

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SCDMH Administration
2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201
July 12, 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, July 12, 2024, 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 Levy called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Chaplain Kynan Robinson provided the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Chairman Levy welcomed everyone. Visitors present virtually were: Gail Cordial, Director, Policy & Government Relations, Alkermes; Julie Cox, Lobbyist, representing Village Community Care (Anderson), Easley Retirement, and Ridgeview (Greer), Capital Information Affiliates (CIA); Bill Lindsey, Executive Director, NAMI SC; Kathy Martin, Attorney, Disability Rights South Carolina; and Lisa Springer-Huezo, Mental Health First Aid Coordinator, SC Thrive. Also present, in person, was Emmy Ribero, Intern Reporter, *The Nerve*.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no amendments or corrections to the minutes of the Center presentation of June 7, 2024, and the Commission meeting of June 7, 2024, the minutes were approved as presented.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Bobby Mann nominated Dr. Elliott Levy as Chair. There were no further nominations. Dr. Levy was re-elected as Chair by acclamation.

Mr. Mann nominated Dr. Carl Jones as Vice-Chair. There were no further nominations. Dr. Jones was re-elected as Vice-Chair by acclamation.

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 June 2024 a total of three pending investigations for the Office of Public Safety.

Ms. Hutto reported that as of yesterday there were 25 pending SLED investigations. Four cases were assigned to SLED, of which the oldest case is from January 2023; 14 cases were assigned to Long-term Care Ombudsman Office, of which the oldest case is from October 2023; Four cases were assigned to local law enforcement; and three cases are with the DMH patient advocate at SVPTP (Sexually Violent Predator Treatment Program).

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 12, 2024

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

- 118 calls to patient advocacy in May 2024; a total of 891 year to date. Ms. Hutto noted that one patient repeatedly called the toll-free line in excess of 250 times during the month of March. Therefore, data for calls in 2024 will be skewed.
- 79 complaints were resolved in May 2024; a total of 480 year to date.
- The number of complaints by category resolved in May 2024 is 99 (*complaints are broken out by category, a single patient complaint may have more than one category*).

Ms. Hutto announced a voter registration drive was held last month to assist patients register to vote absentee for the upcoming election.

ISSUE ACTION PAPER (IAP) – IMPROVEMENTS TO BATHROOM FACILITIES AT BRYAN HOSPITAL

Ms. Hutto presented an IAP for Commission approval for additional expenditures from the Bull Street property sale proceeds, a copy of which had been provided to the Commission. Funds from the sale of “Bull Street property” require approval of the Commission prior to use.

Ms. Hutto reported that G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital (BPH) is in need of repair work for up to 12 patient bathrooms across four different lodges. The work will necessitate:

- Removal of all existing floor tile and installation of new tile and epoxy grout OR replacing the tile floor with epoxy floor.
- Removal/resetting of toilets.
- Removal of all existing shower tile, replacement of water barriers, and installation of new tile and epoxy grout.

Ms. Hutto recommended the Commission authorize the expenditure of additional proceeds from the Bull Street property parcel sales, not to exceed \$750,000, for these necessary repairs. If approved, the balance of unallocated Bull Street parcel sale funds would be \$8.6 million.

By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the request as presented.

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

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

- The second year of the two-year legislative session ended this year. Any legislation that did not pass the General Assembly this year will have to be reintroduced as a new bill next year and go through the entire process. The Governor has the authority to call the General Assembly back into a special session. Ms. Crawford noted there is no indication that he plans to do so at this time.
- The FY25 State Budget was ratified by the General Assembly on June 26, 2024. DMH received the following:
 - \$6.8 million in recurring funds for expansion of forensic bed capacity.
 - \$4 million in recurring funds for contracted community beds.
 - \$2 million in recurring funds to relocate from Bull Street to Cayce, S.C.
 - \$6.3 million in nonrecurring funds for Lodge D at William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute.
 - \$2.5 million in nonrecurring funds for the statewide alternative transportation program.
 - \$400,000 in nonrecurring funds for an incarcerated inmates support program in Berkeley, S.C.
 - \$5 million for Stone Veterans Nursing Home for capital projects.
- State employees received salary increases: \$1,125 increase to employees making \$50,000 or less annually; and a 2.25% increase for employees making over \$50,000.

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

JULY 12, 2024

- Ms. Crawford announced Tuesday, November 5, 2024 is Election Day. This year, there are many offices up for reelection: The President of the United States, every single state House member, state Senate member, US House member in South Carolina, and many local races too.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Bank announced the transfer of the contracted veterans nursing homes from DMH to the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs (SCDVA) occurred on July 1, 2024. DMH will continue to work with SCDVA and the Department of Administration (DoA) to determine the best process for C.M. Tucker Stone Pavilion (Stone) to become a contract home as well. Stone will move to the SCDVA effective July 1, 2025.

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 the report:

- The average decision time for SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery) Pre-Release is 26 days, down from 90 days about year ago. Dr. Pollock commended Ms. Tracy Richardson and her staff for their good work in getting patients processed quickly.
- Transition Specialists assisted with a total of 25 discharges for the month of May 2024. Of those discharges 33% went home to family, 21% to CRCF, 8% to sober living, 21% to boarding home, and 17 % to independent living. There was a total of 274 discharges in FY24, a significant increase from recent years.
- On May 17, 2024 Calhoun Convalescent Center was awarded nursing home enhanced beds contract. This nursing home company has multiple facilities across the state. So far, three (3) DMH patients have been discharged to the nursing home and if things continue to go well they will be in partnership with DMH to move some of our patients to the appropriate level of care. The partnership includes an enhanced rate for six (6) months after discharge as well as making available a psychiatrist to assist if needed.

Olmstead Funds Update

- Dr. Pollock presented the "Olmstead Funds Tracking At A Glance," a copy of which had been provided to the Commission. He reported the following from August 2023 through June 24, 2024:
 - Number of patients assisted: 33
 - Total amount paid for patients: \$160,524.91
 - Reimbursed amount as of June 24, 2024: \$25,329.00

Community Mental Health Services

On behalf of Ms. Deborah Blalock, Deputy Director, Community Mental Health Services, Ms. Melanie Gambrell, Assistant Deputy Director, presented the Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) report. Following are highlights from the report:

- Ms. Gambrell presented the CMHS Trends and Transparency Monthly Indicators (TMI) spreadsheets, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.
- Ms. Gambrell presented the 2024 Community Mental Health Services Patient Satisfaction Survey, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. In May 2021, CMHS contracted with its call reminder system vendor, InTouch Connections, to create a text message invitation to an electronic survey using the patient perception of care survey. To increase response rates, the length of the survey timeline was increased from three months to four months in 2023. Data collection for the 2024 CMHS Patient Satisfaction Survey took place during two distinct timeframes. The first data collection period took place between December 2023 through February 2024. The second wave began in April 2024 and ended in June 2024. There were 253,588 survey solicitations and 16,171 completed surveys for a response rate of 6.4%. Feedback came from 9,468 patients completing one or more survey responses; this was a 25.3% increase of 1,906 over FY23 (7,567). During the administration period, 54,641 potential patient respondents were given the opportunity to complete the survey. This was a 17.4%

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

JULY 12, 2024

(8,527) increase over FY23 (49,114). The statewide patient participation rate for the survey administration window was 17.3%, which was 1.9 percentage points higher than the 2022 participation rate. Dr. Jones asked how does South Carolina compare to other states' satisfaction data. Ms. Gambrell will follow up.

- Ms. Gambrell talked about the CCBHC (Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic) model of care. CCBHCs are designed to ensure access to coordinated comprehensive behavioral health care. Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center (SAMHC) and Beckman Center for Mental Health (Beckman) are piloting that model. Two of the nine services they offer are mental health and substance use services and primary health care services. In FY24, SAMHC provided services to 482 patients through ReGenesis Health Care (a Federally Qualified Health Center – FQHC). Beckman set up primary care offices in the clinic locations and works with Carolina Health Centers, also a FQHC. Beckman provided services to 273 patients in FY24. Other CCBHC services include: crisis services, person and family centered treatment planning, community-based mental health care for veterans, peer family support and counselor services, targeted care management, psychiatric rehabilitation services, and screening, diagnosis and risk assessment.
- Dr. Jones referred to the TMI report and counties that do not contribute monetarily to mental health efforts. Ms. Gambrell said some of the mental health centers board members attend council meetings and talk about mental services and needs in an effort to increase funding. She will continue to work on that and have conversations with the mental health center boards.
- Ms. Gambrell said that she has found the new EHR (electronic health record) system easy to navigate and will have good benefits for patient and staff. The first go-live date is in October 2024.

Administrative Services & Financial Status

Ms. Debbie Calcote, 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:

- EHR first implementation will go live first in the Midlands region area, to include Lexington, Aiken, Columbia, and Orangeburg, in October 2024. The final implementation will happen in February 2025 in the Lowcountry/Coastal regions.
- As of July 1, 2024, the effective date of the transfer of the contracted veterans nursing homes from DMH to the SCDVA, the SCDVA does not have employees trained to perform billing and patient account services. DMH and SCDVA have entered into an agreement whereby DMH will provide billing and account services relating to the South Carolina Veterans Homes to SCDVA until July 1, 2025. SCDVA is soliciting proposals from third-party providers for those services.
- The FY25 budget includes funding for DMH to relocate from Bull Street to Otarre Parkway in Cayce, S.C. The DoA has the responsibility of planning and executing the move. A kick-off meeting is scheduled on July 29, 2024 with the affected agencies' directors and the DoA.
- As of May 31, 2024, including the one-time funding of \$12.2 million, the Department anticipates ending FY24 with a balance of approximately \$1.5 million. The Department has expended 91.67% of state appropriations as of May 31, 2024.

Long-Term Care

Dr. Bellamy, Deputy Director, Division of Long-Term Care (LTC) presented the LTC report. Following are highlights from the report:

- Dr. Bellamy said the transfer of the contracted veterans nursing homes from DMH to SCDVA successfully met the July 1, 2024 deadline. Efforts continue in the preparation for Stone's transition from DMH to SCDVA effective July 1, 2025.
- The renovation of Fewell Pavilion is complete and was certified on June 28, 2024 for occupancy. The renovation created 18 isolation beds and 27 quarantine beds for residents of existing Veterans nursing homes, along with administrative and warehouse space.
- Recruitment and retention are a major focus in LTC. Dr. Bellamy reported the following vacancy rates: Roddey Pavilion: RN 44%; LPN 57%; and CNA 56%. Stone Pavilion: RN 26%; LPN 46%; and CNA 62%. Contract staff are being used to address the vacancies. She hopes to hire permanent staff soon to fill those positions.

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

JULY 12, 2024

- Dr. Bellamy talked about two initiatives:
 - Initiative to address the Restorative Nursing programs and services that are currently being provided so that insurance reimbursement can occur. The pilot phase was launched on June 17, 2024.
 - Initiative to address the Wound Care Program and services that are currently being provided so that insurance reimbursement can occur.
- Both Stone and Roddey Pavilions are involved in the Zero Suicide initiative.
- Dr. Bellamy distributed copies of the Pressure Ulcer/Injury and New or Worsening Pressure Ulcers/Injury data for Roddey Pavilion and Stone Pavilion from the CASPER (Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reports) report. She reviewed the data. There was discussion. A copy of the report is filed with the minutes in the office of the State Director.
- Dr. Bellamy noted the population at Stone is older than the population at Roddey:

	Roddey	Stone
% of Population Ages 85+	3.5%	35%
% of Population 75-84 Years	23.5%	36%
Census 75 years and older	27%	71%
Average number of medications per resident in June 2024	13.99	16.98

- Dr. Bellamy noted that 50% of the residents at Stone have a psychiatric diagnosis and 6.7% have a life expectancy of less than 6 months.

Inpatient Services

- Dr. Bank recognized Mr. Allen McEniry, Director, Patrick B. Harris Psychiatric Hospital (PBH), for an update on the recent Joint Commission on-site survey at PBH in May 2024. PBH had no findings regarding clinical/patient care. Follow up items identified were related to physical plant and environmental care issues and the necessary corrections have been made. Mr. McEniry expressed appreciation to the staff on their outstanding work and said that this survey was the best since he came to PBH in 2008. They are awaiting the official accreditation letter. Dr. Bank said that he anticipates the Joint Commission will conduct a survey at BPH soon. An intensive cleanup effort is underway at BPH. Dr. Pollock reported that facilities policies are being reviewed and updated to be in line with the internal restructuring that took effect in March 2024.
- Efforts are underway to turn beds over more quickly to make room for the forensic patients on the waiting list as well as increase the census at PBH. Currently, the census is 98 and the goal is 115. Patients who are in psychiatric care beds and are in need of nursing home level of care are being evaluated as well as patients who do not need to be at Forensics because they are being treated for psychiatric illness.
- Dr. Bank announced the 2024 Lowcountry Mental Health Conference will take place July 24-26, 2024 in downtown Charleston.
- DMH recently launched its new website, www.scdmh.org, with updated service offerings and programming information for anyone in the community to view and find the help they need.

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:41 a.m. by motion duly made and seconded, the Commission adjourned the business meeting

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

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 12, 2024

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members

Dr. Elliott Levy, Chair	Mr. Bobby Mann
Dr. Carl Jones, Vice Chair	Dr. Crystal Maxwell, virtually via Zoom


Visitors/Staff

	<u><i>present virtually via Zoom</i></u>	<u><i>present virtually via Zoom</i></u>	<u><i>present virtually via Zoom</i></u>
Dr. Robert Bank	Janet Bell	Charice Jones	Dr. Lynelle Reavis
Dr. Versie Bellamy	Dr. Robert Breen	Tracy LaPointe	Vicki Redding
Debbie Calcote	Patrick Bresnan	Bill Lindsey	Angie Salley
Robin Crawford	Gail Cordial	Ashley Lloyd	Lisa Springe-Huezo
Melanie Gambrell	Julie Cox	Kathy Martin	Eric Turner
Elizabeth Hutto	Beth Franco	Valarie Perkins	Kathryn Vacchio
Dr. Chad Pollock	Jeffery Ham	Vickie Perry	Lindsay Walker
Emmy Ribero	Dr. Patricia Handley	Sylvett Porter	Kevin Woods
Tracy Richardson	Kathy Hugg	Jay Ragin	
Gwen Watson			
Brett Williams			

APPROVALS



Dr. Elliott Levy
Chair



Kim Ballentine
Recording Secretary