

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SCDMH Administration
2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201
April 1, 2022

A Business Meeting of the S.C. Mental Health Commission was held in Room 323 at the S.C. Department of Mental Health Administration Building on Friday, April 1, 2022, 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 10:40 a.m. Chaplain James Stokes, D. Min., provided the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Chairman Pearce welcomed everyone. Visitors present virtually were: Beth Franco, Executive Director, Disability Rights South Carolina; Bill Lindsay, Executive Director, NAMI SC; Laura Nelson, Mercer; and Susan von Schenk, Capital Information Affiliates (CIA). Candace Lucas, Community Outreach Advocate, Welvista, was also present, in person.

Chairman Pearce welcomed new Commission member Dr. Carl Jones. Dr. Jones represents the sixth Congressional district.

INTRODUCTION OF PHYSICAL PLANT SERVICES

Dr. Rogers introduced Mr. Brandon Gaffney, Assistant Deputy Director, Administrative Services. Mr. Gaffney introduced the following staff members from Physical Plant Services: Pete Creighton, Engineer Associate IV, Director of Physical Plant Services; Dan Paxton, Engineer Associate III, Project Manager (VA and Community Centers); Mike Wiltshire, Program Manager I, Maintenance Manager; and Tracy Miley, Program Coordinator II, Vehicle Management Manager. Each person talked about their area of expertise.

MOMENT OF COMMEMORATING 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF DMH

Chairman Pearce talked about political leadership for efforts in mental health. Dr. James Woods Babcock was superintendent of the lunatic asylum when Benjamin Ryan Tillman was Governor of South Carolina (1890-1894). Coleman Livingston Blease was Governor from 1911 to 1915. Governor Blease appointed someone else as superintendent, who only lasted a couple of months in that role. Richard Irvine Manning was Governor from 1915-1919. Governor Manning had a heart for the mentally ill. He appointed Dr. Charles Frederick Williams as superintendent of the lunatic asylum. Dr. Williams was a general practitioner in Columbia and a revered and honorable man. He consulted with Dr. Clifford Beers, a national leader in mental health who launched one of the earliest client-advocate health reform movements in the United States, and brought in a group from Maryland that was very active in mental health reform. Beginning in 1916 Governor Manning instituted the major reforms at the hospital and the focus was more on caring for patients and less for the politics of building buildings and managing money. Mechanical restraints were done away with and hydrotherapy was introduced as a means of calming restless patients.

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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SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Special Recognition – Mr. Stuart Shields

Chairman Pearce and Dr. Rogers presented a resolution from the Commission to Mr. Stuart Shields, Chief Executive Officer, G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital, upon his retirement. Mr. Shields' 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 Stuart J. Shields; and

Whereas: Mental health is critical to the well-being and vitality of all South Carolinians; and

Whereas: Mr. Shields has improved the lives of individuals living with mental illness, by serving in various roles during his career, including clinic director at Beckman Center for Mental Health Services and Columbia Area Mental Health Center, assistant director and executive director of Pee Dee Mental Health Center, and hospital director of G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital; and

Whereas: Mr. Shields ensured safe work environments for staff and the highest level of care for patients by following protocols, policies, and agency standards, and by promoting programs and services catered to specific patient needs; and

Whereas: The South Carolina Mental Health Commission and the State Director of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health recognize Mr. Shields not only for his distinguished eight years of service as hospital director of G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital, but also for his dedicated 34-year career at the South Carolina Department of Mental Health.

Now, therefore: We express our profound appreciation to Mr. Shields for his dedicated service to the mentally ill 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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Special Recognition – Commissioner Robert (Bob) E. Hiott, Jr.

Chairman Pearce recognized Commissioner Robert (Bob) E. Hiott, Jr. for his service as a Commission member since 2015. Chairman Pearce and Dr. Rogers presented a resolution from the Commission to Commissioner Hiott. 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 completion of the Commission term of Robert E. Hiott, Jr.; and

Whereas: Mental health is critical to the well-being and vitality of all South Carolinians; and

Whereas: Mental illness affects people regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion or economic status; and

Whereas: Mr. Hiott has embodied the Mission of the Department of Mental Health, to support the recovery of people with mental illnesses, having generously given his time and talents not only to the SC Mental Health Commission, but also to a career of service in the field of substance use disorder treatment, as: executive director of Behavioral Health Services of Pickens County, a member of the South Carolina Behavioral Health Services Association and its Treatment Services Committee, and a member of the Pickens County Prescription Drug Abuse Alliance; and

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Whereas: The South Carolina Mental Health Commission and the State Director of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health recognize Mr. Hiott for his distinguished and conscientious service as a Commission member since 2015; and

Whereas: The service of Mr. Hiott has improved the lives of individuals living with mental illness;

Now, therefore: We express our profound appreciation to Mr. Hiott for his remarkable service to the mentally ill 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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On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Pearce presented Mr. Hiott with the "Order of the Brick" award in appreciation of his dedicated service to the S.C. Mental Health Commission.

Special Recognition – Dr. William Powell

Ms. Deborah Blalock expressed appreciation to Dr. Powell for his service and dedication with the Department for 50 years. Dr. Powell was Center Director at the Spartanburg Community Mental Health Center for 40 years.

Dr. Robert Bank recognized Dr. Powell for his years of service and presented him with a Certificate of 50 Years of Service and a 50-year service award pin.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Pearce presented Dr. Powell with the "Order of the Brick" award in appreciation of his dedicated service to the S.C. Department of Mental Health 1977-2021.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the minutes from the Commission Business Meeting of March 4, 2022.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Kenneth Rogers reported the following:

- DMH leadership is working closely with the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Resources (HHS) and the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice on the development of a new psychiatric residential treatment facility (PRTF). The PRTF will be located on the Crafts Farrow Campus and will serve the subclass juveniles at DJJ and expand the work in child mental health. On March 30, 2022, DMH leadership met with the architect to develop the vision for the new PRTF.
- DMH leadership continues to have conversations with State HR on salary initiatives and how to improve staff salaries.
- Senate Bill S2, Behavioral and Public Health, was read the third time in the Senate and sent to the House on March 17, 2022.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION UPDATE

Ms. Janet Bell, Director, Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (ODEI), presented an update on the ODEI, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. Ms. Bell announced that April is Diversity Month. To celebrate diversity, the ODEI is sponsoring a Diversity Month Celebration on April 29, 2022. This celebration will focus on connecting the

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work of ODEI with DMH’s mission, to support the recovery of people with mental illnesses. A moment of silence will be observed during the celebration to raise awareness on diversity. Celebrations will include a keynote speaker at noon (via Zoom), a variety of food trucks at facilities and centers around the state during the lunch hour, and afternoon drawings for prizes. Ms. Bell encouraged everyone to join the celebration.

Dr. Jones expressed appreciation for the Department’s efforts being made on raising awareness of diversity and inclusion. He said that it is important to have a culturally competent workforce to effectively serve the citizens across the state. He also referred to the Employee Engagement and Satisfaction Survey. The survey results indicate that a majority of the staff enjoy their work. An employee affinity group could be a valuable resource to help with recruitment and retention of employees. Ms. Bell stated that she and Ms. Zina Hampton, Chief Human Resources Officer, are in collaboration on the matter.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Rochelle Caton, Director of Patient Advocacy and Legislative Liaison for DMH, presented the March 23, 2022 publication of the *Legislative News*, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. Following are highlights from her report:

- S 659 – Sexually Violent Predator Program: the bill received a favorable report with amendment from the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 16, 2022. The bill has passed over from the Senate to the House and referred to the House Judiciary Committee.
- H 3773 – Restoration Treatment: this bill is on the Senate Floor waiting for a second reading.
- H 4997 – State Veterans Nursing Homes: the bill is on the House Floor pending debate.
- S 2 – Behavioral and Public Health: this bill was sent from the Senate to the House on March 16, 2022 has been assigned to the House Ways and Means Committee.

MONTHLY/QUARTERLY INFORMATION REPORTS

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

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

- 96 calls to patient advocacy in February; a total of 179 year to date.
- 73 complaints were resolved in February; a total of 139 complaints have been resolved year to date.

The number of complaints by category resolved in February is 180 (*complaints are broken out by category, a single patient complaint may have more than one category*).

Ms. Caton reported for the month of March 2022 a total of two pending cases for the Office of Public Safety.

Ms. Caton reported a total of 20 pending SLED investigations. One case was assigned to SLED; 17 cases were assigned to Long-term Care Ombudsman Office; one case was assigned to local law enforcement; and one case was assigned to the DMH SVP advocate.

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Administrative Services & Financial Status Update

Mr. Morris, Deputy Director, Administrative Services, and CFO presented the monthly financial report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission, and Administrative Services report. Following are highlights from the report:

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Financial Status Update

- The February 28, 2022 financial report projects a balance of \$20.8 million for fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. Mr. Morris noted that the prior month fiscal year ending projection was \$13.3 million. He explained that the pandemic and staffing challenges have impacted volumes. Lower volumes reduce the dependence on non-recurring funds, resulting in a higher positive remaining balance.
- The expense forecast decreased \$12.7 million due to:
 - Decrease in salaries and wages of \$4.8 million,
 - Other expenses decrease \$.5 million,
 - Case services decrease \$7.5 million (new VA Nursing Homes not fully operational).
- The FY23 Budget Request was presented to the Senate Finance Committee on March 16, 2022. The Department amended its FY23 budget requested to include \$20 Million for a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility and \$30.6 million for the State Veterans Nursing Home Construction in Orangeburg.

Administrative Services

- Mr. Morris gave an update on the Electronic Health Record (EHR) Exploration Project. The Request for Proposal (RFP) is under final review by the S.C. Materials Management Office (SCMMO).
- Filing for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds was completed on March 31, 2022 through the calendar year 2021. An additional \$1.9 million was reported.

HR Report

Ms. Zina Hampton, Chief Human Resources Officer, presented the HR report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. Following are highlights from the report:

- At the end of February 2020, the Department had a total of 4,247 filled full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. That number has continued to decrease to 3,527 as of the end of March 2022.
- From July 1, 2021 through March 21, 2022, the Department had 563 FTE hires (an increase from February 2022 of 47) and 805 FTE departures (an increase of 60 from February 2022).
- Ms. Hampton presented two “*DMH Now Hiring*” billboards designed by David Diana, Marketing Director, and the HR Recruiting Team. The billboards include a unique vanity number 1-833-DMH-HIRE and are strategically located on 277 North towards I-77 exit and at the I-20/I-26 interchange. Additionally, a 30-second DMH commercial was aired during the NCAA tournaments, March Madness, and Sweet 16 on WLTX. The billboards and video are part of HR’s recruiting initiatives.
- Dr. Jones said academic and hospital partnerships could increase the recruitment pipeline. Dr. Evans said the medical and mental health professionals are critical, but the Department has a lot of other kinds of professions, such as legal and engineering. Ms. Hampton said that DMH has those partnerships and the Recruiting Team is further developing those relationships beyond the mental health professionals.
- Ms. Hampton announced HR will reimplement the new employee orientation in July.

Community Mental Health Services

Ms. Deborah Blalock, Deputy Director, Community Mental Health Services, presented the Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) report. Following are highlights from the report:

- DMH leadership meets bi-monthly with the universities and colleges counseling programs. Currently there are 36 interns signed up across the state through practicum and internships with various Mental Health Centers.
- David Diana is creating a recruitment packet for interns and practicum students which will provide students information on DMH internship and practicum programs.
- DMH is participating in hiring fairs and practicum/internship fairs at universities and colleges. Counseling programs report an increase in the number of student applications. Two students have been recruited from Clemson University.
- To date there are 46 bachelors prepared clinicians in the process of joining the school mental health program.
- SCHopes has received a total of 5,979 callers since inception on June 20, 2020.

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- Highway to Hope (H2H) has served a total of 567 distinct patients across the Pee Dee Region of the state. 59% of those patients had never been served by DMH; 126 of those patients had co-occurring disorders.
- Ms. Blalock talked about the shooting that took place at Tanglewood Middle School in Greenville County on March 31, 2022. The school's mental health clinician was locked down behind a closed door reaching out to his leadership with his cell phone to let them know he was safe and alive and that he was attempting to deal with the situation. DMH staff responded and helped school district staff and law enforcement reunite students with their parents. Every mental health center across the state immediately offered support to the Greater Greenville Community Mental Health Center. Mental health staff are on sight today offering support to the faculty, staff, students, parents and law enforcement.
- Ms. Blalock presented the CMHS Trends and Transparency Monthly Indicators (TMI) spreadsheets, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.

Division of Inpatient Services (DIS)

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

- Dr. Bellamy welcomed Dr. Jones and expressed appreciation to him in advance for his support.
- Dr. Bellamy thanked Mr. Hiott for his support over the years.
- Dr. Bellamy said that DMH employees are dedicated and very resourceful. She shared a quote from Congressman Clyburn, "When I get up in the morning and my shower is not working, I don't need a medical doctor, I don't need an educator, I need a plumber." There are many levels of staff at DMH that make the organization and employees that go above and beyond their normal job responsibilities. She said, "It is not a job, but a calling."
- Dr. Bellamy expressed appreciation to Mr. Shields for his years of service to the Department and for his support and understanding of DMH's mission and purpose. She thanked his wife for her support as well as for her time at DMH as a registered nurse, and genuinely wished them well as they embark on this next chapter of life.
- From the COVID-19 Taskforce, conditions are improving in the community relative to COVID. All components of DIS are admitting new patients. Visitation is now open in the hospitals. The Task Force will continue to meet.
- The February 2022 overall average daily census (ADC) represents a numerical decrease of 381 or 30% as compared to the overall ADC for February 2020.
- The number of orders for forensic admissions continues to be on the rise. A total of 23 orders for admission have been received through the middle of March. The average number of monthly orders received has historically been less than 20. For 2021, the total number of orders received was 274. Since 2015, the total number of orders received per year have consistently been above 200.
- Dr. Bellamy announced Forensic Clinical Treatment Services (FCTS) is the feature program for March 2022. Ms. Allison Findley serves as leader for FCTS. In her 14 years of service, Ms. Findley has been at the center of the clinical services team and a key contributor to the team's discharge mission. As a clinical leader, Ms. Findley will provide support to the jail-based restoration program.

Approval of Minutes of the Governing Body for Inpatient Facilities of January 12, 2022

Dr. Bellamy presented the January 12, 2022 quarterly Inpatient Facilities Governing Body 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 January 12, 2022 meeting.

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

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

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ADJOURNMENT

At 1:00 p.m. by motion duly made and seconded, the Commission adjourned the Business Meeting.

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members

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

Visitors/Staff

	<i>present virtually via Zoom</i>	<i>present virtually via Zoom</i>	<i>present virtually via Zoom</i>
Dr. Versie Bellamy	Jennifer Alleyne	Charice Jones	Jennifer Roberts
Deborah Blalock	Janet Bell	Grace Lambert	Dr. Kimberly Rudd
Rochelle Caton	Mark Binkley	Tracy LaPointe	Tamara Smith
Pete Creighton	Dr. Theresa Bishop	Bill Lindsay	Chaplain James Stokes
Zina Hampton	Pat Bresnan	Patrice Lloyd	Irene Thornley
Candace Lucas	Jackie Brown	Shawnta Locks	Eric Turner
Tracy Miley	Pete Camelo	Sarah Main	Susan von Schenk
Paul Morris	Allison Farrell	Eleanor Martin	Lindsay Walker
Dan Paxton	Beth Franco	Laura Nelson	Roger Williams
William (Bill) Powell	Dr. Kelly Gothard	Valarie Perkins	John Ragin
Dr. Kenneth Rogers	Jeffery Ham	Greer Pickett	
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Shields	Dr. Patricia Handley	Dr. Lynelle Reavis	
Brett Williams	Dr. Maryjane Hicks	Vicki Redding	
Mike Wiltshire			

APPROVALS



L. Gregory Pearce, Jr.
Chair



Kim Ballentine
Recording Secretary

