

SOUTH CAROLINA MENTAL HEALTH STATE PLANNING COUNCIL

July 19, 2023

Minutes

Members Present

Janie Simpson Robert Bank Tray Stone John Kendall Joan Herbert Maria Beth Smith
Candy True Bill Lindsey Chris Kunkle Amy Jolly Keith Jackson Deborah Blalock
Robin Crawford Phoebe Malloy Carol Rudder Stuart Shields Shelina Flarisee Michele Mitchum
Renaye Long

Guests

Mahri Irvine Kimberly Rudd Eillen Schell Valarie Perkins Stacey Floyd Bonita Shropshire
Mike Weaver Lavinia Holder

Staff

Erin Patlax
Michele Murff

Documents Distributed

May 17, 2023 Minutes
July 19, 2023 Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Janie Simpson called the meeting to order at 10:01AM. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

Approval of Agenda

On the motion of Ms. Maria Beth Smith and seconded by Mr. Bill Lindsey the Agenda was approved with one change.

Approval of Minutes

On the motion of Mr. Bill Lindsey, seconded by Mr. Tray Stone, the Minutes were approved.

Comments from the Acting State Director

Dr. Robert Bank reported that the budget was finalized, and the current Legislative session adjourned for the year. One request the department had was to increase salaries for those who work closest with patients to combat inflation due to the pandemic. Every employee at DMH also got a 5% increase in salary.

Next, Dr. Bank shared that since funding for the 988-call center in Charleston was procured there has been an increase from 68% of SC calls answered in May to 76% answered in June. The end goal is 100% of SC calls to be answered.

Dr. Bank reported that funding for Suicide Prevention Office initiatives to get suicide resource information out into the community is to continue.

Lastly, Dr. Bank shared that monies have been procured for additional funding for the Alternative Private Transport project and to contract additional beds at group homes which would mainly be for adolescents under 18.

There were questions and discussion amongst the Council about these topics.

Legislative Update

Ms. Robin Crawford introduced her new coworker Ms. Bonita Shropshire. She then shared that Legislation would meet again in January.

Community Mental Health Services Update

Ms. Deborah Blalock shared that vacant positions are filling thanks to the recent salary increase.

Next, she reported that the Intensive Community Treatment Teams were converting to Assertive Community Treatment Teams (ACT Teams). ACT Teams are evidence-based models with a 1:10 staff to patient ratio that utilized multidisciplinary teams. ACT serves patients in the community within their homes daily or weekly. DHHS increase the funding using Bipartisan Safer Community ACT dollars to support the conversion. There are currently two full fidelity ACT teams in SC located in Columbia and Greenville and within six to nine months should increase to sixteen with one at every center.

Ms. Blalock then shared the MHCs to date have served 761 individuals in the community residential care facilities. There is ongoing effort at the center level to ensure they individuals are ready to move out of the facilities and have somewhere to go.

She then reported that a grant was awarded that will be used to add more peer support specialists to mobile crisis units in Laurens, Greenwood, McCormick, Saluda, Abbeville, Edgefield, and Newberry counties.

Lastly, Ms. Blalock shared that DMH is receiving technical assistance from the National Association for State Mental Health Program Directors. The Former Commissioner of Kentucky, Ms. Wendy Morris, will work alongside DMH and other stakeholders to create a report. The report will contain recommendations and investigate the idea of restructuring the agency.

There were questions and discussion amongst the Council about these topics.

Inpatient Services Update

Dr. Kimberly Rudd gave the Inpatient Update for Dr. Versie Bellamy.

Dr. Rudd reported that by July of 2024 the veterans nursing homes will officially be moved to the Veterans Affairs agency.

She then shared that Roddey received a 5-star rating for the first-time which places them in the top 10% of the nations nursing homes.

Dr. Rudd reported that Harris is currently working on a ligature project which is part of joint commission requirements and workforce development.

She then reported that Bryans jail-based competency restoration program has decreased its waitlist by 40% by helping discharge and find placement for long-term patients. Forensic leadership, legal, and patient advocacy are ensuring that education is provided statewide with the different counties to those who need competency training.

Dr. Rudd shared that Bryans activity stoppage due to COVID has been lifted. These activities are important in helping with treatment and transition.

Lastly, she shared that Hall is holding a community outreach event that will include a barber and hair salon area for patients.

There were questions and discussion amongst the Council about these topics.

Block Grant Update

Ms. Michele Murff first introduced Mahri Irvine who works in Grants Administration Division and is the new Block Grant writer. She then gave an overview and timeline of the 2024-2025 Mental Health Block Grant application. The full application is due on September 1. The draft application will be ready for internal review by senior management by August 8. August 15 the draft will be posted for public comment in newspapers, and the SCDMH website. The comment period will last from August 15 to August 29.

There was discussion amongst the Council about the topic.

Navigate Program Presentation

Ms. Angel Smith introduced the NAVIGATE first episode psychosis program. She explained the patient acceptance criteria, who is involved, and the treatment model. A PowerPoint presentation was provided.

There was discussion amongst the council about the presentation and the PowerPoint.

Council Comments

Eillen Schell: A spaghetti dinner fundraiser and auction for Bridges Club House and Grahams Garden will be held July 26, 2023, at 6PM. Contact Jasen Hutto at jhutto@MHA-SC.org or (803) 796-6179.

Stuart Shields/Dr. Bank: A new Florence behavioral health hospital, which will be owned by MUSC, is being built that will house 63 beds. 16 of those beds will be reserved for adult crisis and 4 beds for children. Governor McMaster allotted 100 million dollars to fund the project.

Lavinia Holder: SC Share has received money from the Block Grant to hire two full time salary peer support employees. She shared info on how to go on the SC Share website and conditions to apply.

Bill Lindsey: 988 The Hill held a press conference which covered a legislative update. The conference was NAMI sponsored and available online.

Renaye Long: SC Housing has collaborated with the school of Business at USC to conduct a demand analysis on housing. Monies were provided by legislature to help predict future needs and challenges.

Chief Mitchum: Pine Hill Health Network had two SAMHSA's Grants submitted, with one funding training through SC Share. *Update 9/2023 The latter grant was awarded.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:00PM. The next meeting of the South Carolina Mental Health State Planning Council will be held September 20, 2023 from 10:00AM – 12:00PM at The Department of Mental Health, 2414 Bull Street, Suite 323, Columbia, SC 29201.