

SOUTH CAROLINA MENTAL HEALTH STATE PLANNING COUNCIL

May 15, 2024

Minutes

Members Present

Janie Simpson
Stuart Shields
Deborah Blalock
Amy Jolly
Bill Lindsey
Carol Rudder
Phoebe Malloy

Chris Kunkle
Angela Carol
Candy True
Chief Michelle Mitchum
Aaron Brown
Eileen Schell
Beverly Griffin

Chris Allen
LaToya Abney
John Kendall
Beth Franco
Raj Gavurla
Mandy Halloran

Guests

Keith Jackson
Nichole Lowder
Ana Garcia
Valarie Perkins
Andy Lynch
Robert Gibson

Loretta Aiken
Angela Anderson
Latonia Simmons-Mack
Patrice Simmons
Kathy Aldrich
Lourdes Tepper

Chris Roberts
Bonita Shropshire
Robin Crawford
Mahri Irvine
Chad Pollock
Lavinia Noel

Staff

Michele Murff
Megan Knight

Documents Distributed

March 20, 2024 Minutes

May 15, 2024 Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Janie Simpson called the meeting to order at 10:00AM. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

Approval of Agenda

Janie Simpson recommended that the agenda be modified to end at 11:45am so that attendees could join the Meet DMH event. On the motion of Ms. Beth Franco and seconded by Mr. Chris Allen, the agenda was approved with changes.

Approval of Minutes

On the motion of Dr. Chris Kunkle, and seconded by Ms. Amy Jolly, the minutes for March 20, 2024 were approved.

Clinicians Embedded in Police Departments, Angela Anderson and Officer Andy Lynch

Angela Anderson and Andy Lynch presented a detailed overview of the Pathways Unit of the Columbia Police Department. A handout with further information was provided to all attendees.

The program started in June 2021 with the goal to provide emergency services to individuals in Columbia experiencing mental health crises and prevent future crises by eliminating barriers to service. Major Christopher Roberts named the program to highlight the focus on opening new pathways of assistance, cooperation, resources, and conversations to all impacted by mental illness.

The presenters shared 2023 statistics provided on the handout and successes of the program. As of 2023, the Columbia Police Department has 249 Sworn Staff who are Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) certified. They also highlighted the benefits of embedded clinicians, as they have consistent schedules and clinical training in mental health.

There was time for questions and discussions between attendees and presenters.

Comments on Behalf of the Acting State Director, Deborah Blalock

Ms. Deborah Blalock reviewed the most current budget recommendation from the Senate, which includes money for the expansion of Forensics bed capacity and contracts with private hospitals for beds and \$2 million for the move of Department of Mental Health (SCDMH) Central Office employees to a new office building. The total recommended recurring funding is \$12.9 million, total nonrecurring funding is \$6.3 million. The General Assembly will meet again on June 26, 2024 to determine the budget.

Ms. Blalock also shared an update on the restructuring bill (S915/H4927), which died in session. The bill still has leadership support, so Governor Henry McMaster will likely call a conference committee to reconcile the 4 major differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill and determine if it will pass or not.

There was time for questions and discussion.

Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) Update, Deborah Blalock

Ms. Blalock praised the success of Columbia Police Department's Pathways program and other programs offered by CMHS, including the clinician embedded at the State Capitol Complex. She also shared that the two 988 Call Centers in South Carolina together answer 82% of South Carolina calls, which has increased significantly since the opening of the second call center at Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center.

Bills that passed during legislative session that will impact SCDMH include S408 to require suicide prevention training in clinicians' Continuing Education Units (CEUs), the Counseling Compact (S610), and H4624 which bans gender-affirming care for minors.

Ms. Blalock made additional announcements regarding a May ad campaign that she was looking to expand and the new relationship between CMHS and Clubhouse International.

There was time for questions and discussion.

Comments from the Chairperson, Janie Simpson

Ms. Janie Simpson reminded attendees that the July meeting will be held on July 18, which is a Thursday instead of a Wednesday.

SCDMH will be hosting the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for the Block Grant site visit in August. Planning Council members are asked to attend a meeting with SAMHSA on August 13 from 1:00pm-2:00pm at SCDMH Central Office.

Inpatient Services/Long Term Care Update, Keith Jackson

Mr. Keith Jackson is the CEO of G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital (Bryan). He provided an overview of their Fiscal Year 25 (FY25) budget preparation. The hospital is in a deficit and not looking to grow but to divert money

back to mandated programs, including Forensics. Mr. Jackson gave examples of some strategies to provide appropriate services to patients. The Forensics waitlist is currently at about 120, and Bryan has been at capacity since January. William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute (Hall) is looking to maintain 25 beds for child and adolescent patients.

Morris Village is expanding their outpatient services and projecting early fall 2024 for the opening of their Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU).

Mr. Jackson also shared that Inpatient Services celebrated National Hospital Week and National Nurses' Week. Inpatient Services has four Palmetto Gold Nurses.

Announcements

Ms. Eileen Schell will be sharing dates of upcoming events with Mental Health America of South Carolina (MHASC).

Ms. Candy True shared that the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Mid-Carolina (NAMI Mid-Carolina) is holding a NAMIWalks on Saturday, May 18 at the Columbia Riverfront Park and at Furman University.

Ms. Ana Garcia shared that SC Housing received the Mobile Housing Grant and is seeking partnerships.

Mr. Bill Lindsey shared that another NAMIWalks will be held on May 18 at Furman University by NAMI Upstate South Carolina. NAMI SC will also be holding their annual State Mental Health Conference at the Richland School District 2 administrative building on September 5, 2024, and The Public Service Consortium meets on the third Wednesday of every month at the Richland County Library at 1:30pm.

Old Business/New Business

There was no old business to discuss or new business to share.

Public Comment

There was time for public comment from all attendees.

Adjournment

On the motion of Ms. Eileen Schell, and seconded by Ms. Amy Jolly, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45am.

The next meeting of the South Carolina Mental Health State Planning Council will be held Thursday, July 18, 2024, from 10:00AM – 12:00PM at the Department of Mental Health, 2414 Bull Street, Suite 323, Columbia, SC 29201.