

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SCDMH Administration
2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201
February 2, 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, February 2, 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 10:30 a.m. Chaplain James Stokes provided the invocation.

Mr. Pearce announced the passing of Mr. William H. Creech on January 26, 2024. Mr. Creech was a former DMH employee. He retired in 1989. Mr. Pearce noted that Mr. Creech was the last Registrar at Crafts Farrow State Hospital.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Chairman Levy welcomed everyone. Visitors present virtually were: Lashia Bowers, Director of Counseling and Psychology, Coastal Carolina University; Wanda McMichael, SCPS Program Manager, Liberty Health Corporation; and Susan von Schenk, Capital Information Affiliates (CIA). Bill Lindsay, Executive Director, NAMI SC, was also present.

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 January 5, 2024, the minutes were approved as presented.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Dr. Robert Bank recognized Ms. Barbara Glasgow and on behalf of the Department of Mental Health and the Commission presented her a resolution honoring her upon her 50 years of service to the Department, and congratulated her on her upcoming retirement. Dr. Bank also presented her a 50-year service pin and certificate. Ms. Glasgow's resolution read as follows:

- Whereas:** The South Carolina Mental Health Commission and the State Director of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health recognize Barbara Glasgow for 50 years of service to the SCDMH and congratulate her on her upcoming retirement; and
- Whereas:** Mental health is critical to the well-being and vitality of all South Carolinians; and
- Whereas:** Ms. Glasgow has improved the lives of individuals living with mental illness, by serving in various roles during her career with SCDMH: nursing assistant, admissions specialist, medical records officer, timekeeper, postal clerk and cashier, and cashier supervisor; and

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Whereas: Ms. Glasgow has shown sincere dedication to and concern for the wellbeing of SCDMH patients in all positions she has held, whether providing direct patient care, guaranteeing medical records were processed properly, or ensuring patients' financial needs were met quickly and efficiently; and

Whereas: The South Carolina Mental Health Commission and the State Director of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health recognize and thank Ms. Glasgow for her dedicated, long-term service at the South Carolina Department of Mental Health; and

Now, therefore: We express our profound appreciation to Ms. Glasgow for her dedicated service to the mentally ill and her invaluable service to the South Carolina Department of Mental Health; offer her our sincere gratitude and best wishes in her upcoming retirement; and order that a copy of this Resolution be made a part of the Commission's permanent records.

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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 reminded the Commission that the annual Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) report is due by noon on March 30, 2024. The report must be filed electronically (<https://ethicsfiling.sc.gov/filing/home>).

Ms. Hutto reported for the month of January 2024 a total of three pending investigations for the Office of Public Safety.

Ms. Hutto reported that as of yesterday there were 20 pending SLED investigations. Four cases were assigned to SLED, of which the oldest is from April 2023; eight 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:

- 62 calls to patient advocacy in December 2023; a total of 980 year to date.
- 80 complaints were resolved in December 2023; a total of 918 year to date.
- The number of complaints by category resolved in December 2023 is 116 (*complaints are broken out by category, a single patient complaint may have more than one category*).

ISSUE ACTION PAPER (IAP)

Request to Declare 6.42 Acres of Property at Farrow and North Brickyard, Columbia, as Surplus

Ms. Hutto presented an IAP requesting Commission approval to sell 6.42 acres of property located at Farrow and North Brickyard, Columbia, SC, 29203. The agency has owned the land since 1913 as part of the Killian Lake property. There are no known plans for it, and the property appears abandoned. Divine Auro Developments, LLC, wants to purchase the property for use as "general commercial or retail, no nuisances uses." The property was appraised at \$195,000 on November 20, 2023. The agency must list the property as surplus and follow the Department of Administration Real Property process to sell it. State Real Property has received an offer of \$200,000.

By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved to list the property as surplus as presented.

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

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6-MONTH REPORT OF COLLECTIONS

Ms. Hutto presented the items from the six-month report of medical care accounts collections for July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. These funds are collected through involuntary means from self-pay clients. A total of \$90,773.86 was collected from July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

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 through December 2023, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. A copy of the presentation is on file with the minutes in the Office of the State Director. Following are highlights from the presentation:

- There were 31 compliance reports in the 1st and 2nd quarter FY24 with 18 classified as clinical performance issues and 13 classified as external audits.
- Dr. Reavis noted that the one compliance listed in the chart for CMHC-wide under “United Healthcare” is actually CMHC and DIS.
- Clinical performance issues included: 3 cloning, 3 falsifying documentation, 2 incomplete documentation, 3 overdue documentation, 2 inflated bill time, 3 other/multiple violations, 1 prescription issues, and 1 overutilization. There was discussion about the number of records audited.
- External Audits were conducted by Absolute Total Care, CMS, Healthy Blue, Molina, Select Health, and United Healthcare.
- Dr. Reavis reported a total of 63 reports in FY23 and thus far in FY24 a total of 31.
- There were 32 HIPAA reports in the first half of FY24 which included: 1 accessing of patient’s PHI (protected health information), 1 exposed medications, 2 improper filing, 4 inadvertent disclosure, 9 inadvertent emailing/fax/fax/ mailing, 1 inappropriate texting, 1 improper disclosure, 1 lost badge, 1 OCR (Office for Civil Rights) complaint, 1 photo posted on social media, 3 unauthorized disclosure, 1 unauthorized visitor, 5 unencrypted email, and 1 unsecured PHI.
- Mr. Pearce suggested that Dr. Reavis look at other states’ reporting process in the event SC Senate Bill S.915 is signed into law and the state’s healthcare agencies are under a newly created office, Executive Office of Health and Policy.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Robin Crawford, Director of Governmental Affairs, reported the following:

- S.915 – a bill that restructures the state’s healthcare agencies under a newly created *Executive Office of Health and Policy* led by a Gubernatorial appointee in a newly created position of Secretary of Health and Policy. The bill passed from the Medical Affairs Subcommittee to the full Senate Medical Affairs Committee on January 24, 2024. On January 31, 2024, the Senate Medical Affairs Committee met and talked about amendments to the bill including a state Olmstead plan that addresses individuals being treated in the community rather than institutionalized, requiring private citizens to have a place on a health planning advisory committee, and a name change to the newly created department that will provide services for mental health and substance use disorders. The House introduced their version of the bill, H.4927, which is very similar to the Senate version, and will hold its first hearing on February 6, 2024.
- On Thursday, February 1, 2024, the Senate Medical Affairs Committee passed S.408, a bill that will require one hour of suicide prevention training as a portion of the total continuing education requirement for counselors. The Committee amended the bill to add licensed social workers to the group of professionals who will be required to do the training.
- S.864 – a bill relating to youth suicide prevention teacher training, so as to provide requirements for training of individuals employed in a kindergarten through twelfth grade school or institution of higher education. The bill was referred to the Committee on Education.

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- S.865 – a bill relating to student identification cards and contact information for national suicide prevention lifeline, so as to provide for inclusion of private schools and schools serving kindergarten through twelfth grade, and to provide alternative methods of delivery of information for schools that do not issue identification cards. This bill was referred to the Committee on Education.
- Ms. Crawford announced Mental Health Advocacy Day is Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at the State House from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- On February 1, 2024, Dr. Maxwell was reappointed to the Mental Health Commission, where she serves on behalf of South Carolina’s Fifth Congressional District. Her term expires on July 31, 2028.

There was discussion on the restructuring of the state’s healthcare agencies. One of the recommendations is to abolish SCDMH and the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS) and combine into one behavioral health department, and to repeal Title 44, Chapter 9 relating to the Department of Mental Health.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Bank announced the following:

- The transfer of the contracted Veterans Nursing Homes from DMH to the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs (SCDVA) is on track to meet the deadline date of June 30, 2024. Stone Veteran Pavilion will remain with DMH for another year.
- As of this point in time, there are no updates on the potential relocation of the administrative offices at 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. In order for the affected state agencies’ administrative offices to relocate, significant expense and modification to the new leased spaces will be required and the General Assembly must appropriate the recurring and nonrecurring funds required to undertake the move, as well as the first year’s rent, in next year’s budget.
- G. Werber Bryan Hospital and William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute recently received 2023 Zero Harm awards in the Drive to Zero Suicide area from the South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA). A representative from SCHA presented the Zero Harm award to Dr. Bank on January 31, 2024. 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.

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

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 presented the CMHS Trends and Transparency Monthly Indicators (TMI) spreadsheets, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.
- On January 25, 2024, the Columbia Area Mental Health Center (CAMHC) was recognized as the 2024 Partner in Excellence with the Transitions Homeless Center for the many years of ongoing service being in partnership with transitions. Ms. Blalock reported CAMHC sets up the mobile crisis RV twice a week at the Transitions Homeless Center.
- Ms. Blalock referred to Dr. Reavis’ 1st and 2nd quarter FY24 Compliance Report. From July 2023 to January 31, 2024, community mental health services provided 460,516 services to a total of 64,782 patients. 2% of those services would be 9,210 services provided; 2% of those patients would be 1,295 patients. The percentages of compliance issues are miniscule in relationship to services provided. Ms. Blalock commended Dr. Reavis and her staff for their good work and said the Office of Quality Management and Compliance is phenomenal in being partners to the clinicians, and the clinicians feel their work is collaborative and not punitive.

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- In response to Mr. Pearce’s question from the January 5, 2024 Commission meeting on how center directors prioritize what they have to do, Ms. Blalock distributed a copy of the center directors’ Employee Performance Management System (EPMS). The EPMS lists 21 duties which lays out the expectations. There was discussion. A copy of the EPMS is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director.
- Ms. Blalock announced the following: Ms. Tacey Perillo assumed the role of executive director of the Beckman Center for Mental Health Services (BCMHC) effective January 2, 2024. Ms. Perillo began her tenure at BCMHC in 2001; Mr. Bryant Williams assumed the role of executive director of the Orangeburg Area Mental Health Center (OAMHC) effective January 17, 2024. Mr. Bryant began his tenure at the OAMHC in 2014.
- The process of developing 13 ACT (Assertive Community Treatment) teams across the state continues. The ACT program consists of a team of nine individuals that will involve mental health counselors, peer support staff, psychiatrists, and nurses. 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 following counties have mental health courts: Charleston, Richland, Greenville, Berkeley, Aiken, Horry and Georgetown. Ms. Blalock will provide a mental health court program summary to the Commission in the near future.
- Mental health professionals are embedded in 12 county detention centers across the state: Orangeburg, Darlington, Marion, Spartanburg, Kershaw, Horry, Aiken, Barnwell, Berkeley, Charleston, York, and Chester. She noted several legislators are impressed with DMH’s model and would like to gather funding to develop this model in more detention centers across the state.
- Beginning on March 1, 2024, the Charleston 988 Call Center will be taking 50% of the calls. Presently, Mental Health America of Greenville County is primary in taking the calls, and Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center is secondary.
- With regard to the zero suicide effort, in both community and hospitals, DMH is the only state in the nation that requires safety plans and develop safety plans for every patient served.

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 December 31, 2023, the Department anticipates ending FY24 with a projected deficit balance of approximately \$14.6 million. Ms. Calcote noted the Department has expended 50% of state appropriations as of December 31, 2023.
- Construction on the Sumter Veterans Nursing Home is expected to be complete sometime after July 1, 2024. The South Carolina Department of Veterans’ Affairs (SCDVA) and the State Procurement Division have submitted a request for a proposal for an operator for that facility. DMH has provided input and Dr. Kimberly Rudd, Director, Division of Long-Term Care, is a participant on the selection board for the operator.
- The DMH Budget Office and the DOA Budget Office are performing monthly reconciliations to ensure accurate transfer of funds that will move to the DVA with the transfer of the veterans’ homes from DMH to the SCDVA.
- The DOA Legal Office is assisting with contracts that now exist with DMH that will move to SCDVA’s responsibility.
- The DMH Human Resources Director position has been vacant since July 2023. Interviews for the position have been completed and an offer of employment is being extended.
- There was discussion on the potential relocation of administrative offices of DMH and other state agencies (the South Carolina Departments of Public Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, and Disabilities and Special Needs) to Otarre Parkway in Cayce, South Carolina. Dr. Bank and Senior Management are keeping staff informed as they are informed. On January 22, 2024, Dr. Bank and Senior Management met with Central Administration employees to talk about the potential relocation. The staff has been provided a virtual video tour of the building at 400 Otarre Parkway.
- The renovations at Fewell Pavilion will be complete in the next few weeks. The funding for the renovations was provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security

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(CARES) Act, which provided funding for COVID related renovations to existing State Veterans Homes. Fewell will be secured and used for isolation/quarantine units for any veteran across the state of South Carolina.

- The DOA is guiding DMH through the construction of the Psychiatric Residential Care Facility (PRTF). It was approved last year that a design-build-operate-maintain approach would provide the best facility that would benefit juvenile justice involved youth with a serious mental illness in need of admission and treatment to a PRTF. The contract was awarded to WellPath. SCHHS is overseeing the funding of the project.

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 that all inpatient facilities are maintaining accreditation certification. She commended the staff for their phenomenal work.
- Dr. Bellamy talked briefly about the transition planning for the transfer of the Veterans' Nursing Homes from DMH to SCDVA. She acknowledged the collaborative efforts between the two agencies and recognized the work of Dr. Kimberly Rudd and Ms. Cindy Helff, Manager of Contract Oversight, for preparing staff and answering questions in this effort.
- 2024 is the 21st year for the Palmetto Gold Nurse Recognition and Scholarship Program honoring 100 South Carolina registered nurses exemplifying excellence in nursing practice and commitment to the profession. The 2024 recipients from DMH are:
 - Lashonda Mayfield, Admissions Nurse, CM Tucker Stone Pavilion
 - Alma Thaggard-Singleton, Nurse Manager WSH, G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital
 - Renia Davis, DNP, DIS PI Resource Nurse, G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital
 - Stephanie Averette, DNP, FNP, BPH Civil

Dr. Bellamy expressed congratulations to this year's recipients and said this is a prestigious award bringing honor to the employee, to DMH, and to the profession. The awards will be presented at the Palmetto Gold Gala scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2024, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. Dr. Levy stated that he would like for the Commission to recognize the 2024 Palmetto Gold recipients at a future Commission meeting. Dr. Bellamy will follow up.

- The overall ADC (average daily census) for G. Weber Bryan Psychiatric (Civil, Forensics) and Patrick B. Harris Psychiatric Hospital reflect that these facilities continue to make optimal use of available beds. As of today, Bryan Civil is at 122 and Harris is at 98, which is maximum capacity for both facilities. Morris Village has exceeded its functional capacity of 42 beds. As of today, Morris Village is at 48. William S. Hall's capacity goal is 25 beds and today is at 22.
- Dr. Bellamy talked about the jail-based competency restoration program and how the legislative changes that took place in 2022, which increased the period in restoration from 60 to 180 days, has positively impacted services. Successful restoration rates for the hospital beds have continued to remain in the high 70s (75% of inpatient restoration patients are being successfully restored to competency), and improvement in jail-based restoration outcomes (improvement of roughly 50% restored to 65% restored presently). The improved restoration rates reduce the number of referrals for civil commitment to Forensics after a Court finding of not competent after restoration. The current restoration rate is 77% compared to 44% in 2022, prior to the statute amendments. Dr. Bellamy reported a total of 153 individuals have been served through this newly jail-based competency restoration program. The improved rate automatically decreased the number of referrals for long-term civil commitment which in turn allowed for more beds to be used for shorter term restoration services, which remains to be the greatest demand. She reported a total of 10 individuals waiting on a hospital bed for civil commitment after an unsuccessful restoration period compared to 43 that were waiting in May 2023. She commended Dr. Gothard and her team on their work and said the combined efforts of the whole agency are paying off. The Forensic Ready for Admission Waitlist has been above 100 since August 2023 and began decreasing below 100 in December 2023, and maintaining around 90 on the waitlist since that time. She quoted from Dr. Kelly Gothard, "Although every person is moving just a grain of sand at a time, we are now seeing the beach move in earnest."

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- The jail-based restoration and competency programs include Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Psychosis (CBTP), an evidence-based treatment program. Dr. Bellamy reported less than 1% of individuals with a psychotic disorder across the country have access to this intervention. Only .1% of the country's mental health treatment workforce have been trained in CBTP. In contrast, more than 70% of DMH clinicians have been trained in CBTP. Dr. Bellamy commended the staff for the implementation of CBTP. Forensics staff has prioritized training and implementation of CBTP.

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.

- Transition Specialists Program
 - From July 2023 through December 2023, Transition Specialists have assisted with 110 discharges.
 - 57% of the discharged individuals went to home/family placement or to independent living. Dr. Bank noted the patient average length of stay when the transition program first began was about 2 ½ years. The patient average length of stay now is 1 ½ years.
 - Of the 110 discharges over the past six months, there were 0 readmissions within 30 days of discharge.
 - The Office of Transition Programs is in discussions with MUSC for potential transition specialist onsite, potentially hiring one as DMH employee, splitting cost and having them embedded at MUSC.
- Dr. Pollock presented a flyer on the 2023 Telehealth Program of Excellence award which was presented to the South Carolina DMH Community Tele-Psychiatry program during the 11th Annual Telehealth Summit of South Carolina, a copy of which had been provided to the Commission. Dr. Pollock showed a video produced by SCETV, and can be viewed on their website, <https://www.scetv.org>, about the DMH Emergency Room Telepsychiatry program, "Tele-psychiatry Program Eases Burden on South Carolina Emergency Rooms."

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

On behalf of the Commission, Dr. Levy expressed heartfelt condolences to the family of Mr. Dennis Petterson. Mr. Petterson was a Pharmacist for the past six years at Harris Psychiatric Hospital and passed away suddenly on January 25, 2024.

Dr. Jones announced the 46th Annual Cross Cultural Conference will be held February 29 – March 3, 2024, in Greenville, S.C. and encouraged everyone to attend.

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:11 p.m. by motion duly made and seconded, the Commission adjourned the business meeting and entered into Executive Session to discuss the negotiation of a proposed contract for the sale of unused properties in Richland County. 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.

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ATTENDANCE

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

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

Visitors/Staff

Dr. Robert Bank
Dr. Versie Bellamy
Debbie Calcote
Robin Crawford
Barbara Glasgow
Elizabeth Hutto
Louise Johnson
Bill Lindsay
Valarie Perkins
Dr. Chad Pollock
Dr. Lynelle Reavis
Tracy Richardson
Chaplain James Stokes
Brett Williams

present virtually via Zoom

Janet Bell
Lashia Bowers
Dr. Robert Breen
Jackie Brown
Peter Camelo
Pete Creighton
Matthew Dorman
Melanie Gambrell
Dr. Kelly Gothard
Chris Haines

present virtually via Zoom

Dr. Patricia Handley
Dr. Maryjane Hicks
Kathy Hugg
Keith Jackson
Charice Jones
Tracy LaPointe
Sarah Main
Wanda McMichael
Sylvett Porter
Vicki Redding

present virtually via Zoom

Shawnta Reeder-Locks
Dr. Kimberly Rudd
Angie Salley
Eric Turner
Susan von Schenk
Patricia Williams
Kevin Woods
Lynn Wright
Marie Young

APPROVALS


Dr. Elliott Levy
Chair


Kim Ballentine
Recording Secretary