

**SOUTH CAROLINA MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION**  
**SCDMH Administration**  
**2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201**

**August 5, 2022**

**G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital – Virtual Presentation**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Commission Members:**

Mr. Greg Pearce, Chair, Dr. Elliot Levy, and Dr. Carl Jones were present. Dr. Alison Evans, Mr. Bobby Mann, and Dr. Crystal Maxwell were present virtually via Zoom.

**Staff/Visitors:**

Wanda McMichael	<i>Present virtually via Zoom</i>	<i>Present virtually via Zoom</i>	<i>Present virtually via Zoom</i>
Paul Morris	Aldevone Ardoin	Melanie Gambrell	Greg McNeill
Dr. Lynelle Reavis	Emily Avant	Mary Griddine	Valarie Perkins
Dr. Kenneth Rogers	Janet Bell	Dr. Kelly Gothard	Cheryl Randall
Brett Williams	Dr. Versie Bellamy	Laura Griffith	Vicki Redding
	Deborah Blalock	Dr. Patricia Handley	Dr. Kimberly Rudd
	Mirtha Brown	Jeffery Ham	Jon Siler
	Algie Bryant	Elizabeth Harmon	Theresa Smelser
	Pete Camelo	Darla Helms	Tamara Smith
	Rochelle Caton	Dr. Maryjane Hicks	Irene Thornley
	Pete Creighton	Charice Jones	John Tjaarda
	Teresa DeLoach	Eric Jones	Eric Turner
	Matt Dorman	Tracy LaPointe	Susan von Schenk
	Russell Evatt	Bill Lindsay	Lindsay Walker
	Allison Farrell	Christine Mayo	Sheena Willis
	Jeanne Felder	Mr. Allen McEniry	
	Beth Franco		

A 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, August 5, at 9:30 a.m. Chairman Pearce welcomed everyone to the meeting and turned the meeting over to Dr. Versie Bellamy. Dr. Bellamy recognized Mr. Allen McEniry, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Bryan Psychiatric Hospital (BPH), to introduce the BPH team and provide the facility presentation. A copy of the presentation is filed with the Commission minutes in the Office of the State Director.

**PRESENTATION**

Mr. McEniry introduced the following members of the BPH Leadership Team: Sheena Willis, Clinical Services Director, Greater Bryan, and Interim Hospital Director, Bryan Civil Campus; Dr. Kelly Gothard, Director, Forensics; and Dr. Jennifer Alleyne, Psychiatric Chief for BPH Forensics. Mr. McEniry said BPH evaluates and treats three separate populations: civilly committed adults; children and adolescents; and adults charged with criminal offenses, committed by Courts of General Sessions or emergency admitted from detention centers.

Ms. Willis gave a presentation on Bryan Civil/Adult Campus. Following are highlights from the presentation.

- Services provided at Bryan Civil include: Assessment, stabilization, group/individual therapy, discharge planning, patient education health-related issues, and recovery programming.
- There are two types of lodges at the Civil Campus: Acute and Intermediate & Long Term Lodges
- The “Dr. Versie J. Bellamy Learning Center” opened in September 2021.
  - All patients are assigned to the Learning Center.
  - Each patient is assessed prior to attending the Learning Center to determine their level of functioning and skills needed to live successfully in the community. Patients are grouped together based on their level of functioning, tier level and discharge plans.
  - Patients from each lodge visit one day a week for a full day of group services.
  - Future additions include a serenity room where patients can learn how to control emotions and self-deescalate; a technology center which will include Microsoft products to teach soft computer skills; and a community courtyard and flower garden where patients will get the opportunity to design and plant flowers of their choice in the courtyard and create a flower garden. The patients have expressed an interest in planting a vegetable garden.
- Chairman Pearce asked about Probate Court Hearings. The hearings are held at BPH. Virtual hearings are held in the Judicial Room at BPH. Probate Judges from all counties participate and some cases are transferred to Richland County.
- Dr. Jones asked about follow up provided when a patient is discharged to the community. Ms. Willis explained the transition specialists and discharge initiative social workers provide follow up services.

Dr. Gothard introduced the Forensic Team.

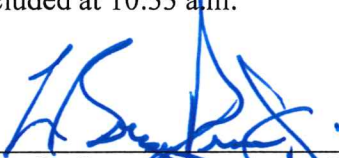
- Dr. Jennifer Alleyne, Chief Psychiatrist for BPH Forensics Division. Dr. Alleyne is also a graduate of the Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship Program which is a partnership between USC and Forensic Evaluation Services at Bryan. Dr. Alleyne introduced Dr. Julia Ghering, Forensic Psychiatry Resident.
- Allison Findley, LMSW, Interim Clinical Services Director for BPH Forensics.
- Lesley Jacobs, LMSW, Forensic Patient Movement Coordinator.
- Dr. Jessica Jorgenson, Psychologist, BPH Forensics.

Dr. Gothard gave a presentation on the forensics system at Bryan. Following are highlights from the presentation.

- BPH has 213 beds available for inpatient forensic services. Due to safety precautions related to COVID, 17 of the 213 beds are reserved for COVID treatment and isolation. Additionally, one to two beds are reserved for any individual who is found not guilty by reason of insanity and is discharged and living in the community and violates the court order and has to return to the hospital.
- DMH is statutorily required to perform all court-ordered evaluations. Once an order is received for an evaluation, Forensic Evaluations Services (FES) has 30 days to be scheduled. Once the defendant is seen, FES has ten days to report back to the Court. Over 1,200 evaluations are performed annually.
- DMH Forensic Post-Doctoral Fellowship is approved as a qualifying program by the American Board of Forensic Psychology (ABFP) to offer a waiver of the five-year experience requirement for forensic board certification applicants.
- The facility maintenance, nursing services, security, and food services are provided under contract by Wellpath Recovery Solutions. Medical services, psychiatry, and all non-nursing treatment services are provided by DMH staff.
- Demand for forensic services in South Carolina and nationally is exploding. DMH has been under court monitoring of the forensic waitlist since 2002.
- DMH worked with DHEC for approval to open a separate forensic alternate care site on September 21, 2020 which allowed DMH to continue admissions during COVID. Use of the alternate care site concluded when the state of emergency ended in June 2021.

- The jail-based day treatment program launched on May 25, 2022. Eligible defendants from Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center are transported to the Crafts Farrow Campus to receive treatment services.
- The jail-based competency restoration pilot program launched in June 2022 and can house 25 defendants at a time to receive specialized competency restoration treatment.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Pearce thanked Dr. Gothard, Mr. McEniry, Dr. Bellamy and the leadership team for their services and for the very informative presentation. The center presentation concluded at 10:33 a.m.



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L. Gregory Pearce, Jr., Chair  
SC Mental Health Commission



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Kim Ballentine, Recording Secretary  
SC Mental Health Commission

