

SOUTH CAROLINA MENTAL HEALTH STATE PLANNING COUNCIL

September 20, 2023

Minutes

Members Present

Janie Simpson, Chair
Amy Jolly
Angela Carrol
Bill Lindsey
Candy True
Carol Rudder

Chris Kunkle
Deborah Blalock
Harriet Abner
John Kendall
Louise Johnson
Mandy Holloran

Michele Mitcham
Ramona Carr
Renaye Long
Stuart Shields
Versie Bellamy

Guests

Eileen Schell
Kathy Martin
Mahri Irvine

Melanie Gambrell
Rochelle Caton
Terri Browne

Staff

Erin Bramlitt
Michele Murff

Documents Distributed

July 19, 2023 Minutes

September 20, 2023 Agenda

Certified Community Behavioral Health handouts

Welcome and Introductions

Janie Simpson called the meeting to order at 10:00AM. She introduced Erin Bramlitt who is providing administrative coverage to the planning council until a replacement for Erin Patlax is hired. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

Approval of Agenda

On the motion of Mr. Bill Lindsey and seconded by Mrs. Renaye Long, the agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes

On the motion of Ms. Amy Jolly, seconded by Dr. Chris Kunkle, the minutes were approved.

Comments from Deborah Blalock, on behalf of the Acting State Director, Dr. Robert Bank

Ms. Deborah Blalock reported as a result of Senate bill 399, the Department of Administration was instructed to hire a consulting group to look at possible restructuring of state healthcare agencies in South Carolina. The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) was hired to analyze and recommend potential restructuring. The BCG is traveling across the state to talk to different state health care agencies, legislators, commissions, and advocacy groups. For DMH, they have toured four of our mental health centers, Hall Institute, and have an appointment to speak with Commission Chair, Dr. Levy. The BCG will provide a preliminary report to the Department of Administration by October 1, 2023, and the final report by April 1, 2024. At the request of the DMH, a consultant from NASMHPD was hired to provide technical assistance to assist with the restructuring. Ms. Blalock thinks the report will be shared with it's completed by NASMHPD.

Next, Ms. Blalock reported the Department of Justice is coming to South Carolina to evaluate a potential Olmstead violation which is to not segregate individuals with a disability to live with only those individuals with disabilities. This will mainly pertain to the Community Residential Care Facilities (CRCF's). Currently there are approximately 2,000 individuals living in CRCF's, 858 receive services from the Department of Mental Health. During the November meeting, the Council will have a presentation by Transition Services.

Lastly, Ms. Blalock reported DMH has been granted an extension to submit our budget proposal to the legislature.

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

Patient Advocacy System

Ms. Rochelle Caton discussed the patient advocacy program at DMH. She stated it's a formal complaint or grievance system for the patient. If the patient is still not satisfied after filing a formal complaint it goes through the chain of command from the patient advocate, to the center/facility director, to Rochelle Caton, and then through the State Director (if necessary) for a final answer. Further information is available on the DMH website under Patient Advocacy.

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

Community Mental Health Services Update

Ms. Deborah Blalock shared that a second 988 call center was implemented in June 2023. To date, 1408 calls have been answered by the call center. Calls that are made from South Carolina are usually answered by South Carolina. Any overflow of calls goes to the national line.

Next, she provided an update on the Assertive Community Treatment Teams (ACT Teams). It's an evidence based and fidelity based model. The goals are to keep patients out of the hospitals and to help the individual live their best life despite living with a mental illness. There are currently two full fidelity ACT teams in SC located in Columbia and Greenville Mental Health Center and we are in the process of creating ACT Teams at 14 of our 16 mental health centers.

Ms. Blalock then shared because of the partnership with Department of Administration, DMH received the money to raise the starting salaries of master's prepared clinicians from \$38k to \$51k. Three mental health centers are struggling with hiring – Waccamaw, AOP, and Charleston.

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

Certified Peer Support Specialist Conference

Ms. Janie Simpson reported the Peer Support Specialist Conference is November 10-12, 2023. Ms. Simpson will speak about professionalism.

Inpatient Services Update

Dr. Bellamy reported the nursing homes are accepting admissions for 2024. DIS is working collaboratively with the Department of Veterans' Affairs to transfer ownership of veterans nursing homes beginning July of 2024.

She then shared some activities that the inpatient hospitals are celebrating this month. Bryan Civil is providing patient education for suicide prevention month. Morris Village is celebrating national recovery month. They are also celebrating diversity this month. Other facilities are actively engaged in national recovery month.

Dr. Bellamy then reported on the Forensics program and the waiting list. Restoration treatment has increased from 60 days restoration to a maximum of 180 days. Forensics has restored 77% of patients since the 180 days, marking an increase in the number restored. The average length of stay is 66 days. Forensics was able to reduce the number of civil commitments by approximately one half. Jail-based competency restoration programs can serve an additional 45 defendants for a total of 129 defendants who have been served. They have programs at the Aiken County Detention Center, Alvin S. Glenn, and 107 in the program on the SCDC grounds. DIS continues to work with Transitions to get patients out of the hospitals and back into the community.

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

Certified Community Behavioral Health Center

Ms. Melanie Gambrell presented a PowerPoint presentation of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Model of Care. Forty-six states have this CCBHC designation. Both Beckman and Spartanburg are working toward getting certified. Melanie provided her contact information and Kayle Conyers, CCBHC model coordinator's information.

There was discussion amongst the Council about the topic.

Council Comments

Mr. Bill Lindsey: NAMI is hosting three walks in the fall – Oct. 7th in Rock Hill, Oct. 7th in Mt. Pleasant, and Oct. 28, in Hilton Head. Laura Moss is the new coordinator for Ending the Silence program. SC schools are getting involved in mental health awareness events. Go Lime Green for mental health takes place on Friday night football games. Ending the Silence takes place after the games. Nationally, Chicago is participating in Ending the Silence. NAMI is hosting Mental Health Advocacy Day on March 6, 2024 at the SC State House.

Dr. Chris Kunkle said SCDC is partnering with SCDMH on zero suicide initiative. SCDC is opening an inpatient unit for women's mental health.

Chief Mitchum: Pine Hill Health Network had two SAMHSA's Grants submitted, with one funding training through SC Share. The latter grant was awarded. This grant will enable EMS training and to mobilize mental health in Allendale County, serving Allendale, Orangeburg west, and Barnwell County. This is a one-year grant, and they are hoping to expand it to two years. SAMHSA is providing Narcan training.

Ms. Louise Johnson reported most mental illnesses show signs at 14 years of age. She, along with others, are planning a mental health summit in the Sumter Area on Dec. 1-2, 2023, 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. Contact Louise Johnson if you are interested in sponsoring a table or would like to attend the conference.

Ms. Janie Simpson said she will make Zoom an option for those council members outside of the Columbia area. If you live or work in Columbia, attendance **must** be in person.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.

The next meeting of the South Carolina Mental Health State Planning Council will be held November 15, 2023, from 10:00AM – 12:00PM at the Department of Mental Health, 2414 Bull Street, Suite 323, Columbia, SC 29201.