

**S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING**  
**SCDMH Administration**  
**2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201**  
**November 4, 2022**

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, November 4, 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 10:30 a.m. Chaplain Kynan Robinson provided the invocation.

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS**

Chairman Pearce welcomed everyone. Visitors present virtually were: Anna Maria Conner, Senior Attorney, Disability Rights South Carolina; Gail Cordial, Director, Policy & Government Relations, Alkermes; Bill Lindsey, Executive Director, NAMI SC; and Susan von Schenk, Capital Information Affiliates (CIA). Marvin & Algie Bryant, John Magill, and Wanda McMichael, Program Manager, Liberty Healthcare Corporation, were also present.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Pearce expressed heartfelt condolences to the family of Dr. Elliott Levy, Commission Vice Chair, upon the passing of his mother, Mrs. Eleanor Levy, on Sunday, October 30, 2022.

Ms. Beth Hutto introduced Ms. Robin Crawford. Ms. Crawford began her responsibilities as the Department of Mental Health's Legislative Liaison on November 2, 2022.

**MOMENT OF COMMEMORATING 200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF DMH**

Chairman Pearce announced as part of the SCDMH Bicentennial – Celebrating 200 Years of Caring, the Bicentennial Committee held a SCDMH time capsule burial event. The event was held on Thursday, October 20, 2022 on the southside of the Central Administration Building.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

***Chairman Pearce presented a request to amend the agenda to include discussion of the FY24 budget request following Announcements. The Commissioners all agreed. By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the Agenda as amended for today's Business Meeting.***

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

**PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION**

Chairman Pearce and Dr. Bank presented a resolution from the Commission to Ms. Algie Bryant, RN, for her more than 50 years of service to the Department. Ms. Bryant'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 Algie Bryant, RN, for her more than 50 years of service to the SCDMH; and
- Whereas:** Mental health is critical to the well-being and vitality of all South Carolinians; and

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- Whereas:** Ms. Bryant has improved the lives of individuals living with mental illness, by serving in various roles during her career with SCDMH: as a registered nurse in the former Division of Alcohol & Drug Addiction; Head Nurse, Nursing Supervisor, and director of Nursing in the Morris Village Alcohol and Drug Treatment Center’s Nurse Staffing Department; program manager in the Morris Village Quality Improvement and Corporate Compliance Office; Program Manager of the Division of Inpatient Services’ Centralized Performance Improvement Department; and presently, director of the Division of Inpatient Services’ Performance Improvement, Risk Management, and Regulatory Compliance Office; and
- Whereas:** For six years, Ms. Bryant served steadfastly and concurrently as interim Chief Nursing Officer and director of Performance Improvement; and
- Whereas:** Ms. Bryant has been recognized for her excellence as both a nurse and employee, having been, in 2016, selected as a South Carolina Palmetto Gold Nurse and nominated for the Louise R. Hassenplug Outstanding Clinician Award; and
- Whereas:** The South Carolina Mental Health Commission and the State Director of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health recognize and thank Ms. Bryant not only for her dedicated, long-term service to Morris Village and distinguished career at the South Carolina Department of Mental Health, but also for her lifelong devotion to the field of Nursing; and
- Now, therefore:** We express our profound appreciation to Ms. Bryant for her dedicated service to the mentally ill and her invaluable service to the South Carolina Department of Mental Health; offer her our sincere gratitude and best wishes; and order that a copy of this Resolution be made a part of the Commission’s permanent records.

Ms. Bryant said there has not been one day that she regretted working for DMH. She said it has been a privilege and an honor. She introduced her husband, Marvin Bryant, who retired from Columbia Area Mental Health Center two years ago. She expressed appreciation to Dr. Bellamy for her support and mentorship.

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES***

***By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the minutes from the Center Presentation of October 7, 2022 and the minutes from the Commission Meeting of October 7, 2022.***

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

***OFFICE OF TRANSITION PROGRAMS UPDATE***

Ms. Tracy Richardson, Director of the Office of Transition Programs (OTP), gave an update on the work of the OTP, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. Following are highlights from the presentation.

- Ms. Richardson commended the directors in the Office of Transition programs for their great work: Marjorie Wilson-Guess, CMH CRCFs; DeMorrie Evans, Program Manager, Transitions Specialist; Amanda Currey, Supervisor, Entitlement Specialist; Andrea Scott-Jackson, Director Clinical Care Coordination and CLTC; Michael Weaver, Patient Affairs Coordinator; and Patricia Sweeney, Program Manager, CRCF Services.
- The goal of the OTP is to assist patients with their identified needs so that they can access community resources in an effective and efficient manner post discharge.
- The OTP receives patient referrals from DIS Bryan Civil, Bryan Forensic, Patrick B. Harris Psychiatric Hospital, and Morris Village. The Department has a cost shared Transition Specialist position with Three Rivers Behavioral Health, and is in the process of developing a relationship with Carolina Center for Behavioral Health in the Upstate.



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- Ms. Richardson reported the current average hospital stay for patients assisted by the Transitions program is 2 years and 5 months, and the following number of patient discharges: FY20-102; FY21-143; FY22-111; and FY23-30. Ms. Richardson reported less than .2% readmission rate. Dr. Jones asked how does SCDMH compare with other states in terms of outcomes and patients being discharged from the hospital systems into the community and recidivism rate. Dr. Bank said the staff will look into this.
- Ms. Richardson talked about building step-down CRCF bed capacity. There are 87 beds in DMH CRCFs. The OTP has contracted with seven enhanced CRCFs across the state with approximately 130 beds.
- Opportunities for improvement:
  - Staff/Stakeholder's mindsets.
  - Continued access to intensive community treatment and co-occurring treatment.
  - Across the board consistency of referrals from all state hospitals.
  - Length of time for patient's benefits to be active/received post discharge.
  - Shortage of counselors (MHPs) in the mental health centers.

Dr. Jones commended Ms. Richardson for the focus on opportunities for improvement. Chairman Pearce congratulated Ms. Richardson on a job well done and said that he is very impressed with her enthusiasm and outcomes. He said it would be great for the Commission to receive a report on OTP on an annual basis. He also requested that the OTP staff be added to the schedule for future introduction to the Commission.

Ms. Richardson thanked the Commission for allowing her to give an update on the work of the OTP. She said the program would not be a success without the OTP staff and leadership, and also the support from Senior Management leadership.

Dr. Evans commented on the great work of having conversations with patients about where they are going when being discharged from inpatient to outpatient treatment. She said that speaks to dignity and that in itself is helping the patient to prepare for transition. Dr. Jones commended Ms. Richardson on her collaboration with partners in the community.

Miscellaneous

Chairman Pearce welcomed Mr. John Magill to the meeting. Mr. Magill is a former state director who is providing volunteer consulting with the Department during the state director transition period.

***DISCUSSION REGARDING DEVELOPING A REVISION OF THE DMH ANNUAL REPORT***

Mark Binkley, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs, noted that members of the Mental Health Commission and the agency's senior leadership have been seeking additional ways for the Department to educate and inform the public, partners and elected officials about the Department's outstanding programs, such as those the Beckman Center for Mental Health Services presented at last month's Commission meeting on Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) and the First Responder Support Team (FRST). He pointed out that State law requires the Commission to produce an annual report. Beginning in approximately 2000, all State agencies were required to produce an annual Accountability Report, and consequently the Commission's annual report was replaced by the agency's Accountability Report. However, resurrecting a separate re-designed Commission annual report would be one additional way to increase awareness of many of the agency's programs. He proposed developing a Commission annual report that would be more visually appealing than prior annual reports and the Accountability Report, and that would highlight the Department's services, programs and positive outcomes, to include quotes from patients and partners about their positive experiences.

***Following discussion, by motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved staff moving forward to prepare an annual publication that would highlight the work of the Department.***

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



***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

Dr. Bank announced the following:

- DMH and the South Carolina Department of Administration (SCDOA) worked in concert on finalizing the FY24 budget request, which will be presented to the Commission today for approval. Conversations continue with Ms. Marcia Adams at SCDOA regarding the increase in Mental Health Professionals (MHPs) salaries.
- DMH continued interagency collaborations with leadership at South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), South Carolina Department of Social Services, and Department of Disabilities and Special Needs.
- Dr. Bank met with the Master Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC) on October 25, 2022. One of the Committee's efforts is to develop a model of continuums of care in the Pee Dee region and to use that model as a template for other regions in the state. There was discussion.
- Dr. Bank announced recruiting has begun to fill the Chief Financial Officer Position. He said that Mr. Lee Bodie, Administrative Manager at Aiken-Barnwell Mental Health Center, has helped immensely with the FY24 budget narrative.
- Dr. Bank announced that Ms. Debbie Calcote is filling the position of Interim Deputy Director of Administrative Services.

**FY24 Budget Request**

Dr. Bank presented the FY24 Budget Request, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. A copy is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director. The total proposed budget request for FY24 is \$53,239,000. Dr. Bank said the proposed budget was developed concurrent with SCDOA and in concert with their suggestions. Dr. Bank will provide a copy to Director Robert Kerr at DHHS.

Chairman Pearce said the Governor requested that DMH work closely and collaboratively with SCDOA and DHHS prior to submitting the FY24 budget. Chairman Pearce referred to the agreement between SCDOA and DMH. The agreement states that SCDOA will review the processes and procedures of DMH finance and budget functions and will assist the Agency in developing its FY24 budget request to the General Assembly. Chairman Pearce asked if the budget request presented to the Commission today for approval meets that requirement. Dr. Bank replied yes and that there is understanding of the numbers of each category of requests. Dr. Jones asked if the FY24 budget request represents priorities for the year. Dr. Bank said the request has been narrowed down to the most important priorities. Capital requests were removed as there are surplus funds to take care of those. The MHPs Salary Increase is based on SCDOA's suggestion on how to raise salaries for MHPs. There was discussion about the \$5.7 million permanent transfer to DHHS for School Mental Health Funding, which has to do with matching funds for Medicaid.

***By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the FY24 budget request.***

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

Chairman Pearce requested to be informed of developments concerning the FY24 budget request.

***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 October 2022 a total of six pending investigations for the Office of Public Safety.



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Ms. Hutto reported that as of yesterday there were 24 pending SLED investigations. Six cases were assigned to SLED; nine cases were assigned to Long-term Care Ombudsman Office; five cases were assigned to local law enforcement, and four cases were assigned to the DMH patient advocate.

Ms. Hutto highlighted the following for the month of September 2022 from the Patient Advocacy Report:

- 65 calls to patient advocacy in September; a total of 711 year to date.
- 77 complaints were resolved in September; a total of 706 complaints have been resolved year to date.
- The number of complaints by category resolved is 84 (*complaints are broken out by category, a single patient complaint may have more than one category*).
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### **REVIEW OF SCDMH REGULATIONS**

Ms. Hutto said that by state law DMH is required to conduct a formal review of its regulations every five years. The Office of General Counsel began a review in January 2021 and finalized that review after consulting with senior management. The Department's regulations, found in S.C. Code Regs. § 87-1, et seq., consist of only four sections: Designated Examiners, Parking Regulations, Forms, and Public Records. Designated Examiners are largely defined by statute, as are the parameters of the DMH public records. Forms are generally made at the discretion of DMH and the regulations addressing this are primarily concerned with how the public may request copies of, or information about, DMH forms. Of the four, only our Parking Regulations were deemed in need of an update, as they currently reflect violation penalties far below those levied by other authorities.

Ms. Hutto reported the Office of General Counsel is working with the Legislative Liaison to prepare updated parking regulations to present for promulgation in the upcoming legislative session. Recommendations will be presented to the Commission at the December 2022 business meeting.

### **DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE**

#### Administrative Services & Financial Status Update

Ms. Debbie Calcote, Interim Deputy Director, Administrative Services, presented the monthly financial report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission, and the Administrative Services report. Ms. Calcote began her responsibilities as the interim deputy director on October 3, 2022. She has 40 years prior service with DMH having served at Berkeley Mental Health Center for 37 years, 17 of which were as its executive director, and further serving as deputy director of DMH Administrative Services. Following are highlights from the report:

- The primary role of Administrative Services is to support the delivery of clinical services in the hospitals, nursing homes, and mental health centers.
- The challenges of retaining and recruiting qualified staff has plagued the Administrative Services Division: Information Technology Services, Physical Plant Services, and Financial Services. Ms. Calcote said she has pledged to the staff her commitment to advocate for them and to keep them informed. She expressed appreciation for their dedication and good work as they have been working absent many colleagues.
- Ms. Calcote said the area of financial services has been her focus, specifically building effective two-way communication and trust with personnel.
- The position description for the CFO position has been updated to include a focus on experience in state government budgets and financial processes. The position will be advertised in the coming weeks. Brian Gaines, Assistant Director, Executive Budget Office, has agreed to participate in the selection process. The CFO position will report to the Deputy Director of Administration Services.
- Ms. Calcote expressed appreciation to the following staff for their effective collaboration and good work: Brandon Gaffney, Assistant Deputy Director of Administration Services; Patrick Bresnan, Executive Director, Pee Dee Mental Health Center; Lee Bodie, Administrative Manager, Aiken-Barnwell Mental Health Center; Deborah Chan, Human Resources Director of Classification/Compensation; Travis Smith, Human Resources Senior Consultant; Rochelle Reeder, Accountant/Fiscal Analyst II; Toni Sheridan, Business Manager, and Julie Bonnette, Administrator, Finance.



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- Ms. Leigh Ann Chmura was selected as the Director of the Office of Network and Information Technology (ONIT) effective November 2, 2022. Ms. Chmura brings over 28 years of experience with the department. She served as acting director of ONIT since July 2022. Chairman Pearce requested Ms. Chmura be introduced at the December Commission business meeting.
- As of September 30, 2022, the Department is projected to end FY23 with a balance of \$12.4 million. Ms. Calcote noted that the prior month fiscal year ending projection was \$4.9 million. She explained the increase to be attributable to the 3% general increase allocated by the General Assembly as well as a higher rate of reimbursement for services provided to Medicaid eligible patients.

HR Report

On behalf of Ms. Eleanor Odom, Chief Human Resources Director, Dr. Bank presented the HR report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. From July 2021 through August 2022, the Department had a total of 1,075 FTE hires and 1,287 departures. Dr. Bank said the Department is losing on average 75 employees a month. He said that it is incumbent on the Department to get the message across to the legislature that until salaries are raised the Department will continue to lose more staff than hire.

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:

- Ms. Blalock thanked Ms. Richardson for her presentation on Office of Transition Programs and commended her on her great work.
- Ms. Blalock distributed copies of School Mental Health (SMH) data for school year FY2022. The data included:
  - Number of schools with SCDMH SMH Staffing 2014 to 2022 - 623;
  - Number of SCDMH SMH Clinicians 2019-2022 – 318 (FY22);
  - And number of students served by SCDMH SMH Clinicians 2014-2022 – 23,171.
  - The October 2022 report reflects a total of 586 schools with MHC staffing; a total of 319 filled Master’s Level school mental health positions; 605 schools with Master’s and Bachelor’s Level MHC staffing, and a total of 331 filled Master’s and Bachelor’s Level school mental health positions. A copy of the report is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director.
- There was discussion on the number of staff vacancies at the mental health centers. The Charleston-Dorchester Mental Health Center has 100 posted vacancies, Tri-County Mental Health Center has a quarter of its staff vacant; Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center has 47 posted vacancies.
- Ms. Blalock announced the following:
  - Mr. Rogers Williams, Executive Director, Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center, is retiring effective February 2, 2023.
  - Ms. Teresa Curry, Executive Director, Tri-County Mental Health Center, is retiring effective February 2, 2023.
  - Ms. Allison Farrell, Executive Director, Columbia Area Mental Health Center, tendered her resignation effective December 16, 2022.

Posting of the positions is pending approval from State HR to reclass the positions from Program Manager III to Program Manager IV.

- Ms. Jennifer Roberts, Executive Director, Charleston-Dorchester Mental Health Center, is working collaboratively with Mental Health America (MHA) of Greenville County while awaiting the development of a second 988 Call Center in the Charleston area by hiring five staff who will remote in to MHA to augment the staff answering 988 calls.
- Ms. Blalock reported the Mayor of Columbia is very interested in the Midlands Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) and has offered to have his staff look at the city’s inventory for facility availability. In the interim, consideration is being given to setting up a Crisis Receiving Unit (CRU) that will provide a place up to 24 hours for patients to receive a meal, get a shower, have a place to sleep, or connect with a therapist. There is no DHEC license requirement for a CRU.



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- Ms. Blalock provided a response to Commissioner Jones' question from last month's Commission meeting about how are mental health centers using the results of the patient satisfaction survey to improve services and service delivery. A copy of the response is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director.
- 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 thanked the Commission for recognizing Ms. Algie Bryant today for her 50 plus years of service to the Department. She said Ms. Bryant is a solid leader in the field of mental health. On behalf of DIS staff, Dr. Bellamy expressed appreciation to Ms. Bryant for her hard work and dedication to the Department.
- Dr. Bellamy reported that the Viral Disease Taskforce, chaired by Dr. Robert Breen, continues to monitor for viral diseases, especially in the nursing homes relative to the influenza season. There has been minimal activity thus far.
- The overall Average Daily Census (ADC) is slowly increasing. The September 2022 combined ADC for the psychiatric hospitals and Morris Village represents a numerical decrease of 151 or 26% as compared to February 2020. The August ADC represented a 28% decrease as compared to February 2020.
- Since October 21, 2022, there are 95 individuals on the forensic waitlist. In comparison to September 2022, waiting times for admission in October have decreased by 16%. The highest number on record of annual orders for admission was in 2021, and 2022 has already far exceeded that record high.
- The Jail-Based Competency Restoration pilot program, housing 25 defendants at a time to receive specialized competency restoration treatment, will admit its next 25-person cohort in November 2022. Since launching this pilot site, waiting time for competency restoration services has been reduced almost by half.
- Challenges continue with recruiting and retaining MHPs.
- Dr. Bellamy presented the September 2021-September 2022 dashboards, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.

***OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS***

There were no public comments.

***ADJOURNMENT***

*At 12:50 p.m., by motion duly made and seconded, the Commission adjourned the Business Meeting and entered into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Upon convening in open session at 1:25 p.m., Chairman Pearce noted that only information was received; no votes or actions were taken.*

*At 1:25 p.m. by motion duly made and seconded, the Commission adjourned the business meeting.*

***ATTENDANCE***

***Commission Members***

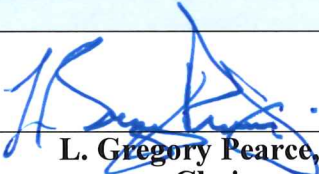
L. Gregory Pearce, Jr., Chair  
Dr. Elliott Levy, Vice Chair, absent,  
excused  
Dr. Alison Evans

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

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<i>Visitors/Staff</i>	<i>present virtually via Zoom</i>	<i>present virtually via Zoom</i>	<i>present virtually via Zoom</i>
Dr. Robert Bank	Janet Bell	Brandon Gaffney	Allen McEniry
Dr. Versie Bellamy	Jacqueline Brown	Dr. Kelly Gothard	Denise Morgan
Mark Binkley	Jennifer Butler	Jeffery Ham	Valarie Perkins
Deborah Blalock	Pete Camelo	Darla Helms	Dr. Lynelle Reavis
Mr. & Mrs. Bryant	Leigh Ann Chmura	Dr. Maryjane Hicks	Vicki Redding
Debbie Calcote	Anna Maria Conner	Charles Jackson	Irene Thornley
Robin Crawford	Gail Cordial	Charice Jones	Eric Turner
Dr. Patricia Handley	Teresa DeLoach	Tracy LaPointe	Susan von Schenk
Elizabeth Hutto	Allison Farrell	Bill Lindsay	Lindsay Walker
John Magill	Dr. Eve Fields	Sarah Main	Dr. Sheena Willis
Wanda McMichael			
Tracy Richardson			
Chaplain Kynan Robinson			
Dr. Kimberly Rudd			
Brett Williams			

**APPROVALS**

  
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**L. Gregory Pearce, Jr.**  
**Chair**

  
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**Kim Ballentine**  
**Recording Secretary**