

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SCDMH Administration
2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201
November 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, November 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 Levy called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Levy expressed condolences to the family of Commissioner Greg Pearce upon the passing of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Louise Chapman, on October 20, 2023.

Chairman Levy announced the passing of Ms. Louise Ravenel Dougherty on October 15, 2023. Ms. Dougherty was a well-known and effective disabled rights advocate and served on the Commission from 1999 to 2004.

Chaplain James Stokes provided the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Chairman Levy welcomed everyone. Visitors present virtually were: Gail Cordial, Director, Policy & Government Relations, Alkermes; Beth Franco, Executive Director, and Kathy Martin, Attorney, Disability Rights, SC; and Susan von Schenk, Capital Information Affiliates (CIA). Wanda McMichael, SCPS Program Manager, Liberty Healthcare Corporation, was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There being no amendments or corrections to the amended agenda dated October 31, 2023, to include the FY25 budget request and executive session, the agenda was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no amendments or corrections to the minutes of the Center Presentation of October 6, 2023 and the Commission meeting of October 6, 2023, the minutes were approved as presented.

**APPROVAL OF FY25 BUDGET REQUEST AS PROVIDED TO THE COMMISSION
VIA EMAIL ON OCTOBER 26, 2023**

Dr. Bank recognized Mr. Lee Bodie, Budget Director, to review the proposed FY Budget Request, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. There was discussion.

By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the FY25 budget request.

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), presented an update on the work of the OTP, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. Ms. Richardson talked about accomplishments over the last quarter in OTP. Following are highlights from the report:

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- The contracted enhanced Community Residential Care Facilities were transitioned to OTP monitoring in October 2022: Bells Residential, Cantrell Residential Care, Rosewood Assisted Living, Midway Community Care Facility, Ridgeview Community Care Home, Easley Retirement Center, and Village Community Care.
- The average length of stay (LOS) has decreased for three of these facilities since October 2022:
 - Village Community Care has decreased LOS to five years and seven months compared to eight years.
 - Easley Retirement Center has decreased LOS to three years compared to eight years.
 - Bells Residential has decreased LOS to .6 years compared to one and half years.
- Ms. Richardson commended Ms. Jacqueline McDonald, Enhanced CRCF Program Coordinator, and Ms. Renee Richardson, CRCF Liaison, at Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Mental Health Center (AOPMHC) for their great work with transitioning patients out into the community.
- The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) is currently auditing Clinical Care Coordination (CCC). CCC was audited for the first time by SCDHHS about ten years ago. OTP has provided the requested information and is awaiting their report.
- Ms. Richardson reported a total of 1,012 participants in the Community Long-Term Care (CLTC) program.
- Transition Specialists assisted the Division of Inpatient Services (DIS) with 51 discharges into the community during July 1 – September 30, 2023. The LOS for those discharges was one year and eight months. Ms. Richardson reported 59% of those patients transitioned to residential care facilities and 35% transitioned to family. The recidivism rate for this quarter was 0%.
- The average LOS for DMH CRCFs is 3.5 years. A certified peer support specialist has been added to the DMH CRCF Team.
- Ms. Richardson announced that effective yesterday Ms. DeMorrie Evans began her new responsibilities as the Director of DMH CRCFs as well as the Transition Specialists Program.
- During July – September 2023 a total of 40 SSI/SSDI (supplemental security income and social security disability insurance) applications were processed, 30 OSS (optional state supplementation) applications were processed, and two Medicaid Nursing Home applications were processed.

Dr. Jones stated the “At A Glance” handout provides a succinct way of speaking to the effectiveness of DMH.

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 October 2023 a total of two pending investigations for the Office of Public Safety.

Ms. Hutto reported that as of yesterday there were 33 pending SLED investigations. Five cases were assigned to SLED, of which the oldest is from April 2023; 21 cases were assigned to Long-term Care Ombudsman Office of which the oldest is from November 2022; 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:

- 81 calls to patient advocacy in September 2023; a total of 744 year to date.
- 73 complaints were resolved in September 2023; a total of 712 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*).

Miscellaneous

- Ms. Hutto reported Department 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. They will meet again on November 13, 2023.

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- Ms. Hutto gave a quick summary of *Olmstead*. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits unnecessary institutionalizing or segregating people with disabilities. States have a duty to administer programs and services in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of individuals with disability. In *Olmstead* the Supreme Court had to decide how much a State needed to modify its programs to comply with the law. The State meets the reasonable modification standard if it has a plan to identify and move people to less restrictive care when appropriate and a waiting list for community services that moves at a reasonable pace.
- Ms. Hutto announced the South Carolina Judicial Branch hosted a statewide Mental Health Summit on Monday, October 30, 2023 in Columbia. There were more than 300 participants including judges, public defenders, healthcare providers, advocates, law enforcement, state and local leaders, and DMH staff. Ms. Tamara Curry, DMH Attorney, was a facilitator on a panel of experts; Mr. Logan Royals, DMH Attorney, talked about DMH's Forensic Program; and Ms. Jessica Barnes, Program Manager, Office of Suicide Prevention, gave a presentation about DMH's emergency care in the state. Ms. Hutto said the Summit provided an opportunity for the participants to dialogue about improving responses for court-involved individuals experiencing severe mental illness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

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 September 30, 2023, the Department anticipates ending FY24 with a projected negative balance of approximately of \$4.5 million.
- Hall Lodge D is open and ready for patient occupancy.

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 announced DHEC granted licensing for Hall Lodge D on Friday, October 27, 2023. The go-live date for occupancy was November 1, 2023. She thanked everyone involved in this effort, including DIS staff, as well as Physical Plant Services, Information Technology, Administrative Services, and others. A celebration was held yesterday to acknowledge the hard work of the staff.
- Dr. Bellamy announced a change to the policy regarding the OD/ON (Officer of Day and Night) On-Call Physician at the inpatient facilities in the Columbia area effective November 1, 2023. It is no longer required to have a physician onsite throughout the night. The change required updates to policies and staff training. She said Dr. Pollock will speak more to that in his report.
- Yesterday's new employee orientation welcomed 19 new hires under the nursing umbrella: seven licensed staff and 12 unlicensed.
- Dr. Bellamy presented the BPH and Harris Bed Turnover Report for October 2022 through October 2023, a copy of which is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director. During the month of October 2023, BPH had a total of four discharges which were greater than 90 days length of stay. Harris had a total of eight 8 discharges of which five were greater than 90 days length of stay and three were 30-90 days length of stay. The average daily census (ADC) at Bryan is 122 and ADC at Harris is 98.
- As of today, there is a total of 108 individuals on the Forensic Ready for Admission Waitlist. Dr. Bellamy reported a 58% increase in restoration admissions in comparison with admissions in 2022 and admissions in 2021. So far in 2023 there has been a total of 183 restoration admissions.
- Dr. Bellamy reported 61 forensic diversions/transfers admitted to civil beds in July 2023 compared to 18 in July 2022.

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On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Levy expressed condolences to the family of Mrs. Barbara Mitchell who passed away on October 13, 2023. Mrs. Mitchell was a nurse for 42 years. She was employed by Stone Veterans Pavilion at CM Tucker.

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.

- SC ETV is filming a segment highlighting DMH's ED Telepsychiatry Program. Dr. Pollock will provide more information as it becomes available.
- Ms. Rochelle Caton, Director of Patient Advocacy, continues to lead the designated examiner training course throughout the state, including private and community hospitals as well as residency training programs.
- Effective November 1, 2023, there will be a change from four on-call physicians onsite at four hospitals to two on-call physicians located remotely. This change will result in approximately \$1 million savings.
- The Tri-County Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Psychiatry Residency Program in Orangeburg, S.C. has ten residents rotating one day a week at one of seven DMH mental health centers. Dr. Bank noted the legislature provided \$3 million in one-time funds to support this program for one year. SCDHHS manages the funds.
- Dr. Pollock along with a forensic psychiatry hospital physician, the medical director from Lexington Community Mental Health Center, and chief of staff at Columbia Area Mental Health Center visited the Prisma Residency Program in Columbia recently to speak to a group of students about DMH career opportunities and resources available. He plans to do four recruitment efforts this fall.

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. Morgan talked about the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) program which consists of a team of nine individuals that will involve mental health counselors, peer support staff, psychiatrists, and nurses. She said Greater Greenville Mental Health Center presented their ACT program at the Center Directors Retreat in September 2023 which gave the mental health centers an idea of what the challenges could be in moving forward and implementing the ACT program at their center. Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Mental Health Center, Tri-County Mental Health Center, and Coastal Empire Mental Health Center will continue to look at their population and see if they have enough patients to add the ACT program in the future.
- The mental health centers are adding more peer support employees. The goal is to have peer support in the clinics at the mental health centers.
- Ms. Morgan reported that at the end of October 2023, there were approximately 887 patients across the state in CRCFs that are served by the various mental health centers. As of October 31, 2023, there were 34 patients that had been moved out of independent CRCFs and licensed community care homes, and there were 173 patients that expressed the desire to move to a different level of care.
- Ms. Morgan reported DMH hired a mental health clinician in September 2023 who is housed in the DSS State Office serving adult protective services. The clinician is receiving referrals from the DSS staff and she is involved in meetings at DSS.
- Ms. Morgan presented the CMHS Trends and Transparency Monthly Indicators (TMI) spreadsheets, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

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ADJOURNMENT

At 12:16 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. Dr. Maxwell signed out of Zoom and was not present for the Executive Session. Upon convening in open session at 1:45 p.m., Chairman Levy noted that only information was received; no votes or actions were taken.

At 1:45 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

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

Mr. Bobby Mann
Dr. Crystal Maxwell, virtually via Zoom
Mr. Greg Pearce

Visitors/Staff
Dr. Robert Bank
Dr. Versie Bellamy
Debbie Calcote
Robin Crawford
Elizabeth Hutto
Wanda McMichael
Dr. Chad Pollock
Tracy Richardson
Chaplain James Stokes
Brett Williams

present virtually via Zoom
Janet Bell
Lee Bodie
Dr. Robert Breen
Jackie Brown
Jennifer Butler
Peter Camelo
Leigh Ann Chmura
Gail Cordial
Beth Franco
Melanie Gambrell
Dr. Kelly Gothard
Jeffery Ham
Dr. Patricia Handley

present virtually via Zoom
Dr. Maryjane Hicks
Joy Hodge
Kathy Hugg
Keith Jackson
Charice Jones
Tracy LaPointe
Sarah Main
Kathy Martin
George McConnell
Allen McEniry
Margaret Meriwether
Linda Palmer
Valarie Perkins

present virtually via Zoom
Vickie Perry
Sylvett Porter
Dr. Lynelle Reavis
Shawnta Reeder-Locks
Dr. Kimberly Rudd
Bonita Shropshire
Jessica Suber
Irene Thornley
Eric Turner
Susan Von Schenk
Lindsay Walker
Kevin Woods

APPROVALS



Dr. Elliott Levy
Chair



Kim Ballentine
Recording Secretary

