

*J.R. Duke*

THE DUKE ENDOWMENT



**DMH** SOUTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT of  
MENTAL HEALTH

PARTNERS IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
EMERGENCY SERVICES

*our* MISSION

To develop a telepsychiatry  
consultation system that will  
provide best practice  
consultations in emergency  
departments in South Carolina

*our* VISION

*Achieving Tomorrow, Today*

To propel DMH into  
tomorrow's behavioral health  
practice arena through the  
statewide implementation of  
innovative telepsychiatry  
utilizing visionary  
sophisticated video and  
consultation practices.

**DMH**

SOUTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT of  
MENTAL HEALTH

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GRANT

TELEPSYCHIATRY CONSULTATION  
PROGRAM FUNDED BY  
THE DUKE ENDOWMENT

[www.scdmh.org](http://www.scdmh.org)



**SOUTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT of  
MENTAL HEALTH**

*the GRANT*

The South Carolina Department of Mental Health (DMH) has received a grant from The Duke Endowment to develop and implement a telepsychiatry network serving 65 emergency departments across the state. This network will provide psychiatric consultation 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. There will be no face-to-face services to patients. All consultations will be done through this real time, high speed interactive video and voice consultation system. Services are expected to begin on a limited basis by late summer 2008.

*the PLAN*

Psychiatrists will provide patient assessment and recommendations for disposition. For persons waiting for a public psychiatric or substance abuse bed, the consulting psychiatrists will make recommendations for initial care. All consultations will be performed according to best practice and reported on an electronic medical record form.

*the PROGRESS*

DMH is in the process of implementing an electronic medical record, and the DMH psychiatrists providing emergency department consultations will be able to access this record to obtain clinical information on patients with open cases. In addition, a contract with the South Carolina Office of Research and Statistics will also allow the DMH psychiatrists working on this project to access information which includes all billings for services to Medicaid and State Health Plan enrollees in addition to information from all emergency department visits, all DMH hospital discharges, and numerous other sources of information to facilitate improved patient care.

*the FUTURE*

Consultation offices will be located in Anderson (upstate), Columbia (midlands), and Charleston (low country), SC, allowing a physician to live anywhere in the state and still be able to work in this telepsychiatry program without excessive travel. We will select appropriate home sites and install a computer, camera and broad-band connection allowing a consulting psychiatrist to work from home. The schedules of the psychiatrists may be flexible to account for the round-the-clock coverage. Opportunities exist for both full and part-time employment. Malpractice insurance is provided, and individuals working at least 30 hours a week are eligible for benefits of the State of South Carolina.

*the OPPORTUNITY*

**GRANT FUNDING**

an opportunity to effectively impact behavioral health services delivery through telepsychiatry technology

**to HELP BUILD**

an advanced solution for treating mental illness at an acute point of need

**SUPPORT**

emergency department physicians in South Carolina

**and WORK**

effectively with 5,000 staff statewide

**in INNOVATIVE**

emergency psychiatric services... *from your home*

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

are updated weekly, online at [www.jobs.sc.gov](http://www.jobs.sc.gov)

**for INFORMATION :**

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**WE ARE**

An Equal Opportunity Employer

**DMH**

employs J-1 Visa Waiver psychiatrists