

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SCDMH Administration
2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201
February 5, 2021

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 5, 2021, at 10:30 a.m. Mr. Greg Pearce, Chair, was absent, excused. Other 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

Vice Chair Louise Haynes called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. Mr. Stewart Cooner provided the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Vice Chair Haynes welcomed everyone. Visitors present virtually via Zoom were: Hannah Bonsu, Treatment and Recovery Manager, S.C. Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS); Raynah Everett, Director of CMC Strategy, Genoa Healthcare; Beth Franco, Executive Director, Disability Rights South Carolina; Jill Gran, Associate Director, State Government Affairs & Advocacy, Otsuka America; Lloyd Hale, Director, SC SHARE; Sally Jackson, Sales Director, Genoa Healthcare; Bill Lindsay, Executive Director, NAMI SC; Brett Macgargle, Senior Deputy, SC Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ); Mandy Medlock, Manager of Growth Initiatives, Genoa Healthcare; Carol Rudder; Janie Simpson, Chair, S.C. Mental Health State Planning Council; and Tray Stone, Board Member, NAMI.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Mr. Bob Hiott, seconded by Dr. Alison Evans, the Commission approved the Agenda for today's Business Meeting.

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

On behalf of the Commission, Vice Chair Haynes expressed heartfelt condolences to the family of Dr. Jaime Condom upon the passing of Dr. Condom on January 19, 2021. Dr. Condom was the Superintendent of the South Carolina State Hospital from 1984-2002. He served as the Department's Interim State Director from June 1983 until November 1985. He also served as Interim Director at Harris Psychiatric Hospital in 1991. Vice Chair Haynes said Dr. Condom was a pillar in the Department for decades and a mentor to so many employees who later went on to prominent leadership positions in the Department.

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION

Vice Chair Haynes recognized Dr. Kenneth Rogers, State Director, and Deborah Blalock, Deputy Director, Community Mental Health Services. On behalf of the Commission, Ms. Blalock presented a resolution to honor Mr. Willie L. Priester, Executive Director, Orangeburg Area Mental Health Center upon his retirement. The resolution read as follows:

Whereas: The South Carolina Mental Health Commission and the State Director of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health recognize the retirement of Willie L. Priester; and

Whereas: Mental health is critical to the well-being and vitality of all South Carolinians. Mental illness affects people regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, or economic status; and

Whereas: The service of Mr. Priester has improved the lives of individuals living with mental illness. Among his many accomplishments in furthering the cause of Mental Health are increasing the number of safe and affordable housing opportunities throughout the Orangeburg Area Mental Health Center's service area,

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collaborating multiple local organizations to provide services, information, and training for the community, and the development of the “Building New Beginnings” program, an initiative dedicated to transitioning long-term patients from the South Carolina State Hospital to community settings, which resulted in the discharge of many patients who never returned to inpatient status; and

Whereas: Mr. Priester, for 35 years, has embodied the Mission of the Department of Mental Health, to support the recovery of people with mental illnesses, demonstrating devotion to this mission in serving at both the Aiken-Barnwell and Orangeburg Area Mental Health Centers, the latter for more than 18 years, for nine of which he was Executive Director; and

Whereas: The South Carolina Mental Health Commission and the State Director of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health recognize Mr. Priester not only for his distinguished service as Executive Director of Orangeburg Area Mental Health Center, but for also his career-long dedication to building effective and supportive partnerships for those in need;

Now, therefore: We express our profound appreciation to Mr. Priester for his dedicated service to those living with mental illness and his invaluable service to the South Carolina Department of Mental Health; offer him our sincere gratitude and best wishes; and order that a copy of this Resolution be made a part of the Commission’s permanent records.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the minutes from the Business Meeting of January 8, 2021.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Kenneth Rogers announced the following:

- The Department presented its FY22 budget request to the House Ways and Means Healthcare Subcommittee on January 27, 2021.
- Dr. Rogers commended Ms. Tamara Edrington, Executive Director, Catawba Community Mental Health Center, on their Words of Encouragement program. This is their faith based program in which a group of pastors representing all denominations from their catchment area share words of encouragement to patients and citizens on a monthly basis via a call-in line, and is an effort to bridge the gap between mental illness/health and spirituality.
- Dr. Rogers continues discussions with the leadership at Columbia International University (CIU) on ways to address mental health and the after effects of COVID in the faith community.
- Dr. Rogers had conversation with a group led by former police chief Charles Austin, who is now a local pastor, concerning mental health as well as the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine in the African American communities.
- Dr. Rogers has been invited to participate on a committee with leadership from healthcare agencies in the Greenville area, including Prisma Health, the local United Way, and the Chamber of Commerce, to look at racial equality and economic mobility in the African American Community in the Greenville area.
- The National Judicial Task Force (NJTF) is examining state courts response to mental illness and looking at restoration bills nationally. The Department has contributed South Carolina’s perspective with the Task Force.

PRESENTATION ON INTEGRATED CARE

Dr. Eve Fields, DMH Psychiatrist, gave a presentation on integrated care. A copy of the presentation is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director. Below are highlights from the presentation:

- Definitions of integrated care:
 - “Integrated care is a general term for any attempt to fully or partially blend behavioral health services with general and/or specialty medical services. This blending can occur within inpatient or ambulatory clinical settings.” – *American Psychiatric Association*.
 - “While there is not a nationally recognized definition of integrated care, our organization (CFHA) uses the term to describe efforts to provide healthcare services that bring together all of the components that make humans healthy.” – *Collaborative Family Healthcare Association*.
- In 2013 SAMHSA developed and published a standard framework for the levels of integrated care. Integrated care services occur on a continuum which ranges from minimal collaboration, which is between providers, to full collaboration, which includes shared team members, treatment plans, medical records, and physical facilities.
- An organization needs to consider multiple factors when they are deciding how to implement integrated services, including resources that are available, health needs of the population, alternative options for services like community partners and other systems, and also local cultures and attitudes in the areas.
- In November 2020 Dr. Rogers created an Integrated Care Work Group to guide the Department in the development and coordination of integrated care services in outpatient mental health centers. The goal is that by providing central administration and oversight, services can be aligned with the overall mission of the Department and create and enhance infrastructure to more broadly support these services. The goal is not to mandate that integrated care services be provided at a certain level at each mental health center, but to support the centers that adopt the services and to provide infrastructure to help the centers carry them out.
- The Work Group determined that a multi-phase approach is the best way to move forward:
 - Phase 1 – Foundational Assessment
 - Phase 2 – DMH Infrastructure Development
 - Phase 3 – Site Implementation
 - Phase 4 – Sustainability
- The Work Group is working with the Southeast Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network’s practice coaching program to get technical assistance regarding models and financial sustainability.
- The assessment process will involve collecting data reports from a variety of sources to help understand the patient’s health status and the most common medical comorbidities. The assessment process will be guided by the use of three standard evidenced-based tools: (1) Integrated Practice Assessment Tool (IPAT); (2) Readiness for Integrated Care Questionnaire (RICQ); and (3) Behavioral Health Integration Capacity Assessment Tool (BHICA).

Vice Chair Haynes thanked Dr. Fields for the informative presentation. Dr. Fields will provide updates as the Work Group moves forward.

PRESENTATION ON PATIENT ADVOCACY

Ms. Rochelle Caton, Director, Office of Patient Advocacy and Legislative Liaison gave a brief history of the development of patient’s rights in South Carolina and at the Department. The history, written by Doug Cochran in February 2004 and revised by Ms. Caton in August 2016, can be found on the Department’s website at https://scdmh.net/patients_families/patient-advocacy, and a copy is filed with the February 5, 2021 minutes in the Office of the State Director.

Ms. Caton talked about the patient rights and advocacy program administered through the DMH Office of Patient Advocacy. She explained that federal statutes and regulations, as well as accreditation agencies, require all State mental health agencies have an internal advocacy program. She said each DMH inpatient hospital has an advocate

assigned to the facility. Additionally, each mental health center has a least one person who is designated as the advocacy for that location.

Vice Chair Haynes thanked Ms. Caton for the helpful information.

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 January 2021 a total of four pending cases.

Ms. Hutto reported that as of February 4, 2021 there were 17 pending SLED investigations. Two cases were assigned to SLED, of which the oldest is from January 2021; seven cases were assigned to Long-term Care Ombudsman Office, of which the oldest is from February 2020; two cases were assigned to the Attorney General's Office (AGO), of which the oldest is from March 2019; three cases were assigned to local law enforcement, of which the oldest is from January 2020; three cases relate to standards of care at SVP and SLED referred those cases to DMH to investigate. She reported one closure of note. There was an incident at SVP on May 3rd, 2020. It involved one resident and two staff members. There was a use of force with injury and an allegation of patient abuse. The two staff were immediately suspended and have since been terminated. There was one charge of Assault and Battery 3rd degree pending against one of the staff members.

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

- 32 calls to patient advocacy in December; a total of 550 year to date.
- 50 complaints were resolved in December; a total of 770 complaints have been resolved year-to-date.
- The number of complaints by category resolved year to date is 967 (*complaints are broken out by category, a single patient complaint may have more than one category*). Accessibility to treatment was the greatest number of complaints. Ms. Hutto reported 40% of those complaints involved allegations that calls were not returned timely by staff. There were two complaints involving patients who could not afford their medications and was asking for pharmacy assistance. One complaint involved a patient in Orangeburg who wants to be seen in Lexington.

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Coronavirus Response

Community Mental Health Services

Ms. Deborah Blalock presented the Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) report. Below are highlights from her report:

- Ms. Blalock presented the CMHS Trends and Transparency Monthly Indicators (TMI) spreadsheets, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. 98% of all requests for service were met with DMH standards all across the centers
- Ms. Blalock thanked Mr. Dorman and staff at Berkeley Mental Health Center for their excellent presentation this morning.
- The SC Hopes call center has received 1,736 calls since inception on June 1, 2020.
- SAMHSA awarded the Department new grant related to SC Hopes for \$2.8 million that will extend the services of SC Hopes beyond the current grant through May 22, 2022.
- Services from the Highway to Hope (H2H) Grant began on February 1, 2021. The H2H Grant provides services to individuals in nine counties in the Pee Dee region. Thus far, four services have been delivered through the grant.

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- On November 2, 2020, the online screening program was launched. This service allows individuals to anonymously take a self-check questionnaire and connect with a professional counselor in South Carolina who can provide guidance, support, and resources to help connect with mental health and addiction services. As of this morning, 500 individuals have used the service.
- Service delivery across the outpatient system from December 15, 2020 to January 14, 2021: 45% of all services were delivered face to face; 29% of all services were delivered telephonically; and 26% of all services were delivered through telehealth platform.
- NASMHPD awarded the Department two Transformation Transfer Initiative (TTI) grants for \$150,000 each. In partnership with LRADAC and Columbia Mental Health Center, one of the grants will be used for a liaison to enhance the coordination for individuals who are released from Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center and to ensure individuals scheduled for release in need of services are engaged in treatment services. The other grant will provide funds for a coordinator and a data analyst that will be employees of the solicitor's office and will coordinate and evaluate the planning of a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council in Richland County.
- Mr. Willie Priester, will retire as the Executive Director at Orangeburg Area Mental Health Center effective the end of February 2021. A search to fill the position has been conducted. Dr. Rogers and Ms. Blalock will conduct interviews on February 11, 2021 with the top two candidates put forth by the Orangeburg Mental Health Center's Board.
- Mr. Kevin Hoyle, Executive Director at Anderson-Oconee-Pickens (AOP) Mental Health Center announced his retirement effective April 1, 2021. The AOP Board will conduct the first round of interviews for the position on February 12, 2021.
- Staff at the mental health centers have the opportunity to receive the COVID vaccine from DIS hospitals and from local community hospitals across the state.

Division of Inpatient Services (DIS)

Dr. Versie Bellamy presented the Division of Inpatient Services report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. Below are highlights from her report:

- Dr. Bellamy recognized Dr. Kimberly Rudd, DIS Medical Director, for an update on the COVID-19 vaccine. Dr. Rudd reported over 2,000 vaccinations have been administered between Bryan Psychiatric Hospital and Patrick Harris Psychiatric Hospital employees, patients and some community since January 2021.
- Dr. Rudd reported Prisma Hospital in Columbia has assisted DIS with the monoclonal antibody treatment for patients testing positive with COVID as needed at the nursing homes and clinics at the psychiatric hospitals for those patients who qualify.
- A vaccination clinic will be held in late March 2021 for DMH employee family members that qualify per DHEC's guidelines.
- Dr. Bellamy commended Dr. Rudd and her team for the outstanding work they continue to provide which greatly impacts the ability to continue to provide treatment to patients.
- The COVID-19 Task Force continues to work to mitigate risks stemming from the pandemic making sure recommended safety measures are in accordance with CDC and DHEC guidelines to protect the safety of patients, residents, and staff.
- Inpatient admissions have decreased in response to the pandemic:
 - There are no admissions during COVID outbreaks.
 - The long term care facilities have admitted patients for the recommended period of observation, which affects the number of available beds for new admissions.
 - Facilities require a negative COVID test before admission.
 - Facilities had to establish quarantine and isolation units thereby decreasing capacity for new admissions.
 - For the period of July 2020 – December 2020, Bryan Psychiatric Hospital, Patrick Harris Psychiatric Hospital, and Morris Village admitted 30% fewer patients than for the period January 2020 – June 2020. The significant decrease in admission at specific facilities corresponds to the period of COVID outbreaks. The data for forensics admissions reflect an admission surge in September 2020 with the opening of the alternate care site.
- The December 2020 overall Average Daily Census shows a 23% decrease as compared to the Average Daily Census in February 2020, prior to the pandemic.

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- Dr. Bellamy reported the following:
 - Seven patients at Roddey Pavilion have been at that facility for greater than 20 years;
 - Bryan Adult has 10 patients who have been there greater than 10 years;
 - Bryan Forensics has 15 patients who have been there greater than 10 years;
 - Harris Psychiatric Hospital has 19 patients who have been there greater than 10 years;
 - 20% of the long-term care patients has a length of stay greater than six years;
- On January 22, 2021 the numbers of patients that are on the waitlist range from 0 at Hall Psychiatric Institute to 470 at Morris Village. The Morris Village waitlist includes one emergency referral, 43 judicials, and 426 voluntary referrals. As of January 29, 2021, voluntary referrals on the waitlist at Morris Village has decreased to 200. Going forward, there will be a review of the Morris Village waitlist on a weekly basis.

There was discussion concerning the decrease in the number of voluntary referrals on the Morris Village waitlist. Dr. Bellamy said that some individuals are no longer interested or have sought care at another place. She explained space is limited at Morris Village due to the social distancing requirements, however contacts are being made to determine who is still interested. Dr. Bellamy will follow up with Mr. George McConnell, Director at Morris Village on the status of the advisory board.

Dr. Bellamy said that in spite of the challenges presented by the pandemic, the facilities and DIS leadership remain committed to access and delivery of services to protect the patients and residents from the virus. She thanked Leigh Ann Chmura and the IT Department for providing the data dashboards. Vice Chair Haynes said the data dashboards were very helpful and a great addition to the report.

Forensic Waiting List Update

Dr. Kelly Gothard reported Bryan Forensics experienced significant impacts from COVID-19 throughout the month of January affecting both discharges and admissions. Units on quarantine had to delay discharges for the duration of their quarantines. All scheduled admissions had to be postponed for the duration of the month. As of today, two units are still in quarantine. A planned admissions surge cohort will begin February 22, 2021 which will result in a significant reduction in the forensic waitlist.

Administrative Services

Mr. Cooner presented the Administrative Services Report. Below are highlights from the report.

- When Congress appropriated funds in the most recent COVID relief bill, \$1.65 billion dollars was included for the Mental Health Block Grant. The Department is awaiting guidance from SAMHSA on how those funds will be allocated to the states.
- There are several bills in the General Assembly related to telehealth and telecommunications. The Department is closely monitoring those bills and is prepared to provide input where necessary.
- Telepsychiatry has entered its 13th year. This year, four articles are being written about the DMH Emergency Department Telepsychiatry Program in peer reviewed magazines. The Program is considered one of the most innovative, cutting-edge statewide service delivery across the country.
- Along with several healthcare systems across South Carolina, including MUSC, Prisma, McCleod, and others, the Department is partnering with the S.C. Telehealth Alliance (SCTA) to develop their 2022 statewide strategic plan.
- In September 2020, DMH began testing with Abbeville Area Medical Center a low-cost aspect of the DMH Emergency Department Telepsychiatry Program. There is virtually no cost for an emergency department to implement the ED Telepsychiatry Program.
- DMH's Disaster Response continues to work with the S.C. Emergency Management Division to monitor FEMA's Public Assistance Program and to determine what costs associated with COVID-19 that the Department may be able to recover through that program.
- The Department is waiting for an issuance from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) concerning the next round of the COVID-19 Telehealth Program and the potential to recoup some of the costs incurred with the deployment of Chromebooks to the mental health centers to assist clinicians in relaying services to patients through telehealth platform.

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Special Projects

Ms. Debbie Calcote presented the Special Projects report. Below are highlights from her report.

- The Department is waiting for a response on the \$5 million request from the Governor's COVID-19 Response Reserve account to mitigate the COVID-19 related increase in indigent patients in need of psychiatric hospitalization.
- The FY20 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provided \$150 million in federal grant funding from the Veterans Administration (VA) for COVID related renovations to existing State Veterans Nursing Homes. The Department submitted an application requesting \$14.9 million to renovate Fewell Pavilion. The renovations will upgrade the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing and will create a total capacity for 45 additional veterans to be housed either in isolation beds or quarantine beds. The renovations will also offer climate control for stockpiling of medical supplies and administrative support areas. The Department is waiting for the VA notification about the grant. The State's in-kind funding is in place per the VA's grant requirements.

Financial Status Update

Mr. Paul Morris, CFO, presented the monthly financial report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. As of December 31, 2020, the Department is projected to end FY21 with a balance of \$4.8 million.

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was discussion on when another member may be appointed to the Commission. The Department anticipates an update from the Governor's Office in the coming weeks.

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:07 p.m. on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission adjourned the Business Meeting.

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members

(Commission members present virtually via Zoom)

Ms. Louise Haynes, Vice Chair

Dr. Alison Evans

Mr. Bob Hiott

Visitors/Staff

Deborah Blalock

Janet Bell

Dr. Versie Bellamy

Debbie Calcote

Rochelle Caton

Stewart Cooner

Kelly Gothard

Dr. Patria Handley

Elizabeth Hutto

Eleanor Odom Martin

Paul Morris

Valarie Perkins

Mr. & Mrs. Willie

Priester

Dr. Kenneth Rogers

Dr. Kimberly Rudd

Brett Williams

present virtually via Zoom

Jennifer Alleyne

Mark Binkley

Dr. Robert Breen

Pat Bresnan

Mirtha Brown

Lamar Butler

Peter Camelo

Tara Campbell-

Mingione

Matt Dugan

present virtually via Zoom

Matt Dorman

Beth Franco

Kevin Hoyle

Pete Greighton

Melanie Gambrell

Jeffery Ham

Stacy Keller

Grace Lambert

Bill Lindsay

present virtually via Zoom

Sarah Main

Dr. Shalini Mittal

Jocelyn Piccone

Lynelle Reavis

Jennifer Roberts

Bernette Robinson

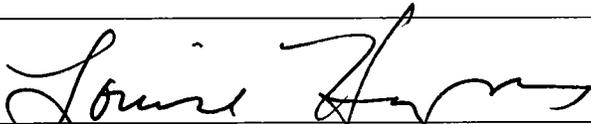
Jon Siler

Janie Simpson

Noelle Wriston

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APPROVALS



Louise Haynes
Vice Chair



Kim Ballentine
Recording Secretary