

**S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING**  
**SCDMH Administration**  
**2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201**  
**Called Meeting**  
**September 19, 2022**

A called meeting of the S.C. Mental Health Commission was held virtually via Zoom at the S.C. Department of Mental Health Administration Building on Monday, September 19, 2022, at 3:30 p.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 3:30 p.m. He welcomed Dr. Robert Bank to his new role as Acting State Director. Dr. Bank said that he is pleased to be in the position, has a great group of folks to work with and he looks forward to accomplishing a lot.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the Agenda for today's called meeting.*

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

**APPROVAL OF FY24 BUDGET REQUEST**

Mark Binkley announced that the date the FY24 budget request is due to the Executive Budget Office has shifted until the second or third week of October. Dr. Bank said he had conversation with Marcia Adams at the Department of Administration (DOA) on Friday, September 16, 2022, and she indicated to him that Chairman Pearce has a letter that the Commission has already seen regarding DOA's assistance with DMH's budget request. Dr. Bank highlighted the following changes to the FY24 budget request:

- In conversation with HHS Director Kerr, he is not in favor of a fund request in this budget cycle to add a child and adolescent hospital to the already funded proposed PRTF. That request has been eliminated.
- Regarding MHP salaries, Ms. Adams said that she would likely be in favor of increasing the MHP salaries 15% if recurring dollars would allow DMH to do so. Pending approval of the 15% increase, the budget request will include funds to increase the MHP salaries to market value.
- In the request for funding staff needs at Bryan and Harris Psychiatric Hospitals, the Office of Human Resources stated they would assist with making sure the request was in line with market values, but also reasonable in terms of how many staff could be hired in comparison to the number of beds to be staffed.

Chairman Pearce said that from his meeting with the Governor, DMH was asked to develop a relationship with the DOA and HHS. Dr. Bank has already moved to establish those relationships and receiving the needed support. Chairman Pearce said that he is optimistic these efforts will improve the Department's relationship with the Legislature.

Chairman Pearce noted there will be time for questions prior to approving the FY24 budget request.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*At 3:45 p.m. by motion duly made and seconded, the Commission adjourned the called meeting.*

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

**ATTENDANCE**

**Commission Members**


L. Gregory Pearce, Jr. Chair  
Elliott Levy, Vice Chair  
Dr. Alison Evans

Dr. Carl Jones  
Dr. Crystal Maxwell  
Mr. Bobby Mann

**Visitors/Staff**

Dr. Robert Bank  
Mark Binkley  
Brett Williams

**APPROVALS**

  
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L. Gregory Pearce, Jr.  
Chair

  
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Kim Ballentine  
Recording Secretary