

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SCDMH Administration
2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201
June 2, 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, June 2, 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 Kynan Robinson provided the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Chairman Pearce welcomed everyone. Visitors present virtually were: William Bowers, Capital Information Affiliates (CIA); Gail Cordial, Director, Policy & Government Relations, Alkermes; Jim Langlois, Gresham Smith (Architects & Planners); Bill Lindsay, Executive Director, NAMI SC; Kathleen Martin, Attorney, Disability Rights South Carolina; Laura Moss, NAMI SC; Anne Summer, Consultant, Mental Health Partners; and Susan von Schenk, Capital Information Affiliates (CIA). Wanda McMichael, Program Manager, Liberty Healthcare Corporation, was also present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Miscellaneous

Governor McMaster declared May 2023 as Mental Health Month in South Carolina. Chairman Pearce thanked everyone who participated in celebrating May as Mental Health Month. There were many events held around the state, at the mental health centers, and on the DMH Grounds where the centers' mobile crisis RVs were on display.

Chairman Pearce announced the 2023 Lowcountry Mental Health Conference will take place July 26-28, 2023 in downtown Charleston.

Chairman Pearce recognized Ms. Elizabeth Hutto, General Counsel. Ms. Hutto introduced Ms. Bonita Shropshire. Ms. Shropshire began her responsibilities as assistant legislative liaison today. Most recently, she was the executive director at the South Carolina State Housing Authority.

Chairman Pearce recognized Ms. Kim Ballentine, Executive Assistant to the State Director and Commission Recording Secretary, and commended her for her good work stating that she does an incredible job with the Commission minutes. The Commission members joined him in expressing appreciation with applause.

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the minutes from the Commission Business Meeting of May 12, 2023.

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

OFFICE OF TRANSITION PROGRAMS UPDATE

Ms. Tracy Richardson, Director of the Office of Transition Programs (OTP), presented an update on the work of the OTP, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. A copy of the OTP “At A Glance” for Fiscal year 2023 was distributed to the Commission members, a copy of which is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director.

Ms. Richardson introduced the following staff members: Ms. Andrea Scott-Jackson, Director of Clinical Care Coordination (CCC) and Community Long Term Care (CLTC); Ms. Patricia “Trish” Sweeney, Program Manager, Community Residential Care Facility (CRCF) Programs; and Ms. DeMorrie Evans, Transition Specialists Program Manager. Each person gave a brief overview about their area of responsibility. Following are highlights:

- Year to date, CCC has served 1,352 patients across the state. CLTC currently provides services to 990 participants.
- The goal of the CRCF Programs is to assist patients with their individual needs so that they can access community resources and get the skills needed to go further into the community and into a more independent setting.
- About 60% of the CRCF residents are forensic mental health patients.
- The OTP has contracted with seven enhanced CRCFs across the state in Greenville, Aiken, Lee, Lexington, and Richland Counties with a total of 87 beds
- So far this year a total of 34 psychiatric hospital patients have been admitted to the program and 32 patients have been discharged into the community. The average length of stay in a CRCF is approximately 1.83 year. Ms. Richardson noted the majority of the staff working in the CRCFs are women.
- Effective June 19, 2023, the CRCF Program will have their own Peer Support Specialist and a Registered Nurse. The registered nurse will not provide billable services, but will assist residents with medication education, physical diagnosis education, and ensure Medication Administration Records (MAR) are in compliance.
- As of March 31, 2023, the average hospital stay for patients assisted by the Transitions Program is 1 year and 10 months. Patients are being seen within three business days of discharge. The recidivism rate is less than .3%.
- Since inception in 2019, the Transition Specialist Program has assisted DIS with discharging 500 patients from the psychiatric hospitals.

Dr. Jones talked about staff designing a fact sheet that would be visually appealing that would highlight the Department’s services, programs, and positive outcomes to offer to the legislators, Governor’s Office, and others to use as a resource as they have conversation with constituents and their peers in other states. Dr. Bank said plans are currently being developed to produce such a resource. He said Ms. Crawford, Legislative Liaison, has distributed informational handouts to legislators during her visits/meetings with them this year. Each mental health center is developing a fact sheet to handout to their legislative delegates as they have opportunity.

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 reported for the month of May 2023 a total of five pending investigations for the Office of Public Safety.

Ms. Hutto reported that as of yesterday there were 26 pending SLED investigations. Five cases were assigned to SLED; 14 cases were assigned to Long-term Care Ombudsman Office; six cases were assigned to local law enforcement; and one case is with the DSS Adult Protective Services.

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

- 71 calls to patient advocacy in April 2023; a total of 322 year to date.
- 67 complaints were resolved in April 2023; a total of 298 year to date.
- The number of complaints by category resolved is 86 (*complaints are broken out by category, a single patient complaint may have more than one category*).

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

- The Department is working closely with the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs (SCDVA) to move the state veterans nursing homes responsibilities to the SCDVA. The transfer is to be completed by July 1, 2024, as outlined in the legislation.
- The House and Senate conference committee, made up of Senators Peeler, Alexander, and Setzler, and Representatives Bannister, Herbkersman, and Weeks continue to work to finalize the state's FY24 budget. The conference committee is scheduled to meet on Monday next week.
- The Berkeley County Legislative Delegation was invited to tour the Berkeley Community Mental Health Center in Moncks Corner. Executive Director Matt Dorman gave a tour of the facility, talked about the mental health programs/services offered there, and answered questions. Chairwoman Sylleste Davis, Representatives Mark Smith, Jordan Pace, Brandon Cox, and Joe Jefferson attended the tour.
- Lowcountry County legislative delegations are invited to the Lowcountry Mental Health Conference that will be held in Charleston in July. Senator Brad Hutto will bring a welcome to the attendees during the conference.
- Other Mental Health Centers are also planning to reach out to county legislative delegations to offer tours at the centers and clinics.

Chairman Pearce expressed appreciation to Ms. Crawford for her great work and comprehensive updates she provided during this legislative session. There was discussion regarding the study of the state's healthcare services agencies. S.399 requires the Department of Administration to hire a consulting firm to analyze the missions and delivery models of all state agencies that provide health services, examine whether structural changes are necessary to improve health services delivery, and prepare a report summarizing the analysis and recommendations to the House, Senate, and Governor's office by April 1, 2024. Dr. Levy said DMH is embedded in services in the entire state in a lot of different levels and asked if there is a list of collaborating efforts between agencies. Ms. Calcote said that Dr. Bank has formed a Public Relations Committee to develop ideas and initiatives to effectively promote and inform the public about the services and service outcomes provided by the Department.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Bank announced the following:

- The 988 call center in Charleston started taking calls yesterday at the Charleston Mental Health Center. The call center will have its own location when the renovations are complete.
- Dr. Bank commended Dr. Bellamy and her staff for an outstanding job in not only keeping the average daily census goal of 112 beds at Bryan Civil, but increasing the census capacity to 124 beds.
- Dr. Bank said the forensic waitlist had increased up to 150 individuals. Forensic Services explored ways to get patients either into treatment or out of the jail and into outpatient treatment. Through their efforts, the forensic waitlist is now at 105 individuals. He noted this was an outstanding accomplishment.
- The Department is in the midst of working with the SCDVA on the process of determining how to move the veterans nursing homes from DMH to the SCDVA. Weekly meetings are being held with leadership from both agencies. There was discussion. Dr. Bank noted a meeting on the S.399 restructuring plan is scheduled on June 8th to include the Department of Administration, DHEC, SCDVA, DMH and DNR.

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- The RFP (request for proposal) for the design, building, operation, and maintenance of a Psychiatric Residential Care Facility (PRTF) located on DMH owned property will be posted within two weeks. The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) is overseeing the funding of the project and DMH is managing the RFP process and construction of the project.

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 that the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) approved yesterday the Department's TA (Technical Assistance) request for a consultant to assist the Department in looking at the mental health system structure in our state as compared to other states. The consultant is Ms. Wendy Morris, Senior Behavioral Health Advisor, and former state director of the Kentucky Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities.
- Ms. Blalock thanked Mr. Bresnan and the leadership at Pee Dee Mental Health Center for their presentation earlier today and expressed appreciation for their great work. DMH mental health professionals provide a variety of therapies to patients in the communities, including Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR). MHPs have been practicing EMDR at DMH since 2003. She reported between 80 and 125 MHPs use EMDR as a therapy throughout the state.
- Trident Medical Center in North Charleston will hold a ribbon cutting for its new freestanding, 60-bed unit, mental health hospital, Live Oak Mental Health & Wellness, on Monday, June 5, 2023.
- Ms. Blalock announced 98% of individuals served by DMH are served in the community. Last year a little over 94,000 individuals were served with approximately 92,000 of those individuals being served in the community. She noted this data has been shared with legislators asking about community services and what is being done to keep individuals out of hospitals.
- Ms. Blalock gave a presentation on "Mental Health Awareness Month Activities," a copy of which is filed with the minutes in the office of the State Director. The presentation included photos of activities throughout the state during Mental Health Awareness Month.
- Ms. Blalock presented the CMHS Trends and Transparency Monthly Indicators (TMI) spreadsheets, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.

Administrative Services & Financial Status Update

Ms. Debbie Calcote, Deputy Director, Administrative Services, presented the Administrative Services and monthly financial report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. As of April 30, 2023, the Department is projected to end FY23 with a balance of approximately \$10.4 million. Ms. Calcote noted this is an increase from March 2023 by approximately \$1.2 million and attributed the increase to increased revenue projections for mental health centers and under-projecting revenue for Veterans' Victory House. She noted the Department has expended 82.93% of state appropriations as of April 30, 2023.

Ms. Calcote reported Physical Plant Services lit up Central Administration's sign with green lighting in recognition of mental health awareness month.

Major Construction/Renovations Update

Ms. Calcote gave an update on major construction projects:

- Fewell Pavilion Renovation
 - Budget of \$18.9 million dollars was received from the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic (CARES) Act to renovate Fewell.
 - Renovation will create 18 isolation beds and 27 quarantine beds for residents of existing Veterans nursing homes along with administrative and warehouse space.

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- Construction is 95% complete. Substantial completion and temporary occupancy will not be awarded until the installation and testing of backup generators. The window for delivery of the generators is August through October 2023.
- Sumter State Veterans Nursing Home Construction
 - Budget of \$71.4 million dollars
 - Construction is approximately 68% complete and on target to meet the April 2024 substantial completion timeline.
 - The procurement process to select a private operator for the facility will start in September 2023.
- Horry County State Veterans Nursing Home
 - The Horry County Administrator's Office identified a tentative site for the facility. The county is working with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to address wetlands issues in preparation for the environmental analysis of the site required by the Veteran's Administration.
- Orangeburg County State Veterans Nursing Home
 - Identification of potential sites is underway. The architectural design firm has conducted site visits at Veterans Village in Florence and Stone Veterans Home and will be meeting with staff to develop the most functional plan for this facility.

Ms. Calcote reported Secretary McCaffrey, SCDVA, is scheduled to tour the state veterans nursing homes this month and into the next. At least two DIS staff members will be present. During the visits, Secretary McCaffrey will join the veterans for lunch.

There was discussion about the transfer of the state's veterans' nursing homes from DMH to the SCDVA. Ms. Calcote stated that DMH is committed to providing support to the SCDVA during the transfer period and will provide the necessary resources so they will be successful.

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:

- Memorial Day ceremonies were held at the five veterans' nursing homes with good participation, including some state representatives as well as DMH representatives.
- As of today, there is a total of 105 individuals on the Forensic Ready for Admission Waitlist, a difference of 42 from April 21, 2023. Dr. Bellamy commended Dr. Kelly Gothard, Director of Forensic Services, and her staff for their outstanding work to attenuate the forensic waitlist. In collaboration with transition services partners, community mental health centers, and legal, patients were able to gain access to services sooner by the creativity and hard work of the staff. A great impact was made on serving patients by utilizing the jail-based restoration option, allocating additional civil beds for the forensics admissions and repurposing existing beds at the forensic facility for new admissions. At the end of May 2023, a total of 121 patients have been served through the jail-based competency restoration program.
- Dr. Bellamy distributed a list of the number of defendants on the jail-based restoration waitlist for each county in South Carolina, a copy of which is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director. On May 12, 2023, there was a total of 70 defendants on the waitlist; as of June 2, 2023, there was a total of 60 defendants on the waitlist.
- There was discussion regarding the McLendon Building located on the Crafts Farrow property. The majority of the patients there are DMH patients. DMH leases some units in the building to WellPath. The DMH patients and WellPath patients are in separate units.
- Dr. Bellamy reported 13 jail diversions at Harris Psychiatric Hospital. An additional unit with 12 beds has been opened at Bryan Civil for jail diversion admissions.
- Chairman Pearce requested Forensics provide a one-day snapshot of the charges of the forensic patients in the hospital. Dr. Bellamy will follow up with Dr. Gothard and her team.

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- Circuit Court Judge Frank Addy has requested a meeting with DMH leadership to see how things are going. It has been quite some time since the last in-person meeting. The meeting is scheduled on June 22, 2023 at DMH Central Administration.
- Dr. Bellamy presented the BPH and Harris Bed Turnover Report for October 2022 through May 2023, a copy of which is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director. From October 2022 through May 2023, Bryan Civil discharged 42 chronic patients. One patient was hospitalized for 5419 days. During that same time period, Harris Psychiatric Hospital discharged 34 chronic patients. One patient was hospitalized for 7,572 days. Dr. Levy said it would be great to hear the story of the patient who was hospitalized for over 5,000 days and how the discharge finally happened. Dr. Bellamy will follow-up.
- Dr. Bellamy distributed the quarterly SCDMH Inpatient Services HBIPS (hospital-based inpatient psychiatric services) Report& Long-Term Care Quality Measures, copies of which are filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director. The purpose of the HBIPS is to improve quality, safety, and performance; fulfill requirements of performance measurement reporting for The Joint Commission and CMS; and to create standardization for hospitals to compare their performance to that of their peers. Dr. Bellamy reported SCDMH Inpatient Services' performance is comparatively better than the national average. She noted that CM Tucker Stone Pavilion dropped three stars from December 2022. Immediate action was taken to correct the incident and the facility was placed back in compliance on the same day. However, it is required to report the incident.

Approval of Minutes of the Governing Body for Inpatient Facilities of April 19, 2023

Dr. Bellamy presented the April 19, 2023 quarterly Inpatient Facilities Governing Body minutes, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. Dr. Levy referred to page 2 of the minutes and asked about the one death reported. Dr. Bellamy explained the death was from natural cause.

By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the Inpatient Facilities Governing Body minutes from the April 19, 2023 meeting.

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

HR Report

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

- Calendar Year Comparison of Filled FTEs:
 - May 2021 – 3,861
 - May 2022 – 3,516
 - May 2023 – 3,556
- In FY22 the Department had a total of 800 FTE hires and 1,080 departures; thus far in FY23 the Department has 801 FTE hires and 750 departures.
- Ms. Odom-Martin said she will report in a couple of months information as to whether the recent MHP salary improvement initiatives are making a difference in attracting and retaining employees.
- Ms. Odom-Martin presented the following HR initiatives:
 - HR is preparing for the anticipated general salary increase for all state employees. Normally, HR does not hire on June 2nd if there is an anticipated general increase.
 - Interface between SCEIS and KRONOS is scheduled September 29, 2023. KRONOS is the time keeping system used by DIS. This interface will be more effective in managing employees' time.
 - HR continues to work with State HR on a policy for moving to a universal EPMS review date for community mental health centers. The projected universal EPMS review date is September 1.
 - Developing HR training videos.

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OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Today is Dr. Maxwell's birthday. On behalf of the Commission and everyone present, Chairman Pearce wished her a happy birthday!

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:26 p.m., by motion duly made and seconded, the Commission adjourned the Business Meeting and entered into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Upon convening in open session at 1:30 p.m., Chairman Pearce noted that only information was received; no votes or actions were taken.

On a motion by Mr. Bobby Mann, and duly seconded, the Commission approved the hiring of a State Director for the South Carolina Department of Mental Health.

On a motion by Mr. Bobby Mann, and duly seconded, the Commission approved to offer the position of State Director of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health to Acting Director Dr. Robert Bank, and to enter into negotiations regarding employment.

All voted in favor to the above motions; both motions carried.

At 1:32 p.m. by motion duly made and seconded, the Commission adjourned the business meeting.

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members

Mr. Greg Pearce, Chair

Dr. Elliott Levy, Vice Chair

Dr. Carl Jones

Mr. Bobby Mann

Dr. Crystal Maxwell, virtually via Zoom

Visitors/Staff

Dr. Robert Bank

Dr. Versie Bellamy

Debbie Calcote

Robin Crawford

DeMorrie Evans

Dr. Patricia Handley

Elizabeth Hutto

Wanda McMichael

Eleanor Odom-Martin

Dr. Ralph Pollock

Tracy Richardson

Andres Scott-Jackson

Bonita Shropshire

Patricia "Trish" Sweeney

Brett Williams

present virtually via Zoom

Janet Bell

Deborah Blalock

William Bowers

Dr. Robert Breen

Patrick Bresnan

Jackie Brown

Patricia Brown

Jennifer Brush

Peter Camelo

Rochelle Caton

Leigh Ann Chmura

Gail Cordial

Matthew Dorman

Melanie Gambrell

Dr. Kelly Gothard

Jeffery Ham

present virtually via Zoom

Dr. Maryjane Hicks

Keith Jackson

Charice Jones

Jim Langlois

Tracy LaPointe

Bill Lindsay

Sarah Main

Kathy Martin

Margaret Meriwether

Denise Morgan

Laura Moss

Linda Palmer

Vickie Perry

Sylvett Porter

Matthew Pressley

Lynelle Reavis

present virtually via Zoom

Vicki Redden

Vicki Redding

Chaplain Kynan Robinson

Jessica Suber

Anne Summer

Irene Thornley

Cathy Timmons

Eric Turner

Susan von Schenk

Lindsay Walker

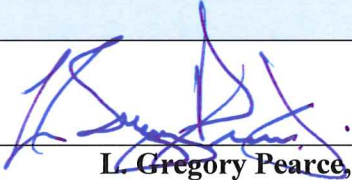
Steve Williams

Dr. Sheena Willis

Kevin Woods

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APPROVALS



L. Gregory Pearce, Jr.
Chair



Kim Ballentine
Recording Secretary