

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SCDMH Administration
2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201
May 3, 2024

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, May 3, 2024, at 9:45 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

Vice Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the minutes from the September 8, 2023 Internal Audit Report.

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

Vice Chairman Jones recognized Ms. Valarie Perkins, Director, Office of Internal Audit. He expressed appreciation to Ms. Perkins and her staff for their dedication and the great work they have done over the years to help improve efficiency, reduce costs, and ensure accountability agency-wide.

Ms. Perkins and Ms. Shawnta Reeder-Locks, Senior Auditor, Internal Audit, presented the internal audit report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.

RECESS

At 10:25 a.m. the Commission agreed to take a brief recess. Vice Chairman Jones resumed the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

Chaplain James Stokes provided the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Vice Chairman Jones welcomed everyone. Visitors present virtually were: Anna Maria Conner, Senior Attorney, and Beth Franco, Executive Director, Disability Rights South Carolina; Gail Cordial, Director, Policy & Government Relations, Alkermes; and Susan von Schenk, Capital Information Affiliates (CIA). Present in-person were: Bill Lindsey, Executive Director, NAMI SC; Dr. Constance Lorick, President, Prescott Terrace; Wanda McMichael, SCPS Program Manager, Liberty Health Corporation; and Deric Rush, Reporter, WIS TV.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Commissioner Pearce was recognized for his service on the Commission since 2019 and as Chair of the Commission 2019 to 2023. On behalf of the Commission, Vice Chairman Jones presented him the following resolution:

Whereas: The South Carolina Mental Health Commission and the Acting State Director of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health recognize the retirement from the Commission of L. Gregory "Greg" Pearce, Jr.; and

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- Whereas:** Mental health is critical to the well-being and vitality of all South Carolinians; and
- Whereas:** Mr. Pearce began working with SCDMH at the South Carolina State Hospital as a high school student in 1966, returning to work for the Hospital while completing graduate school at the University of South Carolina sponsored by the Agency, and serving in multiple positions within the SCDMH until his retirement in 1992; and
- Whereas:** Mr. Pearce has embodied the mission of the Department of Mental Health, to support the recovery of people with mental illnesses for more than 50 years, having generously given his time and talents not only to the SC Mental Health Commission, but also to a career of service in the field of mental health, as: Director of the Developmental Disabilities Unit at the South Carolina State Hospital, Facility director of the Crafts-Farrow State Hospital, and a member of Richland County Council, where he served as the County's liaison to the Columbia Area Mental Health Center, LRADAC, and Palmetto Health; and
- Whereas:** The South Carolina Mental Health Commission and the Acting State Director of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health recognize Mr. Pearce for his distinguished and conscientious service as a Commission member since 2019 and Chair from 2019 to 2023; and
- Whereas:** The service of Mr. Pearce has improved the lives of countless individuals living with mental illness through his clinical and advocacy work;
- Now, therefore:** We express our profound appreciation to Mr. Pearce for his steadfast service to and advocacy for the mentally ill and invaluable service to both the South Carolina Department of Mental Health and South Carolina Mental Health Commission, and to the citizens of South Carolina; 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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Mr. Mark Binkley, Director, Executive Projects, and Dr. Bank expressed appreciation to Mr. Pearce for his leadership, dedication and commitment to the Department. Mr. Pearce began his career as a clinical counselor at the South Carolina State Hospital in 1970. In 1986 he was appointed the director of the DMH's Crafts Farrow State Hospital, and remained there until its doors closed in 1992. From 1999 until 2018, he represented district six on Richland County Council. During his tenure on Richland County Council, Mr. Pearce always attended the Columbia Area Mental Health Center (CAMHC) Board meetings and was instrumental in CAMHC receiving an annual financial support of over \$2 million from Richland County's mental health services millage funds, the most robust county financial support of all the DMH mental health centers. Mr. Pearce was appointed to the South Carolina Mental Health Commission in 2019 at which time DMH was being reviewed by the Legislative Oversight Committee. He attended all the subcommittee meetings in support of the agency. He was very enthusiastic about getting to know DMH and its staff and in 2021 would invite individual staff members/groups to come to a monthly Commission business meeting and be recognized. He has been a stalwart supporter of DMH, its facilities, employees, patients, and mental health in general. He is a big supporter of MIRCI (Mental Illness Recovery Center, Inc.), S.C. Mental Health Association, NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), and served as President of the South Carolina Association of Counties. He has done so much in his career to promote, support, and fund mental health services in South Carolina and particularly here in the Midlands. Mr. Pearce will be missed on the Commission, but his legacy will be firmly rooted across this State.

On behalf of the Commission, Vice Chairman Jones presented Mr. Pearce with the "Order of the Brick" award in appreciation of his dedicated service to the S.C. Mental Health Commission. The brick was inscribed with the following:

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This handmade brick was part of the original wall
which surrounded the S.C. State Hospital.

Presented May 3, 2024

L. Gregory "Greg" Pearce, Jr.

Member of the S.C. Mental Health Commission, 2019-2024

Chair, 2019-2023

Representing S.C. Congressional District 2

In appreciation of your dedicated service.

Mr. Pearce said that he cannot begin to express his deep appreciation for 56 years of advocacy, and said that he will be continuing advocacy in some form or another as he transitions to his new season in life.

Special Recognition

On behalf of the Commission, Mr. Pearce, along with Dr. Bank and Beth Hutto, presented Ms. Kim Ballentine with the "Order of the Brick" award in appreciation of her dedicated services to the S.C. Mental Health Commission. Ms. Ballentine is the Executive Assistant to the State Director as well as the Recording Secretary for the Commission.

Dr. Jones said Ms. Ballentine has been a gem for all of us and a very supportive person since he came on the Commission and thanked her for everything she will continue to do for the Department.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There being no amendments or corrections to the agenda, the agenda was approved as presented.

2024 HASSENPLUG CLINICIAN OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCEMENT

Vice Chairman Jones announced the name of each nominee. The nominees were: Ms. Amy Wessinger, Division of Community Mental Health Services; Ms. DeMorrie Evans, Office of Transition Programs; Ms. Christina Turner, Aiken Barnwell Mental Health Center; Mr. Robert Burdine, Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Mental Health Center; Ms. Josie Edwards, Beckman Center for Mental Health; Ms. Robin Minutello, Berkeley Community Mental Health Center; Ms. Maryanne "Crissy" Bailey, Catawba Community Mental Health Center; Ms. Wendy Parker, Charleston-Dorchester Mental Health Center; Ms. Yvone Drayton-Lightsey, Coastal Empire Mental Health Center; Ms. Hollie Capers, Columbia Area Mental Health Center; Ms. Patricia Williams, Greater Greenville Mental Health Center; Ms. Lakeisha Hollingsworth, Lexington Community Mental Health Center; Ms. Tomika Hickson, Pee Dee Mental Health Center; Ms. Tevia Miller, Santee-Wateree Mental Health Center; Ms. Jamie Williams, Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center; Ms. Norma Robinson, Tri-County Mental Health Center; Ms. Millicent Haley, Waccamaw Center for Mental Health; Dr. Rushiraj Laiwala, C.M. Tucker Roddey Nursing Care Center; Ms. Angela Irwin, C.M. Tucker Stone Nursing Care Center; Dr. Michael Ferlauto, Bryan Forensics; Ms. Natia Priester, Bryan Adult Civil; Ms. Cynthia Sherrard, Morris Village; Ms. Mary Sue Worth, Patrick B. Harris Psychiatric Hospital; and Ms. Amanda Mills, William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute.

On behalf of the Commission, Vice Chairman Jones announced the winner of the 2024 Louise R. Hassenplug Outstanding Clinician of the Year is Ms. Maryanne "Crissy" Bailey, Catawba Community Mental Health Center. Following is the nomination:

Crissy has been an important part of the development and implementation of the various programs we have used in this clinic, since she started with us in 2013, to facilitate the process of admitting new patients. She has also worked with triaging calls and face to face requests for crisis as well as routine needs of the patients in York County. Crissy has excellent clinical knowledge and experience, which

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coupled with her people skills, makes her exceptionally good at this aspect of her job as an MHP. She is able to problem solve on the fly and knows when she needs to seek consultation from peers or supervisors. Crissy has been a constant presence on our intake/triage team for nearly 10 years. During that time numerous other clinicians have come and gone and whether or not they were under her direct supervision, she has always been more than willing to mentor and share her knowledge with them, for the betterment of the patients, the team, and the clinic.

In addition to intake and triage duties, Crissy maintains a caseload of 40+ therapy patients. She is trained in EMDR (eye movement desensitization and reprocessing) and provides that therapy to some of the many patients we see who've experienced trauma. Crissy's experiences at Spartanburg CMHC with their TLC (Toward Local Care) program gave her an affinity for patients who have schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders. These patients make up a large portion of her caseload.

Crissy was one of the clinicians who remained with SCDMH during the COVID pandemic and beyond, despite the increased workload. For nearly a year due to staffing shortages she and just one other clinician managed the intake/triage duties for this large clinic (average census 1350-1400). When fully staffed this is a four-to-five-person team.

In recognition of Crissy's long-term experience with intake and triage in this high-volume clinic, she was chosen when it was decided a supervisor for this team was a necessary addition to our staff.

Ms. Bailey, who was present virtually, thanked the Commission, the Department, and Catawba Community Mental Health Center for the recognition and the support. Ms. Tamara Edrington, Executive Director, Catawba Community Mental Health Center, thanked the Commission for honoring Ms. Bailey. Ms. Edrington commended Ms. Bailey for her great work and said she always makes sure that patient care is a top priority. On behalf of the Commission, Vice Chairman Jones congratulated Ms. Bailey and thanked her for her service with the Department.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Bank announced that Governor McMaster has declared May 2024 as Mental Health Month in South Carolina.

2023 OUTSTANDING SCDMH EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Bank announced the name of each nominee. The nominees were: Mr. Keven Dozier, Aiken Barnwell Mental Health Center; Ms. Julie Bird, Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Mental Health Center; Ms. Marie Green, Beckman Center for Mental Health; Ms. Jakara Hodges, Berkeley Community Mental Health Center; Ms. Robin Davis, Catawba Community Mental Health Center; Mr. Daryl James, Charleston-Dorchester Mental Health Center; Mr. Touray Beaton, Jr., Coastal Empire Mental Health Center; Dr. Srinivasa Reddy, Columbia Area Mental Health Center; Ms. Deborah Fore, Greater Greenville Mental Health Center; Ms. Gariane Gunter, Lexington Community Mental Health Center; Ms. Christy Patterson, Orangeburg Area Mental Health Center; Ms. Christie Nowlin, Pee Dee Mental Health Center; Ms. Carline Samuels, Santee-Water Mental Health Center; Ms. Lucinda (Cindy) Kennedy, Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center; Ms. Lebrenda (Iesha) Wilson, Tri County Mental Health Center; Ms. Ineka Jordan, Waccamaw Center for Mental Health; Ms. Mary Sue Worth, Harris Psychiatric Hospital; Ms. Ina Smith, G. Weber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital; Ms. Rashell Black, Forensics Outpatient; Ms. Lindsay Johnson, C.M. Tucker Stone Nursing Care Center; Ms. Brooke Howard, C.M. Tucker Roddy Nursing Care Center; Mr. Archie Fulmore, Morris Village; Ms. Alma Thaggard Singleton, William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute; and Ms. Michelle Jones, Forensic & Evaluations.

Dr. Bank announced the 2023 Outstanding Employee of the Year is Ms. Alma Thaggard Singleton, Nurse Manager at William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute. Following is the nomination:

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Ms. Alma Thaggard Singleton exudes a high level of professionalism that has earned her the utmost respect from her peers as well as leadership. She is a leader that focuses on growing leaders by helping her staff take steps towards professional growth as illustrated by her former employees becoming supervisors or managers. Ms. Singleton is dedicated and committed to providing the best care to her patients as shown by a downward trend in restraint, seclusion, patient to patient assaults and patient to staff assaults which are below the performance improvement trigger (lower is better). Ms. Singleton has created various procedural books that focus on the admissions process, treatment team process, discharge and verbal orders to guide nurses which have been helpful with the consistency in delivering services. In addition, she developed a compliance tool designed to improve compliance with seclusion and restraint documentation. Currently, Ms. Singleton is pursuing her MSN degree, mentoring other staff members and community members to apply to nursing programs. In addition, she volunteers at a local mission to feed the homeless. She is the primary caregiver for her ailing mother and serves as her advocate to navigate the complex healthcare system. Ms. Singleton has been instrumental in working with the clinical team in the development of a program handbook and she has been essential in representing the nursing perspective to the handbook ensuring that the manual is well structured, patient-centered, increases collaboration and create cohesion among the multidisciplinary team. Furthermore, Ms. Singleton works tirelessly to support her team by maintaining safe staffing levels which is exhibited by her total vacancy rate remaining less than 10%. She creates an atmosphere of respect, inclusion and teamwork with a focus on delivering best patient care.

Ms. Singleton thanked the team at Hall Psychiatric Institute, the Department and the Commission for the recognition and the support. Dr. Bank and Vice Chairman Jones congratulated Ms. Singleton on receiving this award and thanked her for her service.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no amendments or corrections to the minutes of the Center presentation of April 5, 2024, and the Commission meeting of April 5, 2024, the minutes were approved as presented.

RECOGNITION OF 2024 PALMETTO GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

Dr. Patricia Handley, Nurse Executive, G. Weber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital, recognized four (4) nurses from DMH who are recipients of the 2024 Palmetto Gold Award. This year marks the 21st year for the Palmetto Gold Nurse Recognition and Scholarship Program honoring 100 South Carolina registered nurses annually exemplifying excellence in nursing practice and commitment to the profession. Since 2002, DMH has a total of 55 Palmetto Gold award winners. The 2024 awards were presented at the Palmetto Gold Gala on Saturday, April 27, 2024 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

The 2024 Palmetto Gold Award Recipients are:

CM Tucker Stone Pavilion

Ms. Lashonda Mayfield, Admissions Coordinator and Infection Control Nurse at CM Tucker Stone.

G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital

Ms. Alma Thaggard-Singleton, Nurse Manager, William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute

Dr. Renia Davis, DNP, Performance Improvement (PI) Resource Nurse

Dr. Stephanie Averette, DNP, FNP, G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital, Civil

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Dr. Handley recognized Ms. Jeanne Felder, DMH SC Nurses Foundation Palmetto Gold Liaison, for her outstanding guidance and support, and expressed appreciation for her dedication and commitment to professional excellence for nursing.

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 April 2024 a total of one pending investigation for the Office of Public Safety.

Ms. Hutto reported that as of yesterday there were 27 pending SLED investigations. Three cases were assigned to SLED; 18 cases were assigned to Long-term Care Ombudsman Office; four cases were assigned to local law enforcement; one case is with the Department of Social Services (DSS) Adult Protective Services; and one case is with the DMH patient advocate.

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

- 375 calls to patient advocacy in March 2024; a total of 632 year to date. Ms. Hutto noted that one patient repeatedly called the toll-free line in excess of 250 times. Therefore, data for calls in 2024 will be skewed.
- 111 complaints were resolved in March 2024; a total of 292 year to date.
- The number of complaints by category resolved in March 2024 is 155 (*complaints are broken out by category, a single patient complaint may have more than one category*).

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Robin Crawford, Director of Governmental Affairs, reported the following:

- The Senate healthcare agency restructuring bill S.915 remains on the House floor on the contested calendar.
- A Senate version of the FY25 budget was approved on April 24, 2024 and returned sent to the House with amendments. The House will continue to work on their second version of the bill.
- The second year of the two-year legislative session will end with the legislature scheduled to adjourn sine die on Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 5 p.m.
- S.408 – a bill that would require one hour of suicide prevention training as a portion of the total continuing education requirements for licensure for counselors and social workers. On May 2, 2024, the House read third time and returned to Senate with amendments.
- On May 2, 2024, the Senate gave a third reading to and approved H.4624, a bill banning gender affirming care for minors. The bill language includes that school staff, including counselors, shall not knowingly withhold from a minor's parent or legal guardian information related to the minor's perception that his or her gender is inconsistent with his or her sex. It also requires counselors at public schools to immediately notify in writing a minor's parent or legal guardian if the minor asserts to any school employee that a minor's gender is inconsistent with his or her sex or requests a school employee to address a minor using a pronoun or title that does not align with the minor's sex.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Bank said the Department is now approaching the time when the move of the contracted veterans nursing homes from DMH to the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs (SCDVA) will occur (effective July 1, 2024). The Department has worked long and hard this year with the SCDVA and with the Department of Administration (DOA),

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which has been a great help in terms of bringing the transition about. When the process began, SCDVA had about 45 employees and had not been a part of patient care. He said that he feels the SCDVA is as prepared as they can be to monitor those homes as well as future homes. The veterans homes have been a part of the Department's tradition since the 1970s. The Department has been privileged to care for those veterans during that time. C.M. Tucker Stone Pavilion will remain with the Department for another year as they are not a contracted nursing home. The Department will work with SCDVA and DOA to determine the best process for Stone to become a contracted home as well. Stone will move to the SCDVA effective July 1, 2025. He said the Department will focus efforts going forward on those patients who have psychiatric illness but also need nursing home care. An enhanced nursing home bed plan is being developed that would offer community nursing homes an incentive in the daily rate in addition to offering geriatric psychiatric consultation for patients.

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Medical Affairs Update

Dr. Chad Pollock, Deputy Director, Medical Affairs, presented the Medical Services report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. Following are highlights from his report.

- Transition Specialists assisted with a total of 33 discharges for the month of March 2024; a total of 184 discharges year to date.
- Over a year ago, the average length of stay for patients at discharge was about 2.5 years; the average length of stay for patients at discharge in the current fiscal year is 1 year 3 months; as of March 2024, the average length of stay for patients at discharge is 10 months.
- Dr. Pollock reported one (1) psychiatric hospital readmission within the month.
- There was discussion on the behavioral health center, which is estimated to open in October 2025, in Florence, South Carolina. A Topping Out Ceremony for the center will be held on May 22, 2024. The new MUSC Health Leatherman Behavioral Care Pavilion will serve as a regional behavioral health center and include a combination of triage, crisis stabilization, telehealth, outpatient and inpatient services that will expand behavioral health resources in the Pee Dee Region, and will be operated by MUSC. The center will include a 63-bed inpatient psychiatric unit to treat patients needing more acute care, including the transfer of the 23 psychiatric hospital beds at the McLeod Behavioral Health Center in Darlington. Ms. Blalock said she is hopeful to have a Pee Dee Mental Health Center clinician embedded at the center.

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 Mr. Brandon Gaffney resigned from his position as executive director, Spartanburg Mental Health Center, effective June 6, 2024. The position has been posted and will close on May 14, 2024.
- The 988 Crisis Call Center operated by the Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center opened on June 1, 2023. To date, the call center has received a total of 6,271 calls. Combined, the Mental Health America of Greenville County Call Center and the Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center Call Center, are answering 82% of all the calls from South Carolina.
- Ms. Blalock announced that May is Mental Health Awareness Month. All the mental health centers are engaged in multiple fun activities to increase awareness of the importance of mental health and the impact it has on individuals, families, and communities; every center is lighting the facility in green; the Department will host its second outdoor open house on May 15, 2024 and will have the mental health centers' "Highway to Hope" RVs parked on DMH grounds to give attendees an opportunity to get an up-close look at the mobile services, as well as a couple of legislators will be speak; and the 2024 SC NAMI 2024 walk will be on Saturday, May 18, at Riverfront Park and Canal in Columbia.
- A massive media campaign for Mental Health Awareness Month was launched on May 1, 2024 for Mental Health Awareness Month for DMH:

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- Broadcast TV: targeting the Sunday morning news shows (Meet the Press, Face the Nation) throughout the state.
- Spectrum Cable TV: targeting cable channels like the Weather Channel, ESPN, Fox News, etc., in the Columbia area market.
- Streaming TV: targeting general adults, 18+ that are cord cutters in the Columbia market (streaming platforms like AppleTV, Chromecast, Hulu, Roku, etc.).
- Broadcast Radio: reaching individuals who listen to the radio in Columbia – iHeart radio, WNOK, WCOS, WVOC.
- Social Media: targeting adults in the Columbia market on Facebook and Instagram.
- Digital: mobile display internet banner ads throughout the state. Retargeting ads of people who visit the website or someone who has used a word that triggers individuals showing the behaviors of needing DMH services.
- Static billboards: four print billboards in prime locations including: West Columbia I-26, Irmo I-16, Lexington I-20, and Two Notch Road I-20.
- Digital billboards: seven billboards throughout the Columbia area, as well as Orangeburg I-26.
- 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

On behalf of Ms. Debbie Calcote, Deputy Director, Administrative Services, Mr. Lee Bodie, Budget Director, presented the Administrative Services and monthly financial report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. As of March 31, 2024, the Department anticipates ending FY24 with a projected deficit balance of approximately \$12.9 million. Including the one-time funding of \$11.5 million, the Department anticipates a deficit of approximately \$1.3 million. The Department has expended 74.06% of state appropriations as of March 31, 2024.

Mr. Pearce commended the Administrative Services Division for their work with the “movement of personnel out of deplorable conditions (Building 6 on Crafts Farrow Campus) into better housing.” He visited the Forensics staff last week and said the efforts of Administrative Services to provide better housing has impacted the morale of that group of people in a positive way.

Long-Term Care

Dr. Bank extended condolences to Dr. Versie Bellamy, Deputy Director, Long-Term Care (LTC) upon the recent passing of a very dear family member.

Dr. Bellamy, presented the Long-Term Care report. Following are highlights from the report:

- Dr. Bellamy congratulated the 2024 Palmetto Gold recipients and said this is a prestigious award and each of the honorees deserves high recognition to be one of the top 100 in the state.
- National Nurses week is May 6-12, 2024; National Nurses Day is May 6, 2024; and International Nurses Day is May 12, 2024. National Skilled Nursing Care Week is May 12-18, 2024 and this year’s theme is “Radiant Memories – A Tribute to the Golden Age of Radio.” A number of events are planned to honor and recognize the contributions that nurses make.
- Dr. Bellamy reported she has been in meetings and conference calls with SCDVA leadership to ensure a positive transition with the transfer of the contracted state’s veterans’ nursing homes from DMH to SCDVA by July 1, 2024.
- Dr. Bellamy announced the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is in the process of enacting new staffing regulations for long-term care facilities, which increases staffing hours per patient day. She reported that CMS states the anticipated cost is going to be over \$46 billion over the next ten years. The staffing mandate is unfunded at both the federal and state level at this time. The implementation of the minimum nurse staffing requirements is projected for 2026.

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On behalf of the Commission, Vice Chairman Jones extended condolences to Dr. Bellamy and her family upon the recent passing of her loved one.

Inpatient

Dr. Bank reported the following:

- Mr. Keith Jackson, Director, G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital (Bryan), and Mr. Allen McEniry, Director, Patrick B. Harris Psychiatric Hospital (Harris) are working closely on plans to expand bed capacity. They are working towards increasing the average daily census goal at Harris from 98 to 115. Plans are to move some of the longer-term patients from Bryan to Harris in an effort to make room for patients in Forensics who could not be restored and make room for new forensic patients who need restoration.
- Psychiatric patients who are at nursing home level of care but are still at Bryan or Harris are being reviewed for movement to appropriate level of nursing home care.
- Morris Village leadership is looking into the possibility of bringing patients to Morris Village not only for 30-day program, but also residential treatment. Patients would be housed in DMH facilities where there are additional beds. This would be another option for patients that do not need a more acute level of care but could benefit from a continuum level of care. Dr. Constance Lorick, President, Prescott Terrace, expressed her concern about a resulting impact if patients are released on outpatient and where would they be located – would it add to the current population of homeless with mental health issues? Dr. Bank said Morris Village treats many patients who have homes, and the Department's goal would be for the patients to go back to their homes. These patients are totally unrelated to things to do with homeless people.
- Dr. Bank commended the leadership at William S. Hall Institute for their work on patient admissions. Hall's average daily census has been holding steady between 24-26.
- The Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) is in the design phase. Pending approvals by the Office of State Engineer, the project could be completed a month earlier than currently scheduled.

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Pearce thanked everyone for the many kindnesses shown him over the years. He said he it has been a wonderful experience for him and he will take with him many great memories.

Mr. Bill Lindsey, Executive Director, NAMI SC, announced NAMI Mid-Carolina will hold its 2024 Walk on Saturday, May 18, 2024, at Riverfront Park and Canal in Columbia.

Mr. Lindsey talked about a book written by Ms. Cheslie Kryst and Ms. April Simpkins. *By the Time You Read This* is the story about former Miss USA Cheslie Kryst, who died by suicide in 2022. Her mother, Ms. April Simpkins, honored her daughter's request to publish the memoir she had been working on. Ms. Simpkins is a mental health advocate, serving as an ambassador for NAMI, and a board member for NAMI Piedmont Tri-County. The book will be available next week and already has entered in the field of mental health and mental illness on the New York Times best seller list.

Ms. Janie Sampson, chair, South Carolina Mental Health State Planning Council, expressed appreciation to Mr. Pearce, his service, and for his support of the work of the State Planning Council.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:25 p.m. by motion duly made and seconded, the Commission adjourned the business meeting

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

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ATTENDANCE

Commission Members

Dr. Elliott Levy, Chair,
absent, excused
Dr. Carl Jones, Vice Chair

Mr. Bobby Mann

Dr. Crystal Maxwell, virtually via Zoom

Mr. Greg Pearce

Visitors/Staff

Stephanie Averette
Dr. Robert Bank
Deborah Blalock
Mark Binkley
Lee Bodie
Patrick Bresnan
Fhallon Burke
Robin Crawford
Renia Davis
Jeanne Felder
Brandon Gaffney
Dr. Patricia Handley
Elizabeth Hutto
Keith Jackson
Tracy LaPointe
Bill Lindsey
Dr. Constance Lorick
Lashonda Mayfield
Wanda McMichael
Valarie Perkins
Dr. Chad Pollock

Visitors/Staff

Shawnta Reeder-Locks
Deric Rush
Janie Simpson
Chaplain James Stokes
Alma Thaggard-Singleton
Tracy Turner
Gwen Watson
Brett Williams

present virtually via Zoom

Dr. Jennifer Alleyne
Dr. Nikia Anderson
Julie Bird
Dr. Robert Breen
Jackie Brown
Mirtha Brown
Algie Bryant
Peter Camelo
Anna Maria Conner
Gail Cordial
Akiko Dettorre
Tamara Edrington
DeMorrie Evans
Dr. Michael Ferlauto
Beth Franco
Melanie Gambrell
Dr. Kelly Gothard
Jeffery Ham
Darla Helms
Dr. Maryjane Hicks
Joy Hodge

present virtually via Zoom

Kathy Hugg
Charice Jones
Ashley Lloyd
Margaret Meriwether
Denise Morgan
Christie Nowlin
Christy Patterson
Jay Ragin
Cheryl Randall
Vicki Redding
Dr. Kimberly Rudd
Angie Salley
Alicia Sanders
Ina Smith
Jessica Suber
Eric Turner
Susan von Schenk
Lindsay Walker
Amy Wessinger
Kevin Woods

APPROVALS



Dr. Elliott Levy
Chair



Kim Ballentine
Recording Secretary