

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SCDMH Administration
2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201
July 10, 2020

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, July 10, 2020, at 10:30 a.m. Commission members were present virtually via Zoom. 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 Pearce called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. Mrs. Rochelle Caton provided the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Chairman Pearce welcomed everyone. Visitors present via Zoom were Joseph Bustos and Andrews Caplan, The State Newspaper; Beth Franco, Protection & Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Inc.; Representative Chip Huggins; Jake Knotts; Crawford Latham; Bill Lindsay, Executive Director, NAMI SC; Mandy Medlock, Genoa Healthcare; Dr. Balbir Minhas; Jocelyn Piccone, Liberty Healthcare; Janie Simpson; Roxanne Wilson; Glenda Woodard; and Kristy Quattrone and Sym Singh, Governor's Office.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Mr. Bob Hiott, seconded by Ms. Louise Haynes, the Commission approved the Agenda for today's Business Meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Dr. Evans, and seconded by Ms. Haynes, the Commission approved the minutes from the Business Meeting of June 5, 2020

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

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Dr. Alison Evans nominated Mr. Greg Pearce to serve as Chair. Mr. Hiott seconded the nomination. No further nominations were received. Mr. Pearce was re-elected by acclamation as Chair.

Mr. Hiott nominated Ms. Louise Haynes to serve as Vice-Chair. Dr. Evans seconded the nomination. No further nominations were received. Ms. Haynes was re-elected by acclamation as Vice-Chair.

MONTHLY/QUARTERLY INFORMATION REPORTS

Ms. Elizabeth 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 June a total of three pending investigations by the Office of Public Safety. Two investigations were added this month. One case was investigated and determined to be unfounded and therefore was closed, leaving a total of four cases pending investigation.

Ms. Hutto reported that as of July 9th there were a total of 14 pending SLED investigations. Two cases had been assigned to SLED, of which the oldest is from May 2020; five cases were assigned to Long-term Care Ombudsman Office of which the oldest is from September 2019; three were assigned to local law enforcement, of which the oldest is from January 2019; four were assigned to the Attorney General's Office (AGO). She noted that one of the cases assigned to

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the AGO goes back to August 2017. She explained the case will remain open until the defendant is located or until the AGO decides not to pursue any longer.

Ms. Hutto highlighted the following from the Patient Advocacy Report:

- 42 calls to patient advocacy in May 2020; a total of 236 year to date.
- 54 complaints were resolved in May 2020.
- 322 complaints have been resolved year-to-date.
- The number of complaints by category resolved year to date is 401 (*complaints are broken out by category, a single patient complaint may have more than one category*).

Ms. Hutto reported 50 additional patients expressed an interest with voting and assistance with absentee ballots. The Patient Advocacy Team has worked to register a total of 150 patients for the opportunity to cast their vote.

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Coronavirus Response

Administrative Services

Ms. Debbie Calcote presented the Administrative Services Report. She said Administrative Services works behind the scenes in all areas of the organization, such as: Public Safety monitors and provides support to all inpatient settings as it relates to patient care and safety; Physical Plant Services is collaborating with the development of alternative care sights for the DIS system; the Division of Financial Services is working diligently on the year-end closeout of FY2020; and the IT Division is creating a means for virtual visits that will provide the ability to virtually connect admitted patients and residents with their loves ones. Ms. Calcote stated Administrative Services is the foundation upon which all clinical and medical services are delivered, and Administrative Services' employees proudly fulfill their responsibilities for the organization.

Community Mental Health Services

Chairman Pearce announced Deborah Blalock, Deputy Director of Community Mental Health Services, has been recognized by SCETV as one of 11 Women of Vision SC honorees for 2020. On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Pearce congratulated Ms. Blalock on her well-deserved honor and recognition. Ms. Blalock thanked the Commission and expressed appreciation to the centers and center directors for their hard work and for being a team of vision in the State.

Ms. Blalock presented the Community Mental Health Services Trends and Transparency Monthly Indicators (TMI) spreadsheets, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. She noted that 95% of requests for services across the state have met the DMH Standards for Access, which are 24 hours for emergencies, 48 hours for urgent requests, and seven days for routine requests. Chairman Pearce also noted that five centers exceeded their productivity numbers.

Ms. Blalock expressed appreciation for the support which Administrative Services provides CMHS. She provided a PowerPoint presentation of the mental health centers' response during COVID-19 (a copy of the PowerPoint presentation is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director). She said prior to COVID, DMH was serving over 60,000 patients in the community. As of July 6, 2020, 2.5% of those patients had not been seen, down from 14.08% in May 2020.

Ms. Blalock reported the SAMHSA funded DMH/DOADAS program SC Hopes 24/7 call center launched on June 1, 2020. As of today, there have been 204 calls to the call center. The marketing campaign through Gray Media includes a SC Hopes commercial that is currently aired on television stations across the state. A YouTube video of the commercial was shown. Billboards advertising the SC Hopes call center are appearing all across the state.

At the request of Chairman Pearce, Ms. Blalock explained how SC Hopes came about. She said SAMHSA extended a call for proposals related to providing access to care and connecting people who have been negatively impacted by COVID-19. The \$2 million grant was awarded to DMH and DAODAS. As a result, the SC Hopes line was created for people to call in and connect to care; the grant provides financial assistance for mental health care and substance use

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services across the state; the Healthcare Outreach Team (HOT) was created and is designed to assist healthcare workers across the state who have been negatively impacted by COVID-19; and the grant additionally provides financial assistance for inmates being released who need mental health services.

Ms. Blalock reviewed the 2019 vs. 2020 Volume Indicator Comparison graphs, copies of which were provided to the Commission and are filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director.

Division of Inpatient Services (DIS)

Chairman Pearce commended Dr. Bellamy on the appearance and creativity shown in her written report. Dr. Bellamy said that she is very appreciative of her team's efforts and for the hard work and dedication by Ms. Irene Thornley, Director, DIS Planning and Human Resources, in designing the report.

Dr. Bellamy presented the Division of Inpatient Services report. Below are highlights from the report:

- Efforts continue in implementing a number of mitigation strategies designed to stop or curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus in the facilities. A negative COVID-19 test for prospective patients prior to admission is required. Testing is repeated following admission.
- Observation/isolation areas have been established in every inpatient facility. Dr. Bellamy expressed appreciation for the support provided from Administrative Services, Physical Plant Services, Public Safety, and Community Partners.
- The pace of admissions will continue to be guided by CDC and DHEC recommendations.
- The DIS COVID-19 Task Force continues to hold weekly meetings with active participation from all the facilities.
- All employees are screened for COVID-19 symptoms prior to entrance to any DIS building or facility.
- Adequate supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) continues to be a priority. DIS stays in communication with DHEC, CDC and the SC Hospital Association to ensure health care partners are aware of the needs.

Forensic Waiting List Update

Dr. Bellamy reported that as of today there are 73 patients on the forensic waiting list. The DIS leadership team continues to look for ways to acquire additional space and build capacity while maintaining patient safety. She recognized Dr. Kelly Gothard, Chief Psychologist, Forensic Services for an update.

Dr. Gothard reported the Forensic Waitlist has been restructured to separate the categories of admission into (1) Forensic Waitlist – Ready for Admissions, and (2) Referral Waitlist – Unable to Admit. The Referral Waitlist includes those individuals who have been referred for admission but do not yet meet all legal requirements to be admitted. Notification has been provided to inform stakeholders and the referring parties of the specific documents required for admission. She reported the restructuring has been well-received.

Dr. Gothard reported that consistent with DHEC and CDC guidelines all new admissions are observed and housed separately from the general population for a 14-day period. In an effort to increase capacity, Forensic Staff is planning and preparing for additional space through outside alternate care sites.

Dr. Gothard reported that in June DMH began exploring the possibility of a proviso to allow for jail-based restoration treatment services in one jail. This would allow individuals in that jail to participate in jail-based restoration services, if appropriate, in lieu of placement on the forensic waitlist or commitment to the forensic facility.

Report of the Inpatient Facilities Governing Body Meeting of April 29, 2020 and Approval of the Minutes

Dr. Bellamy presented the April 29, 2020 quarterly Inpatient Facilities Governing Body Meeting minutes, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.

Ms. Haynes requested that future Joint Commission and CARF accreditation reports for facilities at DMH be provided to the Commission for an opportunity to review. Dr. Bellamy will follow up.

On a motion by Mr. Hiott, seconded by Ms. Haynes, the Commission approved the Governing Body Meeting minutes from the April 29, 2020 meeting.

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

Closed Loop Medication Management

Ms. Christine Latham, Pharmacy Director, enthusiastically shared with the Commission a PowerPoint presentation on Closed Loop Medication Management (a copy of the PowerPoint presentation had been provided to the Commission and is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director). Below are highlights from the presentation:

- Automated prescription dispensing technology was introduced in hospitals in the 1980s.
- DIS began exploring the feasibility of the technology in 2006, and on October 23, 2019, 14 years later, the automated medication dispensing machines are in operation at DMH inpatient hospitals.
- Some benefits of automated dispensing technology:
 - Medication accessibility and availability at the point of care
 - Improved security
 - Accountability of controlled substances
 - Inventory management and expiration date monitoring
 - Medication replenishment using barcode scanning
 - Electronic refrigerator temperature monitoring and tracking
 - In compliance with the Joint Commission (TJC) requirements

Elizabeth Brown, Director of Informatics for DIS, talked about the process for nurse administration of bar-code medication. The use of barcode technology is a way of improving the administration of medication and reduces the potential harmful impact to patients caused by administration errors. Barcodes are added to patient labels that are affixed to the patient armband. Medication barcodes are scanned and queued for documentation. Barcode scanning completes the closed loop of medication administration. Ms. Brown noted that scanning is not the only way to open the electronic medication administration record (eMAR) in instances where a patient is at risk of harm or refuses to wear the armband.

Ms. Latham thanked everyone for their great work and support throughout the years to bring this project to where it is today. On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Pearce thanked Ms. Latham and Ms. Brown for their very comprehensive presentation and commended them on a job well done. He extended to them an invitation to return to a Commission meeting next year and provide an update on the system's performance. Ms. Latham invited the Commissioners to visit the training and testing unit that is set up in the pharmacy.

Financial Status Update

Ms. Calcote presented the monthly financial report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. Ms. Calcote reported DMH is projected to end FY20 under budget. This was received as information.

Ms. Calcote gave a brief update on the stimulus money the Department has received under the Federal Coronavirus Stimulus Package.

- \$2.7 million was allocated to the skilled nursing facilities to support their operations in a time of reduced admissions and increased expenditures.
- Over \$3.6 million was allocated to account for lost revenue and increased expenditures at DMH hospital facilities and community mental health centers of patient admissions and inpatient systems as a result of COVID-19.
- The Department as well as other state agencies will work with the State Executive Budget Office and Department of Administration to seek reimbursement for eligible COVID-19 expenditures from the Federal Coronavirus Stimulus Package.

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Issue Action Paper (IAP): Approval of Donation of Flagpole Construction and Associated Lighting at Veterans Nursing Home in Cherokee County

Ms. Calcote presented an Issue Action Paper requesting Commission approval of the donation of the construction of flagpoles and associated lighting by Sossamon Construction at the Veterans Nursing Home in Cherokee County, 205 Hampshire Drive, Gaffney, South Carolina. The flagpoles will fly the Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy, and MIA/POW flags, with the center flagpole for the United States and South Carolina State flags. The estimated value of this donation is \$20,110.

On a motion by Ms. Haynes, and seconded by Dr. Evans, the Commission approved the request as presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Rogers stated this month represents the end of his first quarter as State Director. He thanked the Commission, Senior Management Team, and DMH staff for the tremendous support he has received over the past three months.

Dr. Rogers reported the following:

- On June 15, 2020, the S.C. Mental Health Commission, and the State Director and Senior Management of the S.C. Department of Mental Health issued a statement on diversity and inclusion to all the Department employees (a copy of the statement is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director). Dr. Rogers said that he received a number of positive comments from the staff and the statement was well-received.
- Senior Management is in the process of writing a position description for a Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer. The recruitment process should begin soon.
- Senior Management is in the first phase of a strategic planning process defining the current duties of each division.
- The August 2020 Commission meeting is scheduled to be held at C.M. Tucker, however due to ongoing safety precautions related to the COVID-19 the meeting will most likely be held remotely via Zoom.

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Comments

Chairman Pearce provided the following: "The public comments are limited to relevant general information comments or questions regarding SCDMH operations and/or mental health needs of the state and/or opportunities to support the recovery of individuals with mental illness. The public comment period of the Commission is not a forum to discuss particular facts or individual cases. The speaker must not share any information that would be protected health information of a third party, privately identified information of a third party, or information about a particular staff member or any individual whether affiliated with DMH or not. The Chair will stop any speaker who violates the basic elements of relevant civil discord or general topics. Comments that seek to degrade or insult a DMH patient, staff member, or members of the public will not be tolerated. If at any time the chair feels the speaker to be out of order in their comments, the chair will immediately stop the speaker. Public comments will be taken under advisement and will not be addressed at the Commission meeting. Each speaker has three minutes to speak and each must provide their full name and address at which time afterwards the three minutes will start."

Public comment was given by Dr. Shalini Mittal, G Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital. Dr. Mittal presented a proposal on Centralized Medical Care Delivery System with Qualified Chain of Command for: 1) Medical Chain of Command, and 2) Psychiatry Chain of Command. Dr. Mittal stated that she emailed a copy of the proposal to the Commissioners and Dr. Rogers in advance.

Public comment was given by Dr. Balbir Minhas, Elgin, S.C. regarding the cancellation of his contract with the Department.

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Public comment was given by Mr. Jake Knotts, West Columbia, S.C., concerning medical care given to patients at SCDMH hospitals.

Representative Chip Huggins said today's meeting was an educational experience for him and expressed appreciation for all the Department is doing, and appreciates the Commission's consideration of the comments presented today.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:22 p.m., on a motion by Ms. Haynes, seconded by Dr. Evans, the Commission adjourned the Business Meeting and entered into Executive Session to receive legal advice concerning potential litigation. Upon convening in open session at 1:00 p.m., it was noted that only information was received; no votes or actions were taken.

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members – (members were present virtually via Zoom)

L. Gregory Pearce, Jr. Chair	Dr. Alison Evans
Louise Haynes, Vice Chair	Robert Hiott

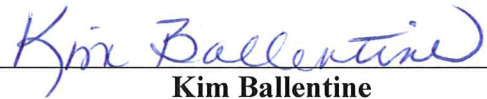
Visitors/Staff

Dr. Robert Bank	<u>present virtually via Zoom</u>	<u>present virtually via Zoom</u>	<u>present virtually via Zoom</u>
Dr. Versie Bellamy	Jennifer Alleyne	Anita Gathers	Denise Morgan
Mark Binkley	Joycely Bowens	Karen Graydon	Jocelyn Piccone
Deborah Blalock	Vanessa Brill	Jeffery Ham	Kristy Quattrone
Liz Brown	Mirtha Brown	Patricia Handley	Lynelle Reavis
Debbie Calcote	Joseph Bustos	Kevin Hoyle	Jennifer Roberts
Rochelle Caton	Pete Camelo	Rep. Chip Huggins	Ken Roey
Kelly Gothard	Andrew Caplan	Jake Knotts	Janie Simpson
Elizabeth Hutto	Leigh Ann Chmura	Crawford Latham	Sym Singh
Christine Latham	Teresa Curry	Bill Lindsey	Susan Steedman
Valarie Perkins	Matthew Dorman	Dana Lindsey	Roger Williams
Dr. Kenneth Rogers	Tamara Edrington	Sarah Main	Roxanne Wilson
Dr. Kimberly Rudd	Melanie Ferretti	Mandy Medlock	Glenda Woodard
	Beth Franco	Dr. Balbir Minhas	
	Melanie Gambrell	Dr. Shalini Mittal	

APPROVALS



L. Gregory Pearce, Jr.
Chair



Kim Ballentine
Recording Secretary