

**S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING**  
**SCDMH Administration**  
**2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201**  
**December 1, 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, December 1, 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. Chaplain Malcom O. Simpson provided the invocation.

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS**

Chairman Levy welcomed everyone. Visitors present virtually were: Anna Maria Conner, Senior Attorney, and Kathy Martin, Attorney, Disability Rights, SC; Wanda McMichael, SCPS Program Manager, Liberty Healthcare Corporation; and Susan von Schenk, Capital Information Affiliates (CIA). Also present were Judith McInnis, Attorney, Burr & Forman, LLP; and Laddie Howard, City of Columbia.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

Dr. Bank announced the Department is honoring Mr. John H. Magill by naming Conference Room 323 the "John H. Magill Conference Room." Mr. Magill served as the State Director of DMH for 13 years, from 2006 – 2019, and is recognized as being the longest serving state mental health director. On behalf of DMH leadership, Dr. Bank and Mark Binkley, Director of Executive Projects, presented to Mr. Magill a certificate of honor and a commemorative plaque with the following inscription:

JOHN H. MAGILL CONFERENCE ROOM  
In honor of  
John H. Magill  
Clinician, Educator, Mental Health Advocate, and  
State Director of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health  
September 2006 – January 2019

The plaque will be prominently placed at the entrance into the conference room.

With deep gratitude, Mr. Magill expressed his appreciation for the recognition. He thanked Dr. Bank, Mr. Binkley, Dr. Bellamy, Ms. Blalock, and Ms. Calcote for their support and so many others who made it possible for him to have a successful career at DMH. He talked about the opportunity he had to go to graduate school and to work at the SC State Hospital upon graduation. In the early summer of 1969, he moved from Richland, Virginia, to begin his work at the State Hospital. He said, "I have always felt like I needed to return a debt to this state and this agency for all it has done for me." He also expressed appreciation for the Commission, specifically Dr. Alison Evans, who served as Chair of the SC DMH Commission for fifteen years, the longest period of time for any state commission in the United States. He said DMH will always have his support and he will remain an advocate of mental health until the day he passes. He said that he considers this honor presented today along with his introduction to the department and being named state director are the three greatest honors that he could have in his lifetime.

***Mr. Pearce made a motion that should DMH Central Administration be moved to a different location that a suitable place be found in the new location to continue to have a John H. Magill Conference Room.***

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*The motion was duly seconded. All voted in favor to the motion; the motion carried.*

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*There being no amendments or corrections to the agenda, the agenda was approved as presented.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*There being no amendments or corrections to the minutes of the Commission meeting of November 3, 2023, the minutes were approved as presented.*

**MONTHLY/QUARTERLY INFORMATION REPORTS**

Ms. Hutto, 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 November 2023 a total of four cases subject to investigation. Three cases were investigated and administratively closed. One of the cases involved unprofessional language by a staff member towards a child patient. The case was closed by public safety as it was not a criminal or abuse matter. The staff member involved was terminated. There is a total of one pending investigation for the Office of Public Safety.

At time of printing, the SLED investigation reported a total of 40 pending investigations. Ms. Hutto reported that as of yesterday there were 24 pending SLED investigations due to the Long-term Care Ombudsman Office closing out ten cases recently. One of those closed cases investigated resulted in a termination. There was a staff member who was disrespectful to a patient at Bryan. DMH conducted its own investigation. The staff member was terminated. Ms. Hutto noted the Department does not tolerate disrespectful behavior towards the patients or residents. Of the 24 pending SLED investigations, eleven cases were assigned to Long-term Ombudsman Office; six cases were assigned to SLED, of which the oldest is from April 2023; six cases were assigned to local law enforcement; and one case is with the Department of Social Services (DSS) Adult Protective Services.

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

- 78 calls to patient advocacy in October 2023; a total of 822 year to date.
- 68 complaints were resolved in October 2023; a total of 780 year to date.
- The number of complaints by category resolved in September is 87 (*complaints are broken out by category, a single patient complaint may have more than one category*).

Update – U.S. Department of Justice Investigation

Ms. Hutto reported DMH leadership continues to meet with representatives from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) concerning their investigation of South Carolina’s use of community residential care facilities to serve adults with serious mental illness. She noted there are a lot of areas where there are agreements. She anticipates negotiations will wrap up in January 2024.

**LETTER OF INTENT TO EXPLORE DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL SURPLUS PROPERTY AT CRAFTS FARROW FOLLOW UP – FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Ms. Hutto referenced the City of Columbia’s community project which was discussed at the October 6, 2023 Commission meeting. At the meeting, the Commission approved the Department to engage into formal discussions with the City of Columbia with the potential of declaring certain land within its Crafts-Farrow campus as surplus property that could potentially be sold to the City of Columbia. Ms. Hutto referenced the flyer entitled, “Hope Center – Homelessness Opportunity & Prosperity Experience,” which had been provided to the Commission. The flyer explains what the city

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has envisioned to provide care for individuals experiencing homelessness. The Commission was also provided a draft letter of intent to purchase. Ms. Hutto reported the City of Columbia is considering two parcels located on the Crafts-Farrow campus. She noted the Department of Administration is a resource to assist DMH in the process. She recognized Ms. Judith McInnis, Attorney, Burr & Forman, LLP, and Mr. Laddie Howard, City of Columbia, who were present to answer questions the Commission may have.

Mr. Pearce asked about the sales price included in the draft letter of intent to purchase, specifically, "...less estimated costs of demolition of all improvements on the Property as determined by the Purchaser, and also less an amount determined by Purchaser to be the community impact of the project intended to be developed on the Property." There was discussion. Ms. Hutto explained the DMH has not entered into a contract with the City of Columbia. Additional negotiations will take place once the City has decided which site they are interested in purchasing.

Mr. Pearce asked if the proposal would take the existing homeless programs in the city, such as Transitions, Oliver Gospel Mission, etc., in the city and consolidate the services on the new site. Mr. Howard explained the City is looking at the need to address the homeless issue, which continues to arise. Essential services would continue to be provided to the population. How that is done efficiently over time is for those organizations to decide. He talked about the Rapid Shelter Columbia (RSC) program. RSC has been in existence for about a year. RSC is a cluster of pallet units where residents get their own private space, bed, and storage. He said RSC is working very well.

Ms. McInnis stated the City Council does not normally get involved with the "letter of intent" stage, and is involved in the contract stage where there will be discussion.

This was received as information. Chairman Levy thanked Mr. Howard and Ms. McInnis for being present.

***ISSUE ACTION PAPER (IAP) REQUESTS***

**Request to Purchase Linwa Building (New Anderson Center and Property)**

Ms. Hutto presented an Issue Action Paper (IAP) requesting Commission approval to purchase the building and property located at 1 Linwa Blvd., Anderson, South Carolina, 29621, for up to \$4.3 million, for the new location of the Anderson Adult Mental Health Clinic and Anderson Child and Adolescent Clinic. A copy of the IAP had been provided to the Commission.

***By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the IAP as presented.***

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

**Request to Declare the Tucker Parcel as Surplus & Agreement of Sale and Purchase with the University of South Carolina**

Ms. Hutto presented an IAP requesting the Commission to declare the undeveloped property adjacent to Tucker Center ("Tucker Parcel") surplus to any current or future needs of the Department of Mental health and authorize the Department to execute the Agreement of Sale and Purchase with the University of South Carolina (USC) of the property and further authorize the Department to take all necessary steps to complete the sale. The University earlier had obtained an appraisal of the property, which concluded that as of March 3, 2023, the property has a fair market value of \$3,125,000. A copy of the IAP had been provided to the Commission.

Dr. Bank asked if the funds from the sale would go into the trust fund. Mr. Binkley referred to the South Carolina Supreme Court's decision in South Carolina Department of Mental Health v. McMaster, 642 S.E.2d 552 (S.C. 2007, "...with a court's authorization, DMH may sell any unneeded remaining portions of its property held in trust, provided that the sales proceeds must remain in trust for the benefit of DMH for the care and treatment of the mentally ill." Upon approval by both USC and DMH, the agreement will be submitted to a circuit court in Richland County for its review and approval.

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*By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the IAP as presented.*

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Bank announced the following:

- The DOA was authorized by the General Assembly to conduct a study on moving the administrative offices of state agencies from the Bull Street corridor. The DOA submitted their report to the Joint Bond Review Committee (JBRC) and on November 14, 2023 the JBRC voted in favor of the move contingent on the Legislature appropriating funds for the lease and moving expenses. According to the DOA study, the 20-year proposed lease will cost the state approximately \$500 million, while not moving the agencies would cost the state a little over \$150 million over 20 years. The Department of Public Health (DPH), DMH, Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN), and the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (DAODAS) will move to Otarre Parkway, Cayce; and the Department of Environmental Services (DES) would move to Colonial Life Blvd., Columbia. The Department of Social Services (DSS) will stay in its current location.
- The date for final report from the Boston Consulting Group has been moved up to the second or third week in January 2024 as opposed to the first of April 2024.
- Dr. Bank reported Administrative Services continues to work closely with the DOA and the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs (SCDVA) with the transfer of the veterans homes from DMH to SCDVA by the deadline date of June 30, 2024. Ms. Calcote said the final stages of moving and transferring the responsibilities of SCDVA is being shepherded through DOA to include movement of the operating contracts of the existing facilities, the awarding of the contract for the Sumter facility, which should open in June or July 2024, and the establishment of the infrastructure SCDVA will need for its new responsibilities. It is a collaborative effort led by DOA.

**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:

- Dr. Bellamy said that she is thankful to the Commission, the dedicated staff at DMH, as well as our stakeholders who support the mission. She said it is important for integration to occur to ensure successful outcomes.
- Dr. Bellamy reported the change to the OD/ON (Officer of Day and Night) On-Call Physician policy at the inpatient facilities in Columbia area from four on-call physicians onsite at four hospitals to two on-call physicians located remotely that went into effect on November 1, 2023 is going well.
- Dr. Bellamy reported that Lodge D opened on November 1, 2023. She said there has not been the number of judicial referrals as previously anticipated. The use of contract employees has decreased, and employees have been temporarily redeployed until the patient volume increases.
- Recruitment and retention efforts of clinical staff have remained strong during November 2023. This also includes converting contract employees to permanent employment.
- Dr. Bellamy announced G. Werber Bryan Hospital and William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute have received 2023 Zero Harm Awards in the Drive to Zero Suicide area from the South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA). The award recognizes facilities that adopt specific Zero Suicide strategies, including specific training, policy enhancements, safety planning, screening, changes related to electronic medical records, and formal coordination with their local community mental health centers. This award is given in collaboration with the Office of Suicide Prevention. The Commission congratulated and commended both facilities on achieving the award and for their outstanding success.

*Mr. Pearce made a motion, which was duly seconded, that the Commission hereby recognize G. Werber Bryan Hospital and William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute on this superb achievement.*

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

- Dr. Bellamy referred to the DIS monthly system dashboards, which had been provided to the Commission. The October 2023 overall average daily census (ADC) for Bryan Civil was 123; Bryan Forensics was 194; and Harris was 96. She reported Bryan is maintaining ADC at 123-124 functional beds and Harris is maintaining 96-98 functional beds for this reporting period.
- Chairman Levy noted a steady increase in ADC at Veteran Village from 22 in October 2022 to 103 in October 2023 as well as a steady increase in ADC at Palmetto Home from 38 in October 2022 to 100 in October 2023.
- As of today, there is a total of 105 individuals on the Forensic Ready for Admission Waitlist. Dr. Bellamy reported a total of 23 orders for the month of November 2023, 19 forensic inpatient admissions, and five admissions to jail-based programs. Preparations continue for the new jail-based competency restoration program within the Charleston County jail, which will allow jail-based restoration services to an additional 20 defendants.
- Dr. Bellamy reported from October 2022 through October 2023 a total of 77 discharges, with an equivalent of 56,229 bed days, at Bryan Civil and a total of 63 discharges, with an equivalent of 43,307 bed days, at Harris. IT is working on refining the report. Dr. Levy requested adding the number of admissions for that same time period to the report.

#### Medical Services

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

- Residency Program recruitment tours continue to raise awareness about DMH career opportunities and resources available. Future tours include the Greenville PRISMA Residency Program and MUSC Residency Program in Charleston.
- There was a total of 20 discharges for the month of October 2023 in the Transition Specialist Program. Of those discharges 60% went to home placements. The recidivism rate is at 0% this fiscal year.
- A transition specialist was hired on staff at Morris Village effective August 17, 2023. There was a total of seven discharges from Morris Village in October 2023.
- Dr. Pollock reported a total of five discharges from DMH CRCFs since July 2023.
- DMH has contracted with The Carolina Center for Behavioral Health located in Greer, S.C. to assist with finding placements for patients that might prevent them from being hospitalized. The contract went into effect September 2023.
- Mr. Michael Weaver, Patient Affairs Coordinator, is working with Mr. Paolo del Vecchio, Director of SAMHSA's Office of Recovery, to develop a Peer Leadership Conference in Utrecht, Netherlands in May 2024. Mr. Pearce requested that Mr. Michael Weaver be invited to a future Commission meeting to give the Commission the opportunity meet him. Dr. Pollock will follow up.
- Dr. Pollock will attend the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Telehealth Summit of South Carolina December 4-6, 2023 in Greenville, S.C. DMH's Community Telepsychiatry Program will receive the 2023 Telehealth Program of Excellence Award during the Summit. Dr. Bank said the Telepsychiatry Program is typically about 9,000 visits a year in the emergency room. Community telepsychiatry is now over 40,000 visits a year. The total number of physician and nurse practitioners visits that are done by telehealth is about 40% of their total visits.
- There was discussion about immunizations at the psychiatric hospitals. Dr. Pollock reported 90% of the patients at Bryan Adult are vaccinated. Dr. Kimberly Rudd reported DHEC is offering hospitals and nursing homes viral testing for free for symptomatic patients. Dr. Bellamy stated the patient response to the offering of the vaccine is very high.

#### 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:

- Ms. Melanie Gambrell, Executive Director, Beckman Mental Health Center, was selected as the Assistant Deputy Director, Community Mental Health Services. She will begin her new responsibilities on January 2, 2024.

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- Dr. Natasha Smith resigned from her position as executive director, Orangeburg Area Mental Health Center (OAMHC). Mr. Bryant Williams has assumed the role of acting executive director, OAMHC, effective November 29, 2023.
- In response to the U.S. Department of Justice recommendation, there will be a job posting for a new position on the Community Mental Health Team for an ACT (Assertive Community Treatment) Program Manager. The ACT program consists of a team of nine individuals that will involve mental health counselors, peer support staff, psychiatrists, and nurses.
- The Charleston 988 call center is operating 24 hours.
- Ms. Morgan talked about the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Program. The IPS program affords those with severe mental illness the opportunity for employment in viable and valid work settings with supportive assistance as needed on-site. She reported there are currently 683 individuals in the IPS program. The total number of individuals served is 1,599.
- Ms. Morgan reported in FY23 the mental health centers provided 8,718 peer support services to 698 patients. So far in FY24 the mental health centers have provided 3,202 peer support services to 397 patients.
- Ms. Morgan presented the CMHS Trends and Transparency Monthly Indicators (TMI) spreadsheets, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.
- Chairman Levy requested the Department provide an update on 988 and mobile crisis in the near future.

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. Following are highlights from the report:

- As of October 31, 2023, the Department anticipates ending FY24 with a projected deficit balance of approximately of \$8.5 million.

***OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS***

There were no public comments.

Dr. Bank announced the annual Board Training is scheduled on Friday, December 8, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. via Zoom. DMH leadership will be involved in various presentations. Approximately 110 individuals have signed up for the training.

***ADJOURNMENT***

*At 12:09 p.m. by motion duly made and seconded, the Commission adjourned the business meeting and entered into Executive Session to receive legal advice concerning potential litigation. Upon convening in open session at 1:08 p.m., Chairman Levy noted that only information was received; no votes or actions were taken.*

*At 1:08 p.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***

<b><i>Commission Members</i></b>	Mr. Bobby Mann
Dr. Elliott Levy, Chair	Dr. Crystal Maxwell
Dr. Carl Jones, Vice Chair	Mr. Greg Pearce

<b><i>Visitors/Staff</i></b>	<u><i>present virtually via Zoom</i></u>	<u><i>present virtually via Zoom</i></u>	<u><i>present virtually via Zoom</i></u>
Dr. Robert Bank	Janet Bell	Kathy Hugg	Valarie Perkins
Dr. Versie Bellamy	Pat Bresnan	Keith Jackson	Sylvett Porter

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Mark Binkley  
Debbie Calcote  
Lee Fletcher  
Dr. Patricia Handley  
Laddie Howard  
Elizabeth Hutto  
John Magill  
Judith McInnis  
Denise Morgan  
Dr. Chad Pollock  
Chaplain Malcolm Simpson  
Brett Williams

Jennifer Brush  
Jennifer Butler  
Anna Maria Conner  
Pete Creighton  
Melanie Gambrell  
Dr. Kelly Gothard  
Patricia Gunn  
Dr. Maryjane Hicks

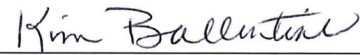
Charice Jones  
Tracy LaPointe  
Sarah Main  
Kathy Martin  
Wanda McMichael  
Margaret Meriwether  
Mallory Miller  
Linda Palmer

Dr. Lynelle Reavis  
Vicki Redding  
Shawnta Reeder-Locks  
Dr. Kimberly Rudd  
Bonita Shropshire  
Susan von Schenk  
Lindsay Walker  
Kevin Woods

**APPROVALS**



**Dr. Elliott Levy**  
Chair



**Kim Ballentine**  
Recording Secretary

