

SOUTH CAROLINA MENTAL HEALTH STATE PLANNING COUNCIL

November 15, 2023

Minutes

Members Present

Janie Simpson, Chair
Bill Lindsey
Phoebe Malloy
Carol Rudder
Chris Allen
LaToya Abney
Chris Kunkle
Beth Franco

Aaron Brown
John Kendall
Ramona Williams Carr
Stuart Shields
Ryan Chitwood
Michelle Mitchum
Deborah Blalock
Robert Bank, MD

Versie Bellamy
Robin Crawford
Louise Johnson
Rochelle Caton

Guests

Keith Jackson
Valarie Perkins
Tracy Richardson

Lavinia Noel
Lauri Hammond
Bonita Shropshire

Staff

Erin Bramlitt
Michele Murff

Documents Distributed

September 20, 2023 Minutes

November 15, 2023 Agenda

Improving the Care & Treatment of People with Mental Illness in Jails, Addressing the Forensic Waitlist

Welcome and Introductions

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

Approval of Agenda

On the motion of Mr. Chris Allen and seconded by Dr. Chris Kunkle, the agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes

On the motion of Mr. Chris Allen, seconded by Dr. Chris Kunkle, the minutes were approved.

Comments from the SCDMH Acting State Director, Dr. Robert Bank

Dr. Bank reported the Joint Bond Review Committee (JBRC) met to consider and vote on State Administration's proposed leased locations for the administrative offices of: DHEC, SCDMH, DDSN, and DAODAS. The Committee unanimously approved State Administration's plan, with the following requirements:

1. For the affected state agencies' administrative offices to move into the selected sites, significant expense and modification to the leased spaces will be required.
2. The General Assembly must appropriate the recurring and nonrecurring funds required to undertake the move, as well as the first year's rent, in next year's budget.

The Plan, if the above conditions are met, would result in the following:

- The administrative offices of the South Carolina Departments of Public Health, Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, and Disabilities and Special Needs would move to Otarre Parkway in Cayce (the site of the former headquarters of SCANA).
- The administrative offices of the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services would move to Colonial Life Boulevard in Columbia (the former headquarters of Colonial Life Insurance Company).

Next, Dr. Bank reported the SCDMH submitted their legislative budget request which proposed an increase in funding for forensic services, particularly to expand forensics in the jail setting and in Division of Inpatient Services (DIS).

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

Comments from the Chairperson

Janie Simpson discussed the State Mental Health Planning Council is an advisory council for the mental health block grant, which totals approximately \$14 million. The planning council makes advisory decisions on how the money is spent.

Forensic Restoration in Jails

Ms. Rochelle Caton discussed the forensic restoration in jails at DMH. She provided an in-depth review of the handout "Improving the Care & Treatment of people with mental illness in Jails; Addressing the Forensic Waitlist; Partnering with Jails & Criminal Justice Partners. This handout was distributed to all attendees and a copy was sent by email to the Council.

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

Community Mental Health Services Update

Ms. Deborah Blalock reported a new electronic health record (EHR) is rolling out in July 2024. After a lengthy request for proposal (RFP), Netsmart is providing the EHR at a cost of \$15-\$20 million.

Ms. Blalock then shared the Department of Justice (DOJ) is investigating SCDMH for using Community Care Residential Facilities (CRCF) inappropriately for the long-term care of patients. CRCF's are typically used when a patient has been released from inpatient care but they cannot live on their own yet due to various reasons.

Next, Ms. Blalock reported on areas where there are embedded clinicians. As of October 17, 2023, there is an embedded clinician located at the SC State House. Three (3) clinicians are embedded at DSS for child and adult protective services. Clinicians are also embedded in detention centers across the state.

All mental health centers and mobile crisis clinicians have and are carrying Narcan.

SCDMH is requesting additional funding from the legislature to pay for community hospital beds. This enables persons with mental illness the ability to receive inpatient treatment without having to occupy beds at Bryan or Harris Hospital.

Finally, Ms. Blalock reported DMH continues to work on the alternative transportation program for transporting patients to the DMH hospitals.

Inpatient Services Update

Mr. Jackson reported on behalf of Dr. Bellamy. He reported the Division of Inpatient Services (DIS), is working diligently to reduce personnel costs, such as limiting over time, reducing the use of agency staff or encouraging agency staff to apply for full time positions within DIS. Evening and weekend doctor coverage is being changed from in-house doctor to an on-call system where the doctor does not have to physically on campus.

Mr. Jackson next reported the forensic wait list is 109, as of November 15, 2023.

Bryan Hospital and Harris Hospital are accepting patients when a bed is available.

Bryan Hospital is in the one-year window for the Joint Commission survey.

Transition Services

Ms. Tracy Richardson presented a PowerPoint presentation of the office of Transition Programs 2023 update. A total of 177 staff work in transition programs at DMH. Ms. Richardson discussed how transitions assist the patients from inpatient to outpatient care. She shared outcome measures for fiscal year 2024, she noted the current recidivism rate is 0%. She then discussed community residential care facilities (CRCF) in which DMH runs 8 CRCF's and has 7 enhanced CRCF's. Finally, she discussed community long-term care and the patient affairs coordinator roles.

There were questions and discussion amongst the Council about the topic.

Council Comments

Ms. Beth Franco, Disability Rights of SC, reported an updated Olmstead report was released with finding and recommendations noted on the report. She will keep the council up-to-date- via email.

Ms. Louise Johnson reported a parental awareness and community empowerment summit is scheduled Dec. 1-2, 2023, in Sumter, to address some of the needs that schools are experiencing with child mental health issues. The first day will focus on education and the second day will focus on available resources. Ms. Johnson provided handouts to all council participants.

Ms. Janie Simpson asked all council members and guests to note the 2024 State Planning Council dates that are listed at the bottom of the agenda. Outlook meeting invitations will be sent out to members and guests.

Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Chris Kunkle and seconded by Mr. Chris Allen, the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 AM.

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