angie Salley, who was present virtually via Zoom. Ms. Salley began her responsibilities as the executive director of the Coastal Empire Community Mental Health Center (CEMHC) on September 17, 2021.
- Board Training 2021 will be conducted on Friday, October 15 via Zoom.
- Staffing remains a big challenge.
- The 2021 Patient Satisfaction Survey is complete. Ms. Blalock will highlight the results of the survey at the November Commission business meeting.
- Mr. Barnes-Young presented the CMHS Trends and Transparency Monthly Indicators (TMI) spreadsheets, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.
- Mr. Barnes-Young announced that he has accepted a position at DDSN and will begin his new responsibilities there as Director of Community Operations and Behavioral Health on October 18, 2021. Chairman Pearce thanked Mr. Barnes-Young for his caring and wonderful service at DMH.

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:

- COVID-19 Taskforce, chaired by Dr. Robert Breen, continues to meet weekly.
- Vaccinations of immunocompromised staff and patients began immediately when allowed by the FDA/CDC.
- Successful efforts to get more of the patients vaccinated have helped to limit the number of COVID cases among patients.

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- Dr. Bellamy distributed to the Commissioners a copy of the SCDMH Division of Inpatient Services – Facility COVID Positives Update dated Thursday, September 30, 2021. A copy of the report is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director. The report is generated daily and is shared with Human Resources. The tracking gives some perspective in terms of positive cases versus those who are out on quarantine due to COVID-19.
- The August 2021 overall average daily census (ADC) represents a numerical decrease of 296 or 23% as compared to the overall ADC for February 2020.
- Dr. Bellamy reported August 2021 waitlists as follows: Bryan Adult – 103; Forensics – 80; Hall – 0; Harris – 8; Morris Village – 191; Victory House – 12; Stone – 9; Campbell – 16; and Roddey – 30.
- In September COVID conditions continued to challenge all aspects of operation within the forensic facility. All units were on quarantine for at least half of the month due to COVID-19 exposure. Admissions continued at a slower pace in order to support additional safety measures to prevent the spread of COVID and maintain patient safety. Despite the challenges, the waitlist has remained stable.
- Planning continues towards finalizing the implementation plans for the jail-based restoration pilot project at the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center. Additional staffing resources are being secured and final arrangements are being made in order to support the project roll out.

Administrative Services

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

- Mr. Cooner expressed appreciation to Grants Administration for their teamwork and collaborative efforts throughout the entire Department with the grants applications process.
- On April 30, 2021, DMH applied to the FCC COVID-19 Telehealth Program for reimbursement of approximately \$300,000 on equipment and other uses to support deployment of telehealth during COVID-19. The application is still pending.
- On October 1, 2021, DMH will submit a proposal to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) requesting approval for use of one-time funding of \$739,000 over a four year period, September 1, 2021 – September 30, 2025, for allowable COVID-19 testing and mitigation activities.
- The DMH Emergency Department Telepsychiatry Program (EDTP) currently serves 24 emergency departments across the state. Upon completion of contract negotiations, the number of emergency departments served by EDTP will increase to 28.
- Dr. Meera N. Narasimhan, Professor of Psychiatry and Chair in the Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of South Carolina, submitted an article that features the DMH Emergency Department Telepsychiatry Program in the magazine, *Psychiatry in the Digital Age*.
- The 9th Annual Telehealth Summit of South Carolina, hosted by Palmetto Care Connections, is scheduled on November 9-10, 2021. The event will be held virtually. Commissioners interested in joining the event should contact Mr. Cooner or Dr. Rogers.

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Pearce announced Governor McMaster has approved Dr. Carl Jones to fill the vacancy in Congressional District 6 on the SC Mental Health Commission, pending advice and consent of the Senate. Dr. Jones is a former employee of DMH from years ago and is now retired. Mr. Hiott continues to represent Congressional District 3 for term expired on March 21, 2021; Mr. Mann is representing Congressional District 4 for term to expire on March 21, 2022; and Chairman Pearce is representing Congressional District 2 for term to expire on March 21, 2022.

There were no public comments.

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ADJOURNMENT

At 12:05 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Mann, and seconded by Dr. Levy, the Commission adjourned the Business Meeting and entered into Executive Session to receive legal advice concerning potential litigation. Upon convening in open session at 12:20 p.m., Chairman Pearce noted that only information was received; no votes or actions were taken.

ATTENDANCE

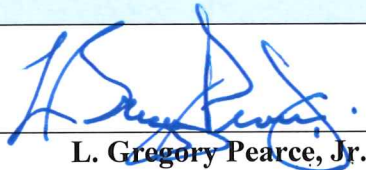
Commission Members

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


Visitors/Staff

	<u>present virtually via Zoom</u>	<u>present virtually via Zoom</u>	<u>present virtually via Zoom</u>
Pekeetia Barbour	Dr. Robert Bank	Jill Gran	Angie Salley
Christian Barnes-Young	Janet Bell	Jeffery Ham	Stuart Shiels
Dr. Versie Bellamy	Mark Binkley	Wendy Holmquist	Keith Spates
Stewart Cooner	Julie Bonnette	Charice Jones	Irene Thornley
Liza Duncan	Pat Bresnan	Zak Koeske	Susan von Schenk
Andrew Fowler	Sharon Brown	Grace Lambert	
Zina Hampton	Mirtha Brown	Tracy LaPointe	
Elizabeth Hutto	Jacqueline Brown	Bill Lindsay	
Chaplain Daniel Loffredo	Peter Camelo	Patrice Lloyd	
Robert Morgan	Leigh Ann Chmura	Stacy Mathis	
Paul Morris	Carrie Davis	Denise Morgan	
Dr. Kenneth Rogers	Matthew Dorman	Valarie Perkins	
Katie Tilman	Dr. Eve Fields	Jocelyn Piccone	
Brett Williams	Victoria Gooch	Lynelle Reavis	
	Dr. Kelly Gothard	Dr. Kimberly Rudd	

APPROVALS



L. Gregory Pearce, Jr.
Chair



Kim Ballentine
Recording Secretary