

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SCDMH Administration
2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201
March 3, 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, March 3, 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.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pearce called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. Chaplain Kynan Robinson provided the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Chairman Pearce welcomed everyone. Visitors present virtually were: Sally Bissada-Lassiter, Associate Director, Gateway; Gail Cordial, Director, Policy & Government Relations, Alkermes; Ashlei Hart, CMC Supervisor SC & GA, Genoa Healthcare; Matthew Kaufman, Senior Account Executive, Barton Associates; Bill Lindsay, Executive Director, NAMI SC; Kathleen Martin, Attorney, Disability Rights South Carolina; and Susan von Schenk, Capital Information Affiliates (CIA). Wanda McMichael, Program Manager, Liberty Healthcare Corporation, was also present.

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 February 3, 2023 and the minutes from the Commission Meeting of February 3, 2023.

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 reminded Commissioners to file the Statement of Economic Interests by the March 30th deadline.

Ms. Hutto reported for the month of February 2023 a total of two pending investigations for the Office of Public Safety.

Ms. Hutto reported that as of yesterday there were 32 pending SLED investigations. Five cases were assigned to SLED, of which the oldest is from September 2021; 17 cases were assigned to Long-term Care Ombudsman Office; five cases were assigned to local law enforcement; four cases were assigned to the DMH patient advocate, and one case is with the adult protective services at DSS.

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

- 80 calls to patient advocacy in January 2023.

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- 81 complaints were resolved in January 2023.
- The number of complaints by category resolved is 101 (*complaints are broken out by category, a single patient complaint may have more than one category*).

SEMI-ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

Dr. Lynelle Reavis, Director of Quality Management and Compliance, Division of Medical Affairs, gave a SCDMH Compliance Program Review for July – December 2022, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. A copy of the report is on file with the minutes in the Office of the State Director. Dr. Bank commended Dr. Reavis on her good work. Dr. Jones asked if there is any kind of incentive program commendation for facilities that have no compliance issues for a year. Dr. Reavis said there is not, but will take that into consideration.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Robin Crawford, Legislative Liaison, gave a legislative update. Following are highlights from her report:

- DMH leadership continues to have productive meetings with legislators and staff to discuss Agency priorities, fiscal and budget items, and legislation that will impact DMH and mental health services. Earlier this month, Agency leadership and leadership from Coastal Empire Mental Health Center went to the State House and met with Senator Tom Davis, Representatives Bill Herbkersman, Bill Hager, and Gilda Cobb-Hunter.
- In mid-February, the House Ways and Means Committee finalized their budget recommendations for FY23-24. Their recommendations included \$15.6 million in new recurring funds and \$4.9 million in new nonrecurring funds for DMH. The committee also recommended pay raises for all state employees and \$5 million in the Department of Administration's budget for a study committee on restructuring the State health agencies, which is in line with the Governor's Executive Budget.
- DMH presented its FY24 budget request to the Senate Finance Health and Human Services Subcommittee on Wednesday, March 1, 2023.
- S.343 – expands crisis stabilization services by striking the language that requires DMH to operate crisis stabilization units or work in partnership with operators. It also changes the minimum age of folks who can receive crisis stabilization services from eighteen to five. The bill passed out of the Senate Medical Affairs Committee with a favorable report.
- S.399 – this bill would dissolve the Department of Health and Environmental Control and its Board, move its environmental responsibilities to existing state agencies, and move its public health responsibilities into a newly created Behavioral and Public Health agency. The bill would also abolish DMH and its Commission and the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DOADAS) and move those responsibilities under the newly created Behavioral and Public Health agency. On March 2, 2023, the Senate Medical Affairs Committee sent the bill to a subcommittee that will be chaired by Senator Tom Davis. Senator Davis has indicated they will hold hearings on the bill and take testimony from stakeholders. Senator Danny Verdin, Chairman, Medical Affairs Committee, indicated that after the subcommittee's work is complete the legislation may be rewritten or reintroduced as a new bill.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Bank said the FY24 budget presentation before the Senate Finance Health and Human Services Subcommittee on March 1, 2023 went well. The subcommittee will take its budget recommendations to the full Senate Finance Committee later this legislative session.

There was discussion regarding S.399. Included in the bill is the transfer from DMH to the Department of Veterans' Affairs the authority to establish and operate veterans' homes. Dr. Bank said the Department will be sure about how much

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money is being spent on those nursing homes and how many full time employees are attached, and be prepared for the change if that time comes.

Dr. Bank reported DMH continues to provide mental health care through its Emergency Department telepsychiatry program covering 27 ERs and seeing over 9,000 patients a year, with 30% of those patients being children. The prescribers, psychiatrists, nurse practitioners, and counselors in the behavioral community setting are providing telehealth services. He said, "South Carolina is second to none in the nation providing telehealth services."

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Ms. Debbie Calcote, Deputy Director, Administrative Services, requested a change in the order of the items listed under Administrative Services & Financial Status Update on the Agenda and move Issue Action Paper – Columbia Area ATM License & Credit Union Lease to the first item. The Commission approved.

Issue Action Paper – Columbia Area ATM License & Credit Union Lease

Ms. Calcote introduced Mr. Brandon Gaffney, Assistant Deputy Director, Administrative Services. She announced that Mr. Gaffney will be the next Executive Director at the Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center effective March 17, 2023.

Mr. Gaffney reported DMH and the South Carolina State Credit Union have a lease agreement for a one-acre parcel located at the intersection of Farrow Road and Beckman Road for the Credit Union, and a lease agreement parcel of property of approximately .2582 acres located at 2711 Colonial Drive, Columbia for an ATM. The initial lease for the Credit Union started on July 1, 2011, and the ATM started on July 20, 2012. Both leases expired in 2022. The leases are in the process of renegotiations. The new term will take the current rates to \$11,673 per year with a monthly payment of \$973. There will be an annual increase for ten years that will be based on the consumer process index with a cap of 5%. The lease rate and term have been agreed upon. Pending is discussion regarding the mutual indemnification of both organizations and the liability coverage should the agreement be terminated. It is anticipated the lease will be ratified and presented for approval at the May 2023 Commission meeting. This was received as information.

Administrative Services & Financial Status Update

Ms. Debbie Calcote, Deputy Director, Administrative Services, presented the Administrative Services and monthly financial report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. As of January 31, 2023, the Department is projected to end FY23 with a balance of \$9.5 million. Ms. Calcote noted this is down from December 2022 by \$3.8 million and is attributable to payroll adjustments based on projections of all the facilities, centers, and administration building as of February 1, 2023.

Major Construction/Renovations Update

Ms. Calcote gave an update on major construction projects:

- Patrick B. Harris Psychiatric Hospital (Harris) is 39 years old and encompasses 167,255 square feet.
 - Over the past seven years, Harris has spent over \$16 million on HVAC renovations.
 - Harris is currently working on anti-ligature renovations at a cost of \$5.9 million.
 - Harris also has a fire alarm replacement project at a cost of \$400,000.
- Community Mental Health Centers range in age from 31 years to 5 years old. The first mental health center was constructed in 1992 (Berkeley Community Mental Health Center) and the last mental health center was built in 2018 (Santee-Wateree Mental Health Center) with the peak years for construction falling between 1993 and 2005.
 - There are 18 projects over \$100,000 across the mental health system.
 - HVAC replacements are in nine locations: Lexington, Charleston-Dorchester, Columbia, Berkeley, Waccamaw, Pee Dee (two locations), Coastal Empire. and Aiken Barnwell.
 - Roof replacements and/or repairs are in five locations: Beckman, Greater Greenville, Pee Dee, Orangeburg, and Aiken-Barnwell.

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- Fire alarm and sprinkler system renovations are in two locations: Coastal Empire and Waccamaw.
- Exterior/property renovations are in four locations: Aiken-Barnwell, Catawba, Tri-County, and Coastal Empire.
- Interior renovations are in three locations: Pee Dee, Aiken-Barnwell, and Beckman.

Ms. Calcote reported there are ongoing vacancies to fill in the financial area. The Department is using contracted labor and temp agencies to help with some functions. She has reached out to State HR for assistance in crafting advertising that will attract a larger applicant pool. She has been working with a panel to interview and make recommendations for the financial services director. Panel members include Mr. Allen McEniry, Chief Executive Officer, Harris, representing the inpatient system; Mr. Patrick (Pat) Bresnan, Executive Director, Pee Dee Mental Health Center, representing the outpatient system; and Mr. Brian Gaines, Assistant Director, Executive Budget Office, South Carolina Department of Administration.

Mr. Gaffney reported the State Fiscal Accountability Authority approved DMH's use of design-build-operate-maintain as the project delivery method for a new PRTF (Psychiatric Rehabilitation Treatment Facility). Mr. Mark Binkley, Executive Project Manager, is spearheading the crafting of the RFP (Request for Proposal). DMH is currently soliciting bids for the renovation of Lodge D at Hall which will be used as a temporary PRTF until the construction of the new PRTF is complete. Bids for the Lodge D renovation at Hall are due on March 7, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

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 reports the coronavirus surge is now receding in South Carolina. As of today, there are four patients and residents across the system known positive. Those four are attributed to one of the contract nursing homes. There are zero known positives across DMH hospitals and six staff across the facilities reported positive. Despite the outbreaks that occurred in January 2023, the overall average daily census remains stable.
- COVID conditions have continued to be challenging for the forensics waitlist. In addition to new orders for admissions, three previously discharged NGRI patients from the community were returned for admission.
- Forensics continues to explore jail-based restoration options with Anderson County Jail, Darlington County jail, and Charleston County jail. In partnership with the Aiken-Barnwell Mental Center, Forensics will launch a new competency restoration program at the Aiken Detention Center next week. Forensics has provided the training for clinicians and will provide oversight and consultation ongoing.
- As of February 17, 2023, there were 127 individuals on the forensic ready for admission waitlist.
- Dr. Levy asked about the 0 admissions at Bryan Psychiatric Hospital (BPH) in January 2023. Dr. Bellamy said that BPH experienced an increase in the number of COVID positives during the recent outbreak from December 2022 through January 2023 which had an impact on admissions. She reported BPH has two admissions today which puts them at capacity.
- Dr. Bellamy presented the BPH and Harris Bed Turnover Report for October 2022-February 2023, a copy of which is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director. From October 2022 through February 2023, BPH had a total of 29 discharges, which amass 13,512 bed days. Twenty-two of those discharged were chronic patients. Harris had a total of 26 discharges, which amass 9,949. Fifteen of those discharged were chronic patients. Dr. Bank noted that some of those patients could only be discharged to nursing homes. The Department is beginning to look at contracting with private nursing homes in an effort to open up beds.
- Dr. Bellamy presented the SCDMH Inpatient Services HBIPS (hospital-based inpatient psychiatric services) Report & Long-Term Care Quality Measures. The data focuses on admission screening (violence to self, violence to others, substance use, psychological trauma history, and patient strengths); physical restraint use; seclusion use; and patient discharged on multiple antipsychotic medications with appropriate justification. Two high profile long-term care quality measures focus on high risk unstageable pressure ulcers and falls with major injury. Dr. Bellamy reported performance above, below or exceeded the state and national averages in hospital and long-

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term quality. A copy of the report is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director. Dr. Bellamy commended the leadership and staff at Roddy Pavilion upon receiving their first CMS Nursing Home 5-star rating. Dr. Jones commended Dr. Bellamy and her staff for the report and said it is important to compare metrics regionally and nationally to demonstrate performance over time.

HR Report

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

- Ms. Odom-Martin reported the following comparison of filled FTEs:
 - February 2021 – 3,984
 - February 2022 – 3,545
 - February 2023 – 3,544
- In FY22 the Department had a total of 800 FTE hires and 1,080 departures; thus far in FY23 the Department has 595 FTE hires and 549 departures.
- HR relaunched the new employee orientation on February 17, 2023. Comments from the evaluations were positive. Another new employee orientation was held on March 2, 2023.
- Ms. Odom-Martin announced State HR has approved up to 15% salary increase for MHPs for DIS and Transitions program effective March 2, 2023. A request to increase salaries for MHP supervisors in the community will be submitted to State HR soon.

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 distributed a flyer with information about South Carolina Mental Health Crisis response (a copy is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director). She reported the 988 call volume in-state increased by 26% and the in-state answer rate decreased 16% since roll out in July 2022. She announced a second call center will be opening in Charleston that will be operated by DMH. Four staff have been hired and will remote in to Mental Health America (MHA) of Greenville County to help raise the call answer rate.
- Ms. Blalock announced Mr. Brandon Gaffney was selected as the next Executive Director of the Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center effective May 17, 2023, and Ms. Teresa Meakins-Linn was selected to fill the position of Executive Director at the Tri-County Mental Health Center effective April 2, 2023. She expressed appreciation to Mr. Jeff Greene, Administrator at Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center and Ms. Crystal Mclendon Pressley, Administrator at Tri-County Mental Health Center for their good work as Acting Executive Directors.
- Ms. Blalock presented the CMHS Trends and Transparency Monthly Indicators (TMI) spreadsheets, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. She noted fourteen out of the sixteen mental health centers met their patient care hours requirement for January 2023.
- A couple of legislators have been identified to introduce a bill in both the House and the Senate relating to the membership of community mental health boards, specifically removing the requirement that one member of the board must be a medical doctor.
- Ms. Blalock reported mobile crisis average response time last quarter was 48 minutes. The new crisis stabilization unit building in Charleston opened on March 1, 2023.
- Ms. Blalock announced Mental Health Advocacy Day is on March 30, 2023 at the State House from 10 – 11 a.m. Ms. Ballentine emailed to the Commission a flyer with event details. Ms. Blalock reported 14 Mobile Crisis RVs will be around the State House grounds for legislators to tour.
- Ms. Blalock announced there are currently 23 individuals in Charleston County awaiting jail-based restoration services. She said the sheriff in Charleston County is very interested and eager to get this project started.
- The Mental Health Block Grant allocation was increased a little over \$2 million. This increase will be used to secure more mobile crisis clinicians and potentially for the jail-based restoration project in Charleston.

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OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:05 p.m., by motion duly made and seconded, the Commission adjourned the Business Meeting and entered into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter and to select the recipient of the 2023 Louise R. Hassenplug Outstanding Clinician Award. Upon convening in open session at 12:55 p.m., Chairman Pearce announced the Commission selected the recipient of the 2023 Louise R. Hassenplug Outstanding Clinician Award. A motion was made and duly seconded to approve as discussed in Executive Session the selected recipient of the 2023 Louise R. Hassenplug Outstanding Clinician Award. All voted in favor of the motion. The Commission will recognize the recipient and present the award at the May 5, 2023 Commission business meeting. There was no other action taken.

At 12:56 p.m. by motion duly made and seconded, the Commission adjourned the business meeting.

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members

Mr. Greg Pearce, Chair
Dr. Elliott Levy, Vice Chair
Dr. Alison Evans

Dr. Carl Jones
Mr. Bobby Mann *(via Zoom)*
Dr. Crystal Maxwell

Visitors/Staff

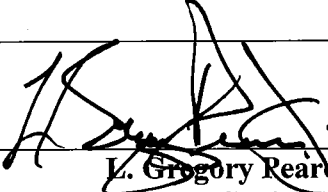
Dr. Robert Bank
Dr. Versie Bellamy
Deborah Blalock
Debbie Calcote
Robin Crawford
Brandon Gaffney
Dr. Patricia Handley
Elizabeth Hutto
Eleanor Odom-Martin
Dr. Lynelle Reavis
Dr. Kimberly Rudd
Brett Williams

present virtually via Zoom
Janet Bell
Mark Binkley
Sally Bissada-Lassiter
Pat Bresnan
Jackie Brown
Gail Cordial
Pete Creighton
David Diana
Melanie Gambrell
Dr. Kelly Gothard
Jeffrey Greene


present virtually via Zoom
Jeffery Ham
Ashlei Hart
Darla Helms
Dr. Maryjane Hicks
Kathy Hugg
Keith Jackson
Charice Jones
Matthew Kaufman
Tracy LaPointe
Bill Lindsay
Sarah Main

present virtually via Zoom
Kathleen Martin
Valarie Perkins
Dr. Ralph Pollock
Shawnta Reeder-Locks
Tracy Richardson
Chaplain Kynan Robinson
Angie Salley
Eric Turner
Susan von Schenk
Lindsay Walker
Dr. Sheena Willis
Kevin Woods

APPROVALS



L. Gregory Pearce, Jr.
Chair



Kim Ballentine
Recording Secretary