

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SCDMH Administration
2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201
January 5, 2024

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 5, 2024, 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 10:33 a.m. Chaplain Kynan Robinson provided the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Chairman Levy welcomed everyone. Visitors present virtually were: Gail Cordial, Director, Policy & Government Relations, Alkermes; Casey Edmonds, Project Manager SC, Clubhouse International; Beth Franco, Executive Director, Disability Rights, SC; Wanda McMichael, SCPS Program Manager, Liberty Health Corporation; and Susan von Schenk, Capital Information Affiliates (CIA). Also present in person was Bill Lindsay, Executive Director, NAMI SC.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There being no amendments or corrections to the amended agenda dated January 2, 2024, the agenda was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no amendments or corrections to the minutes of the Commission meeting of December 1, 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 December 2023 a total of one pending investigation for the Office of Public Safety.

Ms. Hutto reported that as of yesterday there were 30 pending SLED investigations. Eight cases were assigned to SLED, of which the oldest is from October 2023; 14 cases were assigned to Long-term Care Ombudsman Office, of which the oldest is from July 2022; seven 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:

- 96 calls to patient advocacy in November 2023; a total of 918 year to date.
- 58 complaints were resolved in November 2023; a total of 838 year to date.
- The number of complaints by category resolved in November 2023 is 72 (*complaints are broken out by category, a single patient complaint may have more than one category*). Dr. Jones asked if there is a way to determine specifically where most of the complaints are coming from to ensure one or two centers' numbers do not negatively skew the data for the whole system. Ms. Hutto said the complaints mostly originate in the mental health centers. Ms. Rochelle Caton, Director, Office of Patient Advocacy, said she could run a report by each mental health center. The complaints in the mental health centers are lumped into one total to encourage reporting and not just a look at the numbers.

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Ms. Hutto reported results from the 2023 Community Mental Health Services Satisfaction Survey indicate 97% of survey respondents said it was easy to get an appointment.

Update on the City of Columbia’s Potential Acquisition of Property at Crafts Farrow Campus

At the October 6, 2023 business 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 reported the City of Columbia is researching two property sites located on the Crafts-Farrow campus. She anticipates the City will submit a contract proposal in the very near future.

Update on U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Investigation

Ms. Hutto reported that the meetings with DMH leadership and representatives from the DOJ concerning their investigation of South Carolina’s use of community residential care facilities to serve adults with serious mental illness are progressing very well and will be nearing the end of negotiations in the next month or so. There was discussion. Mr. Pearce asked if there is any appreciation that the matter is a money and personnel issue and not a lack of planning. Ms. Hutto stated DOJ representatives understand there is a budget process and that DMH feels very strongly about patient care and the desire to improve patient care.

QUARTERLY OLMSTEAD UPDATE

Ms. Tracy Richardson, Director, Office of Transition Programs, presented the “Olmstead Funds Tracking At A Glance,” copies of which has been provided to the Commission. The Olmstead Fund is used to assist hospitalized patients transition from the hospital to community housing, as well as periodically assist those patients in other secure institutional settings seeking admission to a DMH hospital when appropriate community housing would enable diversion of the patient to community treatment. Ms. Richardson reported the following since August 2023:

- Number of patients assisted: 11
- Total amount paid for patients: \$36,029
- Reimbursed back to DMH as of December 31, 2023: \$3,924

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Robin Crawford, Legislative Liaison, reported the following:

- The South Carolina General Assembly will convene on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, to begin the second year of its 125th legislative session. Some of the legislative priorities include examining state health agencies and their service delivery. Mr. Pearce noted that Senator Tameika Isaac Devine, who was sworn in on January 9, 2024, has always been a big supporter of behavioral health.
- DMH budget presentation to the House Ways and Means Healthcare Subcommittee is scheduled on Tuesday, January 23, 2024.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dr. Bank provided a copy of the Act 60 Health Analysis Interim Report submitted by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) dated January 1, 2024. A copy is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director. Dr. Bank said Ms. Marcia Adams, Executive Director, South Carolina Department of Administration (SCDOA) informed him that BGC will provide more specific recommendations within a week or so. There was discussion.
- There was discussion concerning the relocation of the administrative offices of DMH, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (DAODAS), and the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN) to the Otarre Parkway Campus, Cayce, South Carolina. The relocation was approved on November 14, 2023 by the Joint Bond Review Committee (JBRC) contingent on the Legislature appropriating funds for the lease and moving expenses. Mr. Pearce said he wanted noted for the record that his concern is the DMH Central Administration

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building is where it is for a reason and not just because it was adjacent to the State Hospital, it could have been built anywhere. He said he has a problem with relegating mental health out to “no-wheresville.”

- Dr. Bank reported DMH leadership continues to work closely with the Department of Administration 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.
- Dr. Bank provided a current DMH organizational chart, dated January 4, 2024, for information. He announced Dr. Chad Pollock was appointed Deputy Director of Medical Affairs effective December 17, 2023, and Ms. Melanie Gambrell was appointed Assistant Deputy Director, Community Mental Health Services, effective January 2, 2024. A copy of the organizational chart is file with the minutes in the Office of the State Director.
- The 2023 Annual Board Training was held virtually on December 8, 2023. There were approximately 100 attendees. Ms. Denise Morgan stated they received a lot of positive feedback from the training and said that Senator Shane Massey’s presentation was most helpful and provided good information on the importance of communicating with the representatives.

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Medical Services

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

- About a year and a half ago an Admissions Committee was established to review the Bryan Civil waitlist. At that time, there were 141 individuals on the waitlist. As of this morning, there are 28 individuals on the waitlist. Dr. Pollock introduced the Committee’s team members and commended them for their outstanding work: Dr. David Allen, Psychiatry Chief at Bryan; Dr. Rebecca Tummons, Primary Care Chief; Dr. Allison Critzer, Social Worker; Ms. Rochelle Caton, Director, Office of Patient Advocacy; Ms. Sarah Main, Executive Director, Lexington Community Mental Health Center; and Mr. Matt Dorman, Executive Director, Berkeley Community Mental Health Center.
- Chairman Levy asked about the residency program recruitment tours. Dr. Pollock reported in general they were all positive. The participants learned about DMH career opportunities and resources available. He noted that some of the mental health centers and Harris Psychiatric Hospital participated in the meetings. There were three meetings in three locations: Prisma Residency Program in Columbia; Greenville Prisma Residency Program; and MUSC Residency Program in Charleston.

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 introduced Ms. Melanie Gambrell, Assistant Deputy Director, Community Mental Health Services. Ms. Gambrell began her new responsibilities on January 2, 2024. She served at Beckman Mental Health Center for 27 years. Ms. Gambrell said that she will be supervising the 16 mental health center directors and also assisting Ms. Blalock with meetings and collaborating with other agencies. She noted three areas she will be focusing on:
 - Helping centers create/develop their Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams or transition their Integrated Care Program (ICP) teams over to ACT;
 - Multi-dimensional family therapy and;
 - Certified community behavioral health clinic model of care.
- There was discussion about identification of priorities at the mental health centers. First and foremost, patients’ access to care is always a priority. Mental health centers get their guidance from DMH leadership on what to focus on.
- Ms. Morgan presented the CMHS Trends and Transparency Monthly Indicators (TMI) spreadsheets, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. She noted that more mental health centers are involved with providing mental health court at their centers. Ms. Morgan talked about the mental health court process. A mental health court program summary will be emailed to the Commission.

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- Ms. Morgan announced Jennifer Butler, Director of the Office of Emergency Services, will present to the Commission in March 2024.
- Ms. Morgan distributed “Celebrating 30 years of School Mental Health” flyers to the Commission, copies of which are filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director.
- Chairman Levy asked about the South Carolina Afterschool Alliance (SCAA) and DMH partnership. Ms. Louise Johnson, Director of Child, Adolescents, and Family Services, explained the new partnership is an effort to improve access to mental health care for South Carolina youth by tapping into the statewide network of afterschool programs. The partnership will be supported by a grant awarded to SCAA. The program started in the Pee Dee area, which has 124 afterschool programs, with hopes to expand statewide.
- Ms. Morgan reported there were 843 schools in South Carolina with school mental health (SMH) staffing in 2020; As a result of the pandemic, the number of South Carolina schools with SMH staffing decreased: 831 in 2021; 623 in 2022; and 610 in 2023. She reported seven (7) schools were added in November 2023 from across the state. Currently, SMH staffing is in 47.6% of South Carolina schools.
- Ms. Morgan presented the 2023 Community Mental Health Services Patient Satisfaction Survey, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. The data collection for the survey took place between April 1 and July 31, 2023. There was a total of 175,118 survey solicitations and 11,466 completed surveys resulting in a 6.5% response rate.

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 November 30, 2023, the Department anticipates ending FY24 with a projected deficit balance of approximately \$13.6 million. Ms. Calcote noted the Department has expended 41.28% of state appropriations as of November 30, 2023. Mr. Pearce asked about fund transfers with the transfer of the veterans’ homes from DMH to the SCDVA. Ms. Calcote said DMH is working closely with DOA concerning the transfer and explained that DOA has provided an estimate of approximately \$2.7 million that will move to the DVA. Any veteran nursing home specific earned revenues will also move to the DVA.
- Ms. Calcote distributed the DMH New Hire Count by facility/program area October 1, 2023 through December 18, 2023, a copy of which is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director.
- Interviews will be held next week for the Human Resources Director position. The interview panel includes a partner from the State HR Office, one supervisor from the inpatient HR division, and one supervisor from the outpatient HR division.
- Ms. Calcote announced that DOA has scheduled a meeting this afternoon to discuss the Bull Street Corridor relocation.
- By July 1, 2024 the first region of community mental health centers will be introduced to the new Electronic Health Record (EHR). All mental health centers will be using the new EHR by October 2024.

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 referenced the Quality Measures Report included in the Commission packet. This report is provided on a quarterly basis. The report provides performance data for hospital-based inpatient psychiatric services (HBIPS) core measures – seclusion hours, restraint hours, and the inpatient consumer survey – for Bryan Psychiatric and Harris Psychiatric hospitals. Recidivism data (30-day readmission) for Bryan and Harris are also included. For the Long-Term Care (LTC) facilities, the focus was on the CMS Star Rating System, High Risk Unstageable Pressure Ulcers, and Falls with Major Injury. These measures allow the psychiatric hospitals and LTC facilities to benchmark with other facilities at the state and national level. Dr. Bellamy said the DIS psychiatric hospitals and LTC facilities all have vibrant quality/performance/safety programs designed to assess and improve performance, and are committed to providing residents and patients quality care in a safe environment.
- Dr. Levy asked about the Star ratings. Dr. Bellamy explained the Star ratings are through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The rating, between 1 to 5 stars, combines results from multiple areas, such as data

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from health inspections, staffing, and quality measures. Dr. Bellamy noted that one negative survey, or one bad decision can drive down a 5-Star rating to a 2-Star rating and once that happens, it takes about 18 months for the Star rating to increase. There was discussion.

- Dr. Bellamy reported as of today a total of 94 individuals on the Forensic Ready for Admission Waitlist. The Aiken jail-based restoration program has a 40% restoration rate for 2023, and the Columbia jail-based pilot which is located at the SVP program has a 58% restoration rate.

Approval of Minutes of the Governing Body for Inpatient Facilities of October 11, 2023

Dr. Bellamy presented the October 11, 2023 quarterly Inpatient Facilities Governing Body minutes, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.

By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the Inpatient Facilities Governing Body Minutes from the October 11, 2023 meeting.

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

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:17 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
Mr. Greg Pearce

Visitors/Staff
Dr. Robert Bank
Dr. Versie Bellamy
Debbie Calcote
Rochelle Caton
Robin Crawford
Dr. Allison Critzer
Melanie Gambrell
Elizabeth Hutto
Louise Johnson
Bill Lindsay
Denise Morgan
Dr. Chad Pollock
Tracy Richardson
Brett Williams

present virtually via Zoom
Janet Bell
Dr. Robert Breen
Pat Bresnan
Jackie Brown
Algie Bryant
Leigh Ann Chmura
Gail Cordial
Casey Edmonds
Beth Franco
Dr. Kelly Gothard

present virtually via Zoom
Jeffery Ham
Dr. Patricia Handley
Darla Helms
Dr. Maryjane Hicks
Joy Hodge
Kathy Hugg
Charice Jones
Tracy LaPointe
Wanda McMichael
Margaret Meriwether

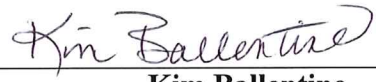
present virtually via Zoom
Linda Palmer
Valarie Perkins
Dr. Lynelle Reavis
Vicki Redding
Dr. Kimberly Rudd
Angie Salley
Eric Turner
Susan von Schenk
Lindsay Walker
Kevin Woods

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APPROVALS



Dr. Elliott Levy
Chair



Kim Ballentine
Recording Secretary