

**SOUTH CAROLINA MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION**  
**SCDMH Administration**  
**2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201**

**April 5, 2024**

**Columbia Area Mental Health Center – Virtual Presentation**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Commission Members:**

Dr. Elliott Levy, Chair, Dr. Carl Jones, Mr. Bobby Mann, and Mr. Greg Pearce were present. Dr. Crystal Maxwell was absent, excused.

**Staff/Visitors:**

Dr. Robert Bank	<i>Present virtually via Zoom</i>	<i>Present virtually via Zoom</i>	<i>Present virtually via Zoom</i>
Dr. Chad Pollock	Carolyn Baldwin	Melanie Gambrell	Kathy Martin
Logan Royals	Dr. Versie Bellamy	Jeffery Ham	George McConnell
Gwen Watson	Janet Bell	Dr. Maryjane Hicks	Margaret Meriwether
Brett Williams	Alicia Benedetto	Joy Hodge	Valarie Perkins
	Deborah Blalock	Kathy Hugg	Dr. Lynelle Reavis
	Jackie Brown	Mahri Irvine	Allison Smith
	Jennifer Brush	Charice Jones	Orinthal Striggles
	Jennifer Butler	Tracy LaPointe	Eric Turner
	Caroline DiBattisto	Bill Lindsey	Susan von Schenk
	Matthew Dorman	Sarah Main	Lindsay Walker

A 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, April 5, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. Chairman Levy welcomed everyone to the meeting and turned the meeting over to Ms. Kathy Hugg, Executive Director, Columbia Area Mental Health Center (CAMHC).

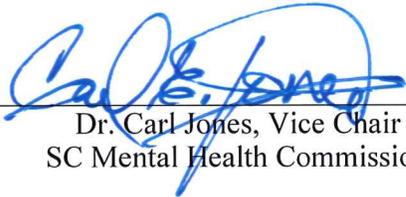
**PRESENTATION**

Ms. Hugg welcomed everyone and introduced the following members of her team: Ms. Alicia Benedetto, Ph.D., Program Manager for Metropolitan Children’s Advocacy Center and Mr. Orinthal Striggles, MA, Capital Complex Clinical Support Staff. They gave a presentation on CAMHC, a copy of which is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director. Following are highlights from the presentation.

- CAMHC provides mental health services in Richland and Lexington Counties.
- CAMHC treats over 7,000 patients; employs approximately 193 employees; has an annual budget of a little over \$21 million of which approximately 84% of their total expenditures goes towards personnel. CAMHC is a millage agency and receives close to \$2.7 million annually from Richland County.
- Adult services include:
  - Dialectical Behavior Therapy and Suicide Prevention services.
  - Therapy and medical services to first responders and their families.
  - Jail diversion program in conjunction with Probate Court and Solicitor’s Office.
  - Homeshare – integrates patients into a community household with trained providers who render 24/7 care and support.
  - NGRI Clinic – provides psychiatric services to individuals living in the community who have been deemed not guilty by reason of insanity.

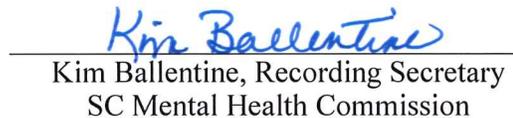
- Same day crisis and psychiatric medical services to anyone who has a psychiatric emergency.
- Coming soon: Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) for high users of the emergency departments and hospitals, and the state's second crisis stabilization unit (CSU) that will provide 24/7 residential stay, for up to 14 days, in hopes of avoiding a psychiatric hospitalization.
- Child, Adolescents, and Families (CAF) services include:
  - School based mental health services for 44 schools in Richland and Fairfield counties.
  - Crisis stabilization services that provide immediate assessment of youth who present in acute psychiatric crisis.
  - Infant and Early Childhood Evaluation and Treatment Clinic.
  - Case management of Children in Out-of-Home Placement.
  - Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT).
- Embedded Clinicians at Transitions Homeless Shelter, Richland County Sheriff's Department, Columbia Police Department (Pathways Team), Richland County DSS Office, Prisma Richland Emergency Room, and the State House Capital Complex.
- Metropolitan Child Advocacy Center (MetCAC) – began in 1990 as a medical evaluation program. MetCAC is the only state funded Children's Advocacy Center in South Carolina. Its primary mission is to conduct forensic interviews and medical exams of youth due to allegations of abuse or neglect. There was a total of 831 referrals in 2023.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Levy thanked Ms. Hugg and her staff for their continued services and for the very informative presentation. The center presentation concluded at 10:15 a.m.




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Dr. Carl Jones, Vice Chair  
SC Mental Health Commission




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Kim Ballentine, Recording Secretary  
SC Mental Health Commission