

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SCDMH Administration
2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201
February 3, 2023

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 3 2023, at 10:30 a.m. 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 10:30 a.m. Chaplain James Stokes provided the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Chairman Pearce welcomed everyone. Visitors present virtually were: Beth Franco, Executive Director, Disability Rights South Carolina; Elizabeth Harmon, Executive Director, South Carolina Behavioral Health Coalition; Bill Lindsay, Executive Director, NAMI SC; Wanda McMichael, Program Manager, Liberty Healthcare Corporation; Jill Puckett, Otsuka America; Sharon Reed, SCISD Interpreter; and Susan von Schenk, Capital Information Affiliates (CIA). Chairman Pearce welcomed Mr. & Mrs. Roger Williams who were present in person.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the Agenda for today's Business Meeting.

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

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION

Chairman Pearce, Dr. Bank, and Ms. Deborah Blalock presented a resolution from the Commission honoring Mr. Roger Williams upon his retirement as Executive Director of the Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center. Mr. Williams' 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 Roger Williams; and

Whereas: Mr. Williams has improved the lives of individuals living with mental illness, by serving in various roles during his career with SCDMH: as American Sign Language interpreter, social worker, and program coordinator at Patrick B. Harris Psychiatric Hospital, director of Deaf Services, and executive director of the Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center; and

Whereas: Mr. Williams has accomplished much during his 33-year career at SCDMH, including establishing an inpatient unit for Deaf Services, spearheading efforts to open a community residential alternative for Deaf patients, and working with teams to establish Communication Skills Assessment for patients with dysfluency and training standards for mental health interpreters; and

Whereas: Mr. Williams has received numerous awards for his work to improve the lives of South Carolinians, including the South Carolina Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf's Interpreter of the Year, the Richland Sertoma Club's Service to Mankind, the Barbara Stone Foundation's Human Services Professional of the Year, the SCDMH Employee of the Year, and the United Way of the Piedmont's Tom Barnett Volunteer of the Year; and

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 2023

- Whereas:** During his leadership as SAMHC director, Williams procured more than \$2 million per year in new grant funding for creative community services from a variety of competitive sources in State, Federal, public, and private sectors; and
- Whereas:** The South Carolina Mental Health Commission and the State Director of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health recognize and thank Mr. Williams not only for his steadfast, long-term service and distinguished 33-year career at the South Carolina Department of Mental Health, but also for his lifelong devotion to the field; and
- Now, therefore:** We express our profound appreciation to Roger Williams for his dedicated service to the mentally ill 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.

February 3, 2023

Chairman Pearce announced some of Mr. Williams' other accomplishments:

- As program manager of the Deaf Services Program of the Piedmont Center for Mental Health Services, a role Mr. Williams served in from 1993-2006, he developed and supervised comprehensive, statewide community-based services for mentally ill Deaf adults and emotionally disturbed children.
- Served as SCDMH director of Deaf Services from 2006 - 2018.
- Has served as director of SAMHC for 5 years, 2018-present.
- During his service as SAMHC director, he has increased staff from 109 to 135 (plus 11 contract staff).
- An appointed representative from the United States to the Task Force on Deafness with the International Institute for Mental Health Leadership.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Pearce thanked Mr. Williams for his service. Dr. Bank and Ms. Blalock expressed profound appreciation to Mr. Williams and said he will be missed greatly by so many. Mr. Williams said, "Thank you is all I can say." He said all the accomplishments were due to the support from the Department.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the minutes from the Commission Meeting of January 6, 2023.

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

MONTHLY/QUARTERLY INFORMATION REPORTS

Ms. Elizabeth Hutto, General Counsel, presented the items listed under Monthly/Quarterly Informational Reports, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.

Ms. Hutto reminded Commissioners to file the Statement of Economic Interests by the March 30th deadline.

Ms. Hutto reported for the month of January 2023 a total of two pending investigations for the Office of Public Safety.

Ms. Hutto reported that as of yesterday there were 24 pending SLED investigations. One case, from September 2021 and involves a fatality, was assigned to SLED; 13 cases were assigned to Long-term Care Ombudsman Office, six cases were assigned to local law enforcement, and one case was assigned to the DMH patient advocate.

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 2023

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

- 59 calls to patient advocacy in December 2022; a total of 916 year to date.
- There was an average of 76 complaints per month in 2022.
- 65 complaints were resolved in December 2022; a total of 913 complaints have been resolved year to date.
- The number of complaints by category resolved is 79 (*complaints are broken out by category, a single patient complaint may have more than one category*).

6-MONTH REPORT OF COLLECTIONS

Ms. Hutto presented the items from the six-month report of medical care accounts collections for July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. These funds are collected through involuntary means from self-pay clients. A total of \$63,190.08 was collected from July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Robin Crawford, Legislative Liaison, gave a legislative update. Following are highlights from her report:

- DMH leadership continues to have productive meetings to discuss Agency priorities, fiscal and budget items, and also do general relationship building with House and Senate staff members, Constitutional Officers, Senators, and Representatives. Ms. Crawford provided a list of recent meetings to the Commission. A copy of the list is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director.
- The State Fiscal Accountability Authority approved a state-run Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) earlier this week. Approval by the Authority will allow the Department to move forward with the plans for that facility.
- The Department will present its FY24 budget request to the Senate Finance Committee on Wednesday, March 1, 2023.
- Ms. Crawford is monitoring bills that have been introduced that could affect the agency's operation in some capacity. Senate Bill S.399 was introduced on January 17, 2023. This bill would dissolve the Department of Health and Environmental Control, move its environmental responsibilities to existing state agencies, and move its public health responsibilities into a newly created Behavioral and Public Health agency. The bill would also abolish DMH and the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DOADAS) and move those responsibilities under the newly created Behavioral and Public Health agency. The bill has not been set for a hearing at this time.

Chairman Pearce commended Ms. Crawford for her good work.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Bank announced the following:

- He and Ms. Crawford are scheduled to meet with Representative Bruce Bannister, Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee, on Thursday, February 8, 2023.
- DMH presented its FY24 budget request to the House Ways and Means Healthcare Subcommittee on January 24, 2023, and as Ms. Crawford announced earlier, will present the budget request to the Senate Finance Committee on March 1, 2023.

Chairman Pearce asked if there have been any comments in the State House about the Governor's Executive Budget and the \$5 million that the Governor put in the budget for behavioral health study. Ms. Crawford replied that she has heard some people are leaning towards having favor for that idea. There was discussion.

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 2023

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Community Mental Health Services

Ms. Deborah Blalock, Deputy Director, Community Mental Health Services, presented the Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) report. Following are highlights from the report:

- Ms. Blalock announced February 1, 2023 was Ms. Teresa Curry's last day as the Executive Director of Tri-County Community Mental Health Center. The Commission wanted to present Ms. Curry a Resolution but Ms. Curry opted out. She preferred not to receive any fanfare. Ms. Blalock commended Ms. Curry on her great work, and said she will be missed greatly. Ms. Crystal Pressley assumed the role of acting director of Tri-County Community Mental Health Center on February 2, 2023.
- Ms. Blalock announced Mr. Jeffrey W. Greene will assume the role of acting director of the Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center on February 17, 2023.
- Ms. Blalock announced Ms. Kathy Hugg assumed the role of executive director of the Columbia Area Mental Health Center on February 2, 2023.
- The use of telehealth services is increasing in the community mental health centers beyond the prescribers, but also for master's prepared clinicians. The QA Department is assisting with developing best practices for providing telehealth services to insure effective delivery of quality care.
- Currently DMH has clinicians in 579 schools compared to 843 in 2020.
- Ms. Blalock talked about the recent increase in the salaries for MHPs. She said she is seeing a more favorable response in terms of staff retention.
- Ms. Blalock presented a handout, "Community Mental Health At A Glance – Fiscal Year 2022, and reviewed data pertaining to critical community mental health services provided by the Department. A copy of the handout is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director.
- Ms. Blalock reported that mobile crisis is in all 46 counties in South Carolina. The goal is for mobile crisis teams to respond in 60 minutes of receiving the call. Thirty-five counties have response time under the 60-minute mark; 11 counties have response time over 60 minutes. Law Enforcement and EMS will not wait around on the scene for remote crisis response, however they have the ability to use telehealth services. Mobile crisis responds when individuals have a substance use disorder diagnosis, unless the individual is too intoxicated to safely assess in the field. Mobile crisis is a statewide service that provides on-site emergency mental health screening, assessment, and referral for adults and children experiencing a mental health crisis.
- Ms. Blalock presented the CMHS Trends and Transparency Monthly Indicators (TMI) spreadsheets, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.

There was discussion about county appropriations for mental health. Each county determines if they want to provide funding to a mental health center.

Administrative Services & Financial Status Update

Ms. Debbie Calcote, Acting Deputy Director, Administrative Services, presented the Administrative Services and monthly financial report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. Following are highlights from the report:

- In response to the Governor's request to block access to TikTok on every state government electronic device, the Department's Office of Network and Information Technology (ONIT) successfully installed the required Cisco Umbrella on all agency-issued devices, and installed Mobile Device Management (MDM) on all agency-issued tablets and mobile phones. Attestation of compliance was submitted to the South Carolina Department of Administration (SCDOA) by January 31, 2023 as required.
- Ms. Calcote reported an expenditure of \$1,886.32 on bookcases for the Office of the State Director.
- As of December 31, 2022, the Department is projected to end FY23 with a balance of \$13.4 million. Ms. Calcote noted this is up from November by \$598,472 and is attributable to payroll as well as insurance adjustments and higher Medicaid funding recoupment based on the public health emergency. Chairman Pearce asked about Medicaid funding for clinical services. There was discussion.

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 2023

- Ms. Calcote announced recruiting efforts continue to fill the Financial Services Director position.
- There was discussion with regard to the FY24 budget and the interagency agreement between SCDOA and DMH. Ms. Calcote stated the Department's FY24 Budget Request was endorsed by SCDOA. Dr. Bank said that he anticipates receiving SCDOA's report of its findings and recommendations regarding DMH's human resources and finance and budget functions soon.
- During the meeting, Ms. Blalock received information from Ms. Leigh Ann Chmura, Director of IT, related to patient payment of services: Currently 15% of the patients are self-pay; 43% of the patients are MCO; 28% of the patients are private insurance; 3% of the patients have Medicaid; and 8% of the patients have Medicare.

Major Construction/Renovations Update

Ms. Calcote said the Agency has over \$100 million that are identified for capital projects. She presented an update on three of the Department's major construction projects:

- Renovation of Fewell Pavilion
 - As of January 20, 2023, construction is approximately 70% complete with a substantial completion date of May 2023 barring any additional supply chain delays.
 - Budget of \$18,922,950 was received from the Federal Cares Act and COVID 19 Response Funds allocated by the state.
- Sumter Veterans Nursing Home
 - As of January 20, 2023, construction is approximately 50% complete with a substantial completion date of April 2024 barring any additional supply chain delays.
 - Budget of \$71,456,280 was received from a Federal Veterans Administration Grant and State of South Carolina appropriations.
- Bryan Psychiatric Hospital Hall
 - Replacing standard sheetrock with more damage resistant material in Lodges C and D.
 - Lodge D substantial completion scheduled for the end of May 2023.
 - Lodge C substantial completion scheduled for mid-July 2023.
 - Budget is anticipated to run \$800,000 to \$1 million based on construction and supply costs.

Chairman Pearce thanked Ms. Calcote for the report and for her good work.

Division of Inpatient Services (DIS)

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

- Multiple DIS sites are in the middle of COVID outbreaks or are just getting over one. Dr. Bellamy reported the largest COVID outbreak in the facilities since the pandemic. This required multiple opening of isolation units, which temporarily halted admissions. December 20, 2022 through January 31, 2023 all lodges at Harris were on quarantine at some in time. This resulted in a big disruption and affected both patients and staff. Bryan Civil experienced 48 positives at one time. There were times when 70% of the lodges had more than 50% positive cases. Fortunately, there were no deaths experienced. Some patients were sent out to the emergency room. The nursing homes were predominantly impacted. Several patients were hospitalized for significant hypoxia and pneumonia. Dr. Bellamy said she is grateful for the hard work and dedication of the staff.
- The December combined Average Daily Census (ADC) for the psychiatric hospitals and Morris Village represents a numerical decrease of 123 or 21% as compared to February 2020. DIS is waiting on approval from DHEC for the usage of an additional space to treat patients with substance use disorder.
- There is an increasing demand for forensic admissions. In 2022, there was a total of 383 orders for admission, a 40% increase from the previous year and the highest number of orders for admission on record. In January 2023, there was a total of 40 orders plus three previously NGRI patient admissions.

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 2023

- Forensics continues to explore jail-based restoration options with the Anderson County Jail and the Charleston County jail.
- The forensic facility experienced significant water damage in January, which necessitated temporarily taking 12 patient beds offline. Extensive repairs are required facility wide, which will disrupt patient movement during the coming months. Contingency plans are in place to support ongoing admissions.
- Dr. Bellamy presented a Psychiatric Civil Hospital Bed Turnover report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission and included with the minutes in the Office of the State Director. From October 2022 – January 2023, Brian Civil had a total of 21 discharges, which amass 7,609 bed days. Sixteen of those discharges were chronic patients. One patient was hospitalized for 4,839 days. Harris also had a total of 21 discharges, which amass 6,810 bed days. Ten of those discharges were chronic patients. One patient was hospitalized for 4,390 days.

Chairman Pearce thanked Dr. Bellamy for the report and on behalf of the Commission thanked the DIS staff for their dedication and good work.

Approval of Minutes of the Governing Body for Inpatient Facilities of December 13, 2022

Dr. Bellamy presented the December 13, 2022 quarterly Inpatient Facilities Governing Body minutes, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.

By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the Inpatient Facilities Governing Body minutes from the December 13, 2022 meeting.

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

HR Report

Ms. Eleanor Odom-Martin, Chief Human Resources Director, presented the HR report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. Below are highlights from the report:

- Ms. Odom-Martin reported the following comparison of filled FTEs:
 - January 2021 – 4,013
 - January 2022 – 3,622
 - January 2023 – 3,553
- In FY22 the Department had a total of 800 FTE hires and 1,080 departures; thus far in FY23 the Department has 529 FTE hires and 480 departures.
- In response to Dr. Jones' comment at the January 2023 Commission meeting about tracking effectiveness of the advertising campaigns and positions that are receiving the most applications, Ms. Odom-Martin reported HR is working with State HR that manages the NEOGOV system for all state job applications to see if that data can be captured.
- State HR will share information from their nursing compensation study later today. The study included employees in the nursing job classifications. The Department's BHAs and Nursing Assistants were a part of the study. State HR has been requested to make the information available to the General Assembly to consider in the budget process. The Department asked State HR to consider salary increases for LPNs now. Unfortunately, State HR denied the request since the compensation study is near completion.
- State HR has finalized their review of salaries for inpatient MHPs and social workers. It is anticipated that the results will be provided by next week with a March 2, 2023 implementation date.
- State HR is reviewing salaries of law enforcement from all state agencies. Ms. Odom-Martin noted that law enforcement staff received an additional increase over the general increase last year.

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Pearce congratulated Dr. Maxwell upon the celebration of Light Family Wellness' 2-year anniversary.

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 2023

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:25 p.m., by motion duly made and seconded, the Commission entered into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Upon convening in open session at 12:50 p.m., Chairman Pearce noted that only information was received; no votes or actions were taken.

At 12:50 p.m. by motion duly made and seconded, the Commission adjourned the business meeting.

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members

Mr. Greg Pearce, Chair
Dr. Carl Jones

present virtually via Zoom

Dr. Elliott Levy, Vice Chair
Dr. Alison Evans
Mr. Bobby Mann
Dr. Crystal Maxwell

Visitors/Staff

Dr. Robert Bank
Dr. Versie Bellamy
Deborah Blalock
Debbie Calcote
Robin Crawford
Elizabeth Hutto
Eleanor Odom-Martin
Sharon Reed
Chaplain James Stokes
Brett Williams
Roger & Sherry Williams

present virtually via Zoom

Janet Bell
Mark Binkley
Lee Bodie
Jackie Brown
Mirtha Brown
Jennifer Butler
Peter Camelo
Rochelle Caton
Leigh Ann Chmura
Pete Creighton
Karlin Cummings
Matthew Dorman
Chelsa Earley
Beth Franco
Brandon Gaffney
Jeffrey Greene
Melanie Gambrell

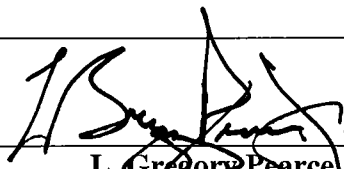
present virtually via Zoom

Dr. Kelly Gothard
Jeffery Ham
Elizabeth Harmon
Dr. Maryjane Hicks
Varney Hodge
Charice Jones
Tracy LaPointe
Bill Lindsey
Sarah Main
Kathy Martin
Allen McEniry
Wanda McMichael
Denise Morgan
Linda Palmer
Valarie Perkins
Vickie Perry
Dr. Ralph Pollock

present virtually via Zoom

Jill Puckett
Vicki Redding
Tracy Richardson
Jennifer Roberts
Dr. Kimberly Rudd
Angie Salley
Tamara Smith
Molly Stiles
Jessica Suber
Irene Thornley
Eric Turner
Susan von Schenk
Lindsay Walker
Dr. Sheena Willis
Kevin Woods

APPROVALS



L. Gregory Pearce, Jr.
Chair



Kim Ballentine
Recording Secretary