

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SCDMH Administration
2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201
January 6, 2023

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, January 6, 2023, 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. Chairman Greg Pearce was absent, excused.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Levy called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Chaplain Kynan Robinson provided the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Vice Chairman Levy welcomed everyone. Visitors present virtually were: Gail Cordial, Director, Policy & Government Relations, Alkermes; Andrea Cruz Pfaeffle, Yana Counseling Services; Elizabeth Harmon, Executive Director, South Carolina Behavioral Health Coalition; Bill Lindsey, Executive Director, NAMI SC; Wanda McMichael, Program Manager, Liberty Healthcare Corporation; and Susan von Schenk, Capital Information Affiliates (CIA).

INTRODUCTION OF OFFICE OF TRANSITION PROGRAMS

Ms. Tracy Richardson, Director, Office of Transition Programs (OTP), introduced the following staff members: Marjorie Wilson-Guess, Director of Community Residential Care Facilities (CRCF); Patricia "Trish" Sweeney, Supervisor, CRCF Administrators; Amanda Curry, Supervisor, Entitlements Specialists Supervisor; Andrea Scott-Jackson, Director of Clinical Care Coordination; and DeMorrie Evans, Transition Specialists Program Manager. Ms. Richardson noted that due to a death in the family, Mike Weaver, SCDMH Patient Affairs Coordinator, was not present. Each person talked briefly about their area of responsibility.

Vice Chairman Levy noted the years of service of the following OTP staff: Ms. Richardson, 28 years; Ms. Sweeney, 26 years; and Ms. Jennifer Rucker, 36 years. He expressed appreciation for the loyalty provided for the Department and said, "the work that you do is very important." Dr. Jones referred to the work of the OTP as an exemplary model for transitioning patients back into the community and said it should be highlighted in the Department's efforts to increase awareness of many of the Agency's programs. Dr. Bank said ensuring patients' needs are met, such as medications, dental work, etc., cuts down on failures of placements. Ms. Blalock gave credit to Ms. Debbie Calcote, Acting Deputy Director, Administration, for her idea to create the OTP.

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the minutes from the Center Presentation of December 2, 2022 and the minutes from the Commission Meeting of December 2, 2022.

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

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 December 2022 a total of two pending investigations for the Office of Public Safety.

Ms. Hutto reported that as of yesterday there were 24 pending SLED investigations. Three cases were assigned to SLED, of which the oldest is from September 2021; 11 cases were assigned to Long-term Care Ombudsman Office, of which the oldest is from June 2022; six cases were assigned to local law enforcement, and four cases were assigned to the DMH patient advocacy team and have to do with complaints originating out of the Sexually Violent Predator Treatment Program (SVPTP).

Ms. Hutto reported on a case closed during this reporting period. The case dates back to August 2022. A staff member at Bryan Civil witnessed another staff member refusing to help a patient to use the bathroom and to shower. The staff and the patient were using profanity towards each other. The staff grabbed the patient by her bra and dragged her across the floor from the bathroom to her bed. The incident was immediately reported by staff witnesses and reported to SLED and Public Safety who took statements and secured video footage. The staff who abused the patient was placed on immediate suspension pending investigation. The long-term care ombudsman reviewed the case and verified physical and psychological abuse and neglect. The staff member responsible was an agency pool staff member and was added to the list of individuals who will not be allowed to work in a DMH facility.

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

- 72 calls to patient advocacy in November 2022; a total of 857 year to date.
- 79 complaints were resolved in November 2022; a total of 848 complaints have been resolved year to date.
- The number of complaints by category resolved is 98 (*complaints are broken out by category, a single patient complaint may have more than one category*).

Ms. Hutto reminded Commissioners they are required to file the Statement of Economic Interests (SEI). The filing deadline is in March. Dr. Levy requested Ms. Hutto provide filing instructions to the Commissioners.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Robin Crawford, Legislative Liaison, presented the December 9, 2022 publication of the *SC Legislative News*, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. Following are highlights from her report:

- The 125th session of the South Carolina General Assembly will begin on Tuesday, January 10, 2023.
- The SC House of Representatives convened on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, for an organizational session to swear-in members, which included 27 newly elected members, and to hold elections for multiple leadership positions.
- Ms. Crawford announced the following: Representative Murrell Smith from Sumter was elected to serve in his first term as Speaker of the House; Representative David Hiott from Pickens was elected to serve in his first term as House Majority Leader; Representative Tommy Pope from Rock Hill was reelected Speaker Pro Tempore; and Representative Todd Rutherford was reelected as House Minority Leader.
- The House met on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, for members to receive their committee assignments. Ms. Crawford announced the following newly elected chairpersons committee assignments: Representative Bill Hixon from Edgefield, House Agriculture, Natural Resources & Environmental Affairs Committee; Representative Shannon Erickson from Beaufort, House Education and Public Works Committee; Representative

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Weston Newton from Beaufort, House Judiciary Committee; Representative Jeff Johnson from Horry, House Legislative Oversight Committee; Representative Sylleste Davis from Berkeley County, House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee; and Representative Bruce Bannister of Greenville, House Ways and Means Committee.

- DMH leadership has met with and had discussions with key legislators, including Senators Tom Young, Katrina Shealy, Brad Hutto, Wes Climer, Mike Fanning, and Shane Massey as well as Representatives Bill Clyburn, Robert Williams and Heath Sessions.
- DMH Leadership met with the House Ways and Means legislative staff to discuss DMH's FY24 budget request priorities as well as promote the Agency's programs and services.
- DMH budget presentation to the House Ways and Means Subcommittee is scheduled on Tuesday, January 24, 2023.
- The Joint Citizens and Legislative Committee on Children (JCLCC) held a planning meeting on Monday, December 5, 2022 to discuss their legislative priorities for the current legislative session. The Committee plans to propose a bill to change the statute affecting Crisis Stabilization Units (CSU) by striking the requirement that CSUs are operated by or in partnership with DMH and also opens CSU services to individuals age five and above.

Vice Chairman Levy asked about the status of the Task Force to Strengthen the Health and Promote the Environment of SC (SHaPE SC). Dr. Bank reported the Task Force held their last meeting on December 15, 2022.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Bank announced the following:

- Dr. Bank and other DMH leadership met with legislators around the state to talk about mental health services in South Carolina: Senator Shane Massy, December 20, 2022; Representative Heath Sessions, December 21, 2022; and Representative Bill Clyburn and Senator Tom Young, January 5, 2023. Dr. Bank expressed appreciation to Ms. Crawford for her efforts with scheduling the meetings.
- With regard to the interagency agreement between DMH and the South Carolina Department of Administration (SCDOA), Dr. Bank said that he anticipates receiving a report from SCDOA of its findings and recommendations regarding DMH's human resources and finance & budget functions.
- Dr. Bank and Mr. John Magill met with Dr. Patrick Cawley, CEO, Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) on Thursday, December 22, 2022 to discuss ways DMH and MUSC can work collaboratively.
- Outpatient mental health professionals (MHPs) received an up to 15% salary increase effective December 16, 2022. Dr. Banks is hopeful that State HR will give approval on the request for inpatient social workers salary increases by the end of next week.
- Dr. Bank recognized Ms. Jennifer Butler, Director, Office of Emergency Services, to share about recent grants awarded to DMH related to suicide prevention. Ms. Butler announced the following grant awards:
 - DMH has been awarded a SAMHSA grant totaling \$3 million over a 4-year period to expand Mobile Crisis services in ten counties (Aiken, Anderson, Chesterfield, and the seven counties in the Beckman Community Mental Health Center catchment area). The grant will enable DMH to expand the mobile crisis services by incorporating peer support specialists to respond with a Masters prepared clinician for mobile responses. The peer specialists will also focus on follow up and engagement with individuals who have received crisis intervention services through mobile crisis. DMH will partner with SC Share, Mental Health of America South Carolina and the local law enforcement agencies in those ten counties.
 - DMH has been awarded two grants from NASMHPD related to improving access and care for South Carolina's children and adolescents. One of the grants, *Hope Connects SC Kids*, will increase access to early intervention by providing opportunity for parents and caregivers of those under the age of 18 to dialogue with a trained screening counselor who can assist with linking them to the level of care needed.

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This screener will be based on the evidenced based screener Hope.ConnectsYou.org adult screener which was launched in partnership with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and DAODAS in 2020. South Carolina will be leading the way as the only state to offer this type of interactive mental health screener. In addition, through partnership with NAMI Piedmont Tri-County, funding will be used to support the development of a resource app that will allow participants the opportunity to identify needed resources in their geographic locations and be provided related access information.

- DMH has been awarded a \$1 million supplemental grant from SAMHSA to strengthen South Carolina's 988 Crisis Call Centers. This one-time funding will support the addition of eight staff for the Mental Health America Greenville County Call Center and provide training for the Charleston-Dorchester Call Center staff members.
- Dr. Bank gave an update on the state-funded PRTF project. He reported that after careful review and in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), and the Department of Children's Advocacy (DCA), it was decided that a design-build-operate-maintain approach would provide the best facility that would benefit juvenile justice involved youth with a serious mental illness in need of admission and treatment to a PRTF. Dr. Bank recognized Mark Binkley. Mr. Binkley talked about the advantages of utilizing a design-build-operate-maintain delivery method of the facility. It would require approvals from State Procurement, the State Office of Engineers, as well as State Fiscal Accountability Authority. The matter will be on the agenda for the State Fiscal Accountability Authority meeting scheduled for January 31, 2023.
- Brandon Gaffney reported all veteran nursing home facilities have met requirements set forth by the U.S. Veterans Administration Office, the Office of State Engineering, and DHEC. He reported the construction is on schedule for the Sumter veteran's home site. Dr. Bank requested the aerial photos of the Sumter VA site be emailed to the Commissioners.

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Administrative Services & Financial Status Update

On behalf of Ms. Debbie Calcote, Acting Deputy Director, Administrative Services, Dr. Bank presented the monthly financial report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. As of November 30, 2022, the Department is projected to end FY23 with a balance of \$12.8 million.

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:

- The Viral Disease Taskforce chaired by Dr. Robert Breen continues to assess and implement processes. The December 14, 2022 Taskforce report reflects a nationwide holiday coronavirus surge. In South Carolina, hospitalizations were up 30%. Fortunately, deaths remain low. Units across the facilities have required quarantine, however, operations remain as close to normal as possible.
- The average daily census (ADC) remains stable as compared to October 2022. The November combined ADC for the psychiatric hospitals and Morris Village represents a numerical decrease of 129 or 22% as compared to February 2020.
- As of December 14, 2022, there were 75 individuals on the forensic ready for admission waitlist. As a result of the recent increase in COVID cases, the waitlist saw a slight uptick in December however remains at a 50% decrease from the peak in May 2022.
- A total of 75 individuals have been served through the jail-based competency restoration treatment program since inception. The program began June 13, 2022.
- The average daily census admissions remain stable. Work continues with internal and external stakeholders to expedite the discharge process. Dr. Bellamy expressed appreciation to the Office of Transition Programs for their help with expediting discharges.

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- The Office of Network and Information Technology (ONIT) continues work to develop a “turnover and track” report to capture bed turnover rate. Dr. Bellamy reported a patient was discharged from Harris Psychiatric Hospital in December with over 4,000 bed days. DIS’ goal is to identify placement at discharge for chronic patients and free up space for more admissions, increase admissions, decrease length of stay, and decrease patient placement time.
- Dr. Levy asked if there is a policy in place regarding staff flu shots. Dr. Bellamy explained the Joint Commission reviews influenza vaccination rates. DIS tracks the compliance percentage and encourages and educates staff to get the flu vaccine.

HR Report

Ms. Eleanor Odom-Martin, Chief Human Resources Director, presented the HR report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. Below are highlights from the report:

- The Department continues to have a large number of departures. From July 2021 through December 2022, the Department had a total of 1,255 FTE hires and 1,483 departures.
- David Diana, Marketing Director, is working on launching a new website.
- The Office of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Office (ODEI) has education, training, and awareness events planned in 2023 which will include meetings throughout the year with the mental health centers and facilities.
- HR will relaunch the new hire orientation on February 17, 2023.
- Ms. Odom-Martin anticipates implementation of the universal review dates for employee performance evaluations on July 1, 2023. Each division will have an established date.
- Ms. Odom-Martin reviewed the reports from major areas in HR, copies of which are filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director. The reports included 2022 data in the follow areas: Talent Services (applications, hires, and job postings); Classifications/Compensation (projects and initiatives); Employee Relations (grievances filed & results, disciplinary actions, EEOC or SHAC filed, employee relation training, and reasons for termination); Benefit (Family and Medical Leave Act, retirement & insurance, and tuition assistance); and Workers’ Compensation.
- There was discussion about the number of postings and the number of applications. Ms. Odom-Martin explained the system allows anyone to apply for a job. The pool of applications are reviewed and evaluated for qualification, and the selection process begins. Dr. Jones said he would like to see if there are particular positions that are receiving the most applications. Ms. Odom-Martin will follow up.
- Dr. Levy asked how useful the billboards and commercials were to draw more interest in employment at DMH. Ms. Odom-Martin will meet with Mr. Diana and the HR recruiting staff and review information/data. A report will be provided in the future.
- Ms. Odom-Martin noted that often HR is seen only as a processing entity. So much of what HR does is not seen, such as discussing issues employees may have and trying to avoid discrimination or harassment complaints.
- Dr. Levy asked if there are rules around tuition assistance that help with retention of employees for a certain amount of time. Ms. Odom-Martin said the critical needs area, physicians and nurse practitioners, are expected to provide a year per year commitment. Tuition assistance is provided at the end of each year to guaranty retention of that employee. HR is in the process of reviewing the basic tuition assistance program to provide a pay-back commitment for work.

Dr. Evans thanked Ms. Odom-Martin for the informative report.

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. Butler for her reports on the grants and for all her great work with the Agency.

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- A site has been identified in the Charleston area for a second 988 Call Center. Renovations will start on the building soon. Hopefully the call center will be operational by late spring or early summer.
- Three mental health centers were damaged due to the cold weather experienced in December: Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center, Greater Greenville Mental Health Center, and Orangeburg Area Mental Health Center. Damages included flooding, broken pipes and internal ceilings down. She thanked Debbie Calcote and Physical Plant Services staff, specifically Pete Creighton, and Michael Montgomery, for responding to the emergency throughout the holidays.
- Effective February 2, 2023, Kathy Hugg will assume the role of executive director of the Columbia Area Mental Health Center (CAMHC).
- Recruitment has begun to fill the executive director positions at Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center and Tri-County Mental Health Center.
- Ms. Blalock showed the following data for MHP vacancy rates collected in December 2022. The data reflects a total of 922 MHP positions filled and a total of 372 vacancies throughout the mental health centers. She said that she is hopeful that the recent salary increase will have an impact.

Center	# of Filled GA55	# of Filled GA56	Total # Vacant GA55	Total # Vacant GA56
ABMHC	22	2	25	1
AOP	45	6	22	0
Beckman	24	6	35	1
Berkeley	38	9	8	1
Catawba	26	9	4	5
CDMHC	111	23	70	4
Coastal Empire	28	0	17	1
Columbia Area	58	14	18	2
G Greenville	102	15	22	1
Lexington	58	11	18	2
Orangeburg	27	4	7	0
Pee Dee	52	13	12	0
SWMHC	35	2	17	0
Spartanburg	50	6	41	0
Tri-County	13	5	7	0
Waccamaw	49	9	31	0
TOTALS	738	134	354	18

- Ms. Blalock presented the CMHS Trends and Transparency Monthly Indicators (TMI) spreadsheets, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was discussion as to whether or not to resume traveling to DMH mental health centers/facilities beginning in February for Commission business meetings. The Commission decided that due to the surge in COVID cases to hold off traveling to DMH mental health centers/facilities for now. The Commission will review upcoming meeting schedules and may adjust as necessary.

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:35 p.m., by motion duly made and seconded, the Commission entered into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Upon convening in open session at 12:50 p.m., Vice Chairman Levy noted that only information was received; no votes or actions were taken.

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At 12:50 p.m. by motion duly made and seconded, the Commission adjourned the business meeting.

ATTENDANCE

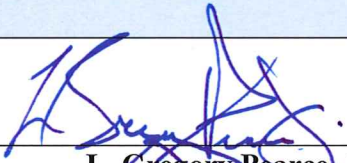
Commission Members

Dr. Elliott Levy, Vice Chair Mr. Bobby Mann
Dr. Alison Evans Dr. Crystal Maxwell
Dr. Carl Jones

Visitors/Staff *present virtually via Zoom*

Dr. Robert Bank	Amanda Curry	Tracy LaPointe	Dr. Kimberly Rudd
Janet Bell	Teresa DeLoach	Bill Lindsay	Andrea Scott-Jackson
Dr. Versie Bellamy	Matthew Dorman	Sarah Main	Jessica Suber
Mark Binkley	DeMorrie Evans	Wanda McMichael	Eric Turner
Deborah Blalock	Brandon Gaffney	Eleanor Odom Martin	Susan von Schenk
Robert (Lee) Bodie	Dr. Kelly Gothard	Valarie Perkins	Patricia (Trish) Sweeney
Jackie Brown	Jeffery Ham	Vickie Perry	Lindsay Walker
Jennifer Butler	Dr. Patricia Handley	Dr. Ralph Pollock	Dr. Sheena Willis
Pete Camelo	Elizabeth Harmon	Jay Ragin	Brett Williams
Gail Cordial	Darla Helms	Dr. Lynelle Reavis	Marjorie Wilson-Guess
Robin Crawford	Dr. Maryjane Hicks	Tracy Richardson	Kevin Woods
Andrea Cruz Pfaeffle	Elizabeth Hutto	Vicki Redding	
	Keith Jackson	Shawnta Reeder-Locks	
	Charice Jones	Chaplain Kynan Robinson	

APPROVALS



L. Gregory Pearce, Jr.
Chair



Kim Ballentine
Recording Secretary

