

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SCDMH Administration
2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201
August 4, 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, August 4, 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 Levy called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Greg Pearce was absent, excused. On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Levy expressed heartfelt sympathy to Ms. Jackie Brown, Executive Director, Waccamaw Center for Mental Health, upon the passing of her husband, Mr. James Otis Brown, on July 31, 2023. Chaplain James Stokes provided the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Chairman Levy welcomed everyone. Visitors present virtually were: Anna Maria Conner, Senior Attorney, Beth Franco, Executive Director, and Kathy Martin, Attorney, Disability Rights, SC; Bill Lindsay, Executive Director, NAMI SC; Chandler Massengale, Director, Mental Health Programs, We are Family; and Susan von Schenk, Capital Information Affiliates (CIA). Wanda McMichael, Program Manager, Liberty Healthcare Corporation, was also present.

Chairman Levy recognized Ms. Elizabeth Hutto, General Counsel. Ms. Hutto introduced Ms. Ellie Lister, Attorney, General Counsel's Office. Ms. Lister began her responsibilities effective July 17, 2023. Ms. Lister's responsibilities include managing the tort claims against DMH; draft and review contracts regarding individual medial providers, property leases, and the operation of healthcare facilities; facilitate debt collection efforts through probate estate claims, foreclosures, and bankruptcy claims; and advise on privacy and HIPAA matters.

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 July 14, 2023, the minutes from the Commission Business Meeting of July 14, 2023, and the minutes from the Called Commission Meeting of July 26, 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 reported for the month of July 2023 a total of four pending investigations for the Office of Public Safety.

Ms. Hutto reported that as of yesterday there were 40 pending SLED investigations. Four cases were assigned to SLED, of which the oldest is from August 2022; twenty-nine cases were assigned to Long-term Care Ombudsman Office, an

**S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 4, 2023**

increase of seven over last month – a request has been submitted to the Ombudsman to timely provide documentation of the outcomes. Six cases were assigned to local law enforcement; and one case is with the DSS Adult Protective Services.

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

- 97 calls to patient advocacy in June 2023; a total of 495 year to date.
- 97 complaints were resolved in June 2023; a total of 467 year to date.
- The number of complaints by category resolved is 120 (*complaints are broken out by category, a single patient complaint may have more than one category*).

Commissioner Jones requested the Commission have opportunity to view a sampling of the investigative summaries. Ms. Hutto will follow up.

SIX-MONTH REPORT OF COLLECTIONS

Ms. Hutto presented the items from the six-month report of medical care accounts collections for January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. These funds are collected through involuntary means from self-pay clients. A total of \$1,708,982.72 was collected from January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023. A copy of the report is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Bank reported the following:

- Chairman Levy, Dr. Jones, Ms. Robin Crawford, and Dr. Bank recently met with the Governor and his staff in the Governor’s Office to apprise him of leadership changes on the Commission and give an update on a number of topics, including telemedicine and the 988-call center. This afforded an opportunity to thank the Governor for supporting the recent salary increase requests.
- Dr. Bank attended the 11th Annual Lowcountry Mental Health Conference, which was held July 26-28, 2023, in Charleston. Over 1600 individuals attended the conference in person and over 400 joined the conference virtually. Dr. Bank said the conference was a tremendous success. The conference is sponsored by the Charleston-Dorchester Mental Health Center and Mental Health Heroes, a non-profit organization in Charleston, S.C. Chairman Levy requested a brief summary of what Mental Health Heroes does with the funds received from the conference. Dr. Bank said this will be reported on at the September Commission meeting.
- Dr. Bank announced the South Carolina Department of Administration (SCDOA) has hired The Boston Consulting Group, Inc. (BCG) to perform the analysis of the state’s public health system required in the legislation. SCDOA hosted a meeting with the impacted agencies on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 to provide an overview of the project and to communicate what will be required from each agency. BGC consultants are holding initial meetings with affected agencies. On Thursday, August 3, 2023, BCG consultants met with leadership at DMH. Topics discussed included Department operations, clinical activities, mental health crisis services, inpatient and outpatient services, and 988.
- Preparations have begun for the FY2025 budget cycle.

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Division of Inpatient Services (DIS)

Dr. Versie Bellamy, Deputy Director, Division of Inpatient Services, presented the Division of Inpatient Services report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. Following are highlights from her report:

- The June overall average daily census (ADC) for the psychiatric hospitals and Morris Village reflects a one percentage point gain from May, indicating continuing progress. In February 2020 the overall ADC was 587; the ADC was 467 for June 2023, reflecting a 20% decrease from February 2020. The June 2023 ADC was 5 points higher than it was for May 2023.
 - G. Weber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital’s ADC in June 2023 was 123 compared to 116 in May 2023.

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 4, 2023

- Patrick B. Harris Psychiatric Hospital's ADC in June 2023 was 97 compared to 96 in May 2023.
- DIS continues to work hard in collaboration with the Office of Transition Services to continue to secure appropriate placements that are safe within the community for the longer-term patients.
- Forensics continues to serve patients by utilizing the jail-based restoration option and allocating additional civil beds for forensics admissions. As of July 21, 2023, there was a total of 97 individuals on the Forensic Ready for Admission Waitlist.
- Stakeholder continuing legal education meetings are being conducted statewide. Recently a training was conducted at the Dorchester County Courthouse. Dr. Kelly Gothard, Mr. Logan Royals, and Ms. Rochelle Caton are providing the training which provides an overview of the forensics evaluation and treatment and how it relates to the probate court proceedings.
- Dr. Bellamy presented the BPH and Harris Bed Turnover Report for October 2022 through July 2023, a copy of which is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director. From October 2022 through July 2023, Bryan Civil discharged 49 long-term patients and Harris Psychiatric Hospital discharged 41 long-term patients.
- Dr. Levy commended Dr. Bellamy on her good work in the steady increase of beds opening. He asked if she has noticed staffing improvements. Dr. Bellamy stated that nursing staffing is her main concern right now. She has decreased the use of contract nursing staff temporarily while allowing time for recruitment after the salary increases.
- Dr. Jones asked is there any concern about an increase of COVID within the inpatient services population. Dr. Bellamy said she is seeing an increase in the number of cases. The task force continues to look at trends and is working with DHEC partners to access and make necessary adjustments to mitigate the risks/outbreaks.

Medical Services

Dr. Ralph Pollock, Acting Medical Director, presented the Medical Services report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. Following are highlights from his report.

Transition Specialist Program

- 146 patients transferred to the community in FY23 compared to 112 in FY22; 21.92% of these placements were discharged to families compared to 9.82% in FY22. The FY23 average length of stay for those 146 patients was one year, eight months compared to two years, one month in FY22.
- This resulted in a decrease in CRCF placement of 69.18% in FY23 compared to 83.04% in FY22.
- 5.48% of patients were discharged to independent living in FY23.

DMH CRCF

- In FY23 40% of the patients in DMH CRCFs transitioned to the community.
- 34 patients discharged out of DMH CRCFs with 37 admitted.

Entitlement Specialists Program

- All Entitlement Specialists are certified with SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery) Adult Curriculum (evidence-based initiative by SAMHSA), a program for patients that are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The certification in the program will help to fast-track applications.
- Established quarterly meetings between DMH, DDS, and SSA to improve approval times for patients to receive benefits while inpatient.
- Updated pre-release agreement for Harris and Bryan Hospitals.
- Overall shortened wait times for benefits for patients.

Interagency Consultation Service

Dr. Pollock is recruiting doctors and nurse practitioners for the interagency psychiatric consultation panel for psychiatric consultation services to the Department of Social Services (DSS), the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and as backup for community mental health centers. Thus far, one part time C&A Psychiatrist has been hired to serve on the panel.

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 4, 2023

Community Telepsychiatry

Dr. Pollock reported a total of 168,071 services provided via telehealth in FY2023 and thus far in FY2024 a total of 7,047 services provided via telehealth.

ED Telepsychiatry Consultation Program

Dr. Pollock reported the following:

- FY22 9,054 consults
- FY23 8,447 consults
- FY24 (thus far) 433 consults
- For FY23: 30% < age 18 years; 63% ages 18-64; 7% ages 65 and older

Miscellaneous

There was discussion regarding the United States Department of Justice's (DOJ) recent report concerning their investigation of South Carolina's Use of Community Residential Care Facilities to serve adults with serious mental illness issued on July 6, 2023. Representatives from DOJ were in Columbia this past week and met with DMH leadership to review the report and afford opportunity to DMH leadership to respond to the initial report. There is a difference of opinion as to what constitutes a violation. DOJ is to issue a more detailed report and reconvene with the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). DMH and HHS agree with the shared goal of expanding services to all patients served by DMH.

Community Mental Health Services

On behalf of Ms. Deborah Blalock, Deputy Director, Community Mental Health Services, Ms. Denise Morgan, Assistant Deputy Director, Community Mental Health Services, presented the Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) report. Following are highlights from the report:

- As of yesterday, there are 857 patients served by the mental health centers that live in CRCFs.
- Effective the first of September 2023, and in collaboration with the South Carolina Department of Social Services, DMH will hire a mental health clinician to be housed in the DSS State Office serving adult protective services.
- The 988 Call Center at Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center has a 46% answer rate. The South Carolina in-state answer rate is currently as 76%.
- Ms. Morgan presented the CMHS Trends and Transparency Monthly Indicators (TMI) spreadsheets, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.

Administrative Services & Financial Status Update

Ms. Debbie Calcote, Deputy Director, Administrative Services introduced Mr. Lee Bodie. Mr. Bodie began his responsibilities as Budget Director on May 2, 2023.

Mr. Bodie talked about the status of the FY24 budget. Final numbers for FY24 will be presented at the September Commission Business Meeting. He said a new infrastructure for the budget office is allowing the Department to work collaboratively with each DMH location. The staff is working closely to ensure reports are data driven and backed with the numbers and facts.

Major Construction/Renovations Update

Ms. Calcote presented a report on major construction projects, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. Following are highlights from the report.

- Fewell Pavilion
 - Construction is approximately 98% complete.
 - Inspection walk-throughs will begin next week to identify a detailed list of items that general contractor must complete.

**S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 4, 2023**

- Final DHEC licensing and Office of the State Engineer completion and occupancy awards will not be granted until the back-up generators are delivered, installed, and tested. The estimated delivery date for the generators is mid-October.
- Sumter Veterans Nursing Home
 - Construction is approximately 70% complete. The date for substantial completion has moved from April 2024 to July 10, 2024 because of delays caused by heavy rains.
 - DHEC's and the Office of the State Engineer's construction inspections and site reviews have been ongoing and to date, passed without incident.
- Bryan Hospital Hall Lodges D and C
 - The concerns reported last month about the potential for rebidding the project have been resolved. The State Engineer's Office is satisfied with information conveyed by the contractor. Lodge C renovation will be performed by the same construction contractor and will begin soon after Lodge D completion in mid-September.

HR Report

DIS recently did a hiring blitz which generated a lot of interest from nurses. HR is anticipating a significant increase in the number of new hires at the September 5th new hire orientation and reserved three locations for orientation to accommodate the increase in attendance.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED REGULATIONS

At 11:40 a.m., Chairman Levy commenced the public hearing on the proposed updates to S.C. Code Regs 87-2 concerning SCDMH parking regulations. The notice of this hearing was published in the South Carolina State Register as document number 5190 on June 23, 2023. No written comments were received during the comment period. Chairman Levy recognized Mr. Alex Pate, attorney. Mr. Pate reviewed the proposed updates.

87-2 Parking Regulations.

A. The South Carolina Mental Health Commission hereby establishes the following violations and bonds related to vehicular parking at the Department of Mental Health facilities.

(1)	Parking improperly		\$ 4 7.00
(2)	Parking at fire plug	up to	\$ 1 20.00
(3)	Double parking	up to	\$ 6 20.00
(4)	Parking overtime		\$ 4.00
(5-4)	Parking wrong side of street		\$ 5 7.00
(6-4)	Parking in no-parking area	up to	\$ 5 20.00
(7-5)	Parking in reserved space	up to	\$ 4 20.00
(8-6)	Blocking (i.e., driveway, loading zone, sidewalk)	up to	\$ 1 20.00
(9)	Blocking sidewalk		\$ 10.00
(10-7)	Parking in loading zone	up to	\$ 5 20.00
(11-8)	Employees driving parking w/o ID decals		\$ 4 7.00
(12)	Leaving keys in parked or unattended vehicle		\$ 6.00
(13-9)	Parking in designated accessible space for handicapped	up to	\$ 15 500.00

There was discussion regarding new staff and staff with new vehicles and opportunity to get parking decals and avoiding fines. New hires have opportunity to get their ID parking decal during orientation. Public Safety has discretion regarding fines.

By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the proposed updates to S.C. Code Regs 87-2 concerning SCDMH parking regulations for submission to the legislature for review.

All voted in favor to the above motion; the motion carried. The hearing was adjourned.

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 4, 2023

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Levy talked about the need to create a team to work on promoting the Department's services, programs, and positive outcomes, and said the work should be made a priority. Dr. Bank has formed a Public Relations Committee to develop ideas and initiatives to effectively promote and inform the public about the services and service outcomes provided by the Department. He will invite David Diana, Director of Marketing, to attend a future Commission meeting to talk about promotional strategies.

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:52 a.m. by motion duly made and seconded, the Commission adjourned the business meeting.

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

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members
Dr. Elliott Levy, Chair
Dr. Carl Jones, Vice Chair

Mr. Bobby Mann
Dr. Crystal Maxwell
Mr. Greg Pearce, absent, excused

Visitors/Staff

Dr. Robert Bank
Dr. Versie Bellamy
Mark Binkley
Lee Bodie
Debbie Calcote
Rochelle Caton
Elizabeth Hutto
Elinor (Ellie) Lister
Wanda McMichael
Denise Morgan
Alex Pate
Dr. Ralph Pollock
Tracy Richardson
Bonita Shropshire
Chaplain James Stokes
Brett Williams

present virtually via Zoom

Jennifer Alleyne
Janet Bell
Dr. Robert Breen
Pat Bresnan
Jennifer Brush
Leigh Ann Chmura
Anna Maria Conner
Beth Franco
Dr. Kelly Gothard
Dr. Patricia Handley
Dr. Maryjane Hicks
Keith Jackson
Charice Jones

present virtually via Zoom

Eric Jones
Tracy LaPointe
Bill Lindsay
Ashley Lloyd
Sarah Main
Kathy Martin
Chandler Massengale
George McConnell
Allen McEniry
Margaret Meriwether
Linda Palmer
Valarie Perkins
Vickie Perry

present virtually via Zoom

Sylvett Porter
Vicki Redding
Jessica Suber
Irene Thornley
Eric Turner
Susan von Schenk
Lindsay Walker
Dr. Sheena Willis

APPROVALS



Dr. Elliott Levy
Chair



Kim Ballentine
Recording Secretary

