

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

**October 7, 2022**

**Beckman Center for Mental Health – Virtual Presentation**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Commission Members:**

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

**Staff/Visitors:**

Dr. Robert Bank	<i><u>Present virtually via Zoom</u></i>	<i><u>Present virtually via Zoom</u></i>	<i><u>Present virtually via Zoom</u></i>
Mark Binkley	Janet Bell	Elizabeth Harmon	Sylvett Porter
Deborah Blalock	Patrick Bresnan	Dr. Maryjane Hicks	Vicki Redding
Louise Johnson	Jacqueline Brown	Charles Jackson	Shawnta Locks
Wanda McMichael	Mirtha Brown	Charice Jones	Tracy Richardson
Chaplain James Stokes	Algie Bryant	Tracy LaPointe	Jennifer Roberts
Brett Williams	Peter Camelo	Bill Lindsey	Dr. Kimberly Rudd
	Leigh Ann Chmura	Sarah Main	Angie Salley
	Anna Maria Conner	George McConnell	Jon Siler
	Teresa DeLoach	Margaret Meriwether	Susan von Schenk
	Matthew Dorman	Linda Palmer	Lindsay Walker
	Allison Farrell	Valarie Perkins	Michael Willis
	Dr. Patricia Handley	Dr. Ralph Pollock	Dr. Sheena Willis

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, October 7, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. Chairman Pearce welcomed everyone to the meeting and turned the meeting over to Ms. Melanie Gambrell, Executive Director, Beckman Center for Mental Health Services (Beckman).

**PRESENTATION**

Ms. Gambrell welcomed everyone. She said Beckman serves seven counties: Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry and Saluda which combined is 12% of the State's square mileage. Beckman services 3,400 patients in those counties. Population is 249,073. Beckman received its first accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitative Facilities (CARF) in 1997. There are approximately 93 employees and 36 vacancies, of which 28 of those vacancies are MHPs.

Ms. April Jefferson gave a presentation on Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT). MDFT is family-centered treatment for youth struggling with mental health and other challenges. The objectives of MDFT are to reduce substance use, mental health symptoms, aggressive behavior, negative peer relationship, crime and delinquency, out of home placement and to enhance school performance, family functioning and stability, prosocial involvement, and positive peer relationships. A copy of the presentation is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director.

Mr. Kevin Terry gave a presentation on First Responder Support Team (FRST). The primary goal of the FRST Team is to provide behavioral health services that are confidential, accessible, effective, safe and comfortable for all first responders and their families. This team goes into law enforcement

agencies, EMS agencies, dispatch centers, and fire houses to teach, train, educate and connect with peers. FRST treats stress, anxiety, depression, trauma, marital issues, substance abuse, or anything else that is troubling the individual or a family member using a variety of techniques including: cognitive behavioral therapy, dialectical behavioral therapy, motivational interviewing, mindfulness, and EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing). A copy of the presentation is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director.

Ms. Gambrell introduced others members of the leadership team: Koshay Arnold, Director of Administration; Dray Wideman, Director of Community Support; Michael Willis, Lead SA; and Heidi Hoogstraal, Director of Quality Management.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Pearce thanked Ms. Gambrell and the leadership team for their continued services and for the very informative presentation. The center presentation concluded at 10:25 a.m.



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L. Gregory Pearce, Jr., Chair  
SC Mental Health Commission



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Kim Ballentine, Recording Secretary  
SC Mental Health Commission