

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SCDMH Administration
2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201
September 6, 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, September 6, 2024, at 9:45 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. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Levy called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. Commissioner Bobby Mann was absent, excused.

INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the minutes from the May 3, Internal Audit Report.

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

Chairman Levy recognized Ms. Valarie Perkins, Director, Office of Internal Audit. Ms. Perkins and Ms. Shawnta Reeder-Locks, Senior Auditor, presented the internal audit report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.

Chairman Levy expressed appreciation to Ms. Perkins and her staff for their efforts and good work.

RECESS

At 10:20 a.m. the Commission agreed to take a brief recess. Chairman Levy resumed the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Chaplain Malcolm Simpson provided the invocation. Chairman Levy welcomed Dr. Bank back to work following his recent surgery.

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 Commission meeting of August 9, 2024, the minutes were approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF 2025 COMMISSION MEETING DATES

By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the 2024 Commission Meeting dates.

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

Dr. Jones requested consideration be given to holding one or two Commission meetings on site at one of the centers or facilities. Commission members agreed to consider it at the next scheduled business meeting, which is October 4, 2024.

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

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 no pending investigations for the month of August 2024 for the Office of Public Safety.

Ms. Hutto reported that as of today there were 21 pending SLED investigations. Six cases were assigned to SLED, of which the oldest case is from April 2023; eight cases were assigned to Long-term Care Ombudsman Office, of which the oldest case is from May 2024; and four cases were assigned to local law enforcement. Three cases originated out of SVP are with the DMH advocate.

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

- 186 calls to patient advocacy in July 2024; a total of 1,290 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.
- 95 complaints were resolved in July 2024; a total of 670 year to date.
- The number of complaints by category resolved in July 2024 is 108 (*complaints are broken out by category, a single patient complaint may have more than one category*).

SEMI-ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

Dr. Lynelle Reavis, Director of Quality Management and Compliance, Division of Medical Affairs, gave a SCDMH Compliance Program review for 3rd Quarter FY24, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. A copy of the presentation is on file with the minutes in the Office of the State Director. Following are highlights from the presentation:

- There were 34 compliance reports in the 3rd and 4th quarter FY24 with the following classifications: 24 clinician performance issues, 5 external audit issues; 4 administrative issues; and 1 credentialing issue.
- Dr. Reavis reported a total of 65 compliance reports in FY24 of which 42 or 64.62% were classified as clinician performance and 17 or 26.15% were external audit issues. There was discussion.
- There were 11 HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act)/HITECH (Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health) reports in the 3rd quarter FY24 and 9 reports in the 4th quarter FY24. The most common compliance and privacy issues in FY24 included: external audits, overutilization, documentation does not support bill time, incomplete documentation, cloning, sharing the wrong records/PHI (protected health information) or sharing with wrong person/wrong number/wrong fax, leaving PHI unattended, unencrypted emails to outside parties, and sharing information without proper consent. Dr. Bank commended Dr. Reavis and her team on their great work.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Bank reported the following:

- Preparations have begun on the FY26 budget proposal. Additional funding for forensic services will be top priority. The demand by the state's circuit and family courts for DMH forensic services continues to increase yet bed capacity has remained the same, increasing the length of stay in community jails. The additional funding will be requested to increase bed capacity and jail-based competency restoration programming. Dr. Bank and Ms. Blalock met with Senator Tom Alexander on August 1, 2024 and talked about the need for additional funding in this area. Senator Alexander understands that DMH is statutorily mandated to provide the State's forensic services. Funding will also be requested to close the gap between the current deficit as a result of delivering those

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

services. Preliminary FY26 budget requests are due to the Executive Budget Office (EBO) by the end of September. As soon as it is available, a final draft will be provided to the Commission for review and feedback. Dr. Levy asked what happens to the budget if the Agency is merged with another agency. Dr. Bank explained that each agency must prepare their budget requests for the coming budget cycle. He said that in his discussions with Senator Alexander, the Senator expects the topic of restructuring to reemerge in January 2025, but that it might not look entirely the same as last year. If legislation passes that combines some agencies, his understanding is that the budgets allocated to each agency would be enfolded to the one new agency.

- Dr. Bank gave an update on the state-funded Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) project. DMH in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), and the Department of Children's Advocacy (DCA) decided that a design-build-operate-maintain approach would provide the best facility that would benefit juvenile justice involved youth with a serious mental illness in need of admission and treatment to a PRTF. The leadership team at the Department of Administration (DoA) along with the Office of State Engineer (OSE) led the request for proposal (RFP) bidding process. The RFP was awarded to Recovery Solutions. A groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled on September 16, 2024 at the project site, 255 Faison Drive, Columbia, SC. The Honorable Henry McMaster, Governor, will bring remarks at the groundbreaking ceremony.
- The 2025 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) block grant site visit last month went very well. All indications are SAMHSA was very impressed with the vast variety and quality of services and programs that DMH offers. The block grant application was submitted by the required deadline.

SCDMH STRATEGIC PLAN – JULY 2024-2026

Dr. Bank presented the DMH Strategic Plan July 2024-June 2026, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. Goals include:

- Continue to increase access to quality mental health services.
- Increase workforce recruitment and retention of qualified employees.
- Continually improve the effectiveness of the agency's administrative operations to support the delivery of clinical services.
- Increase prevention efforts and early intervention services.

There was discussion. Dr. Bank and senior leadership will review progress quarterly and give a report to the Commission.

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Long-Term Care

Dr. Bellamy, Deputy Director, Division of Long-Term Care (LTC) presented the LTC report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. Following are highlights from the report:

- A tour of the Stone and Fewell Pavilions was conducted on August 15, 2024 with leadership from the Department of Veterans' Affairs and DMH. Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter also joined the tour. The DVA is pursuing a request to the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs to activate Fewell as an operating facility for the Stone residents during the renovation work at Stone.
- Administrative Services is collaborating with HHS regarding a revenue structure that supports complex care and billing for ancillary services at the LTC facilities.
- The LTC facilities are experiencing an uptick in the number of COVID cases. Staff are being encouraged to get the flu vaccine.
- Chairman Levy asked if the daily census decrease at Roddey Pavilion is a result from the COVID outbreak. Dr. Bellamy explained admissions are halted due to the quarantine. Efforts continue to move every nursing home

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

level of care patient out of psychiatric facilities and into a proper nursing home; some patients will go to Roddey, and some may go to community nursing homes.

Inpatient Services

Dr. Bank presented the Inpatient Services report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. Following are highlights from the report:

- The July overall average daily census (ADC) for Bryan Civil and Harris was 291, with 97 ADC at Harris and 122 ADC at Bryan. Efforts are underway to increase Harris' ADC to 115. Staff at both facilities are working hard to turn beds over more quickly and to make room for the forensic patients who could not be restored but still have inpatient psychiatric needs. Almost all of the beds in forensics are being converted into restoration beds as opposed to chronic psychiatric care. As of August 19, 2024, there were 153 on the forensic ready for admission waitlist.
- Dr. Bank noted that the ADC at Hall Institute has been unusually high, averaging 23 for the past six months.
- The renovations have begun on the patient bathrooms at Bryan. Dr. Bank expressed appreciation to the Commission for their support on that effort.
- Morris Village is on the verge of being able to provide not only the 30-day program, but also provide residential treatment for patients who would benefit from being in a residential setting. Morris Village will be accommodating the Crisis Intervention Program in the very near future.

Report of Governing Body Committee Meeting of April 29, 2024

Dr. Bank presented the April 29, 2024 quarterly Governing Body Committee minutes, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. Chairman Levy asked if there is an action plan to address Bryan's below national average percentages on the inpatient consumer surveys. Dr. Bank talked about offering more activities for patients to access that are essential for patients to make progress and engage with care providers to minimize idle time.

Medical Affairs Update

Dr. 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:

- Total Transitions assisted discharges for each hospital by fiscal year:

	FY'21	FY'22	FY'23	FY'24
Bryan Civil	37	38	32	80
Bryan Forensics	62	43	48	32
Harris Acute Psych	44	28	50	68
Morris Village	0	2	16	90
CM Tucker	0	1	0	0
TOTAL	143	112	146	270

Dr. Pollock noted Bryan Civil had 80 referrals to Transition Services assisted discharge in FY24, more than doubled compared to FY21. Bryan Forensics' referrals are down and he attributed that to the increase in the number of restoration beds. Transition Services is not involved with those patients that are going back to jail. Initially Morris Village referrals were for patients with medication assisted treatment. Referrals come from hospitals, probate courts, county alcohol and drug treatment providers and local mental health centers. Services include evaluation, medical stabilization, detoxification, and inpatient treatment while also addressing co-occurring disorders such as substance dependence and mental illness.

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

- Total Transitions assisted discharge by location by fiscal year:

	FY'21	FY'22	FY'23	FY'24
CRCF	82.52%	83.04%	69.18%	37.78%
Family	6.29%	9.82%	21.92%	40.74%
Boarding	8.39%	1.79%	1.37%	10.00%
Independent Living	0.00%	1.79%	5.48%	6.67%

- Dr. Pollock noted that CRCF admissions plunged from 82.52% in FY21 to 37.78% in FY24. The data indicates families have improved their support from 6.29% in FY21 to 40.74% in FY24. Patients are getting connected with the right level of care.
- Recently, Dr. Pollock and Ms. Blalock met with Dr. Scott Zeller, a leader and internationally recognized expert in emergency psychiatry who developed EmPath (Emergency Psychiatric Assessment, Treatment and Healing) and discussed how DMH could be involved as an agency either through a mental health center with a clinician or through ED Telepsych providing a consultant. Dr. Zeller saw Ms. Blalock's presentation to the South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA) in August 2024 and was very impressed by all the services DMH offers. Dr. Pollock said he is excited about the opportunities.

Community Mental Health Services

Ms. Deborah Blalock, Deputy Director, Community Mental Health Services (CMHS), presented the CMHS report. Following are highlights from the report:

- Ms. Blalock said that at the meeting with Dr. Zeller, he was very complimentary of the crisis services that South Carolina has in place. When asked if there was anyway that DMH could improve what we are doing, his response was to do a better job of advertising what DMH does, because DMH is doing way more than most states.
- Recruitment continues for the executive director position at Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center. Ms. Blalock expressed appreciation to Dr. Ebony Gaffney for filing the role of acting executive director.
- Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team development is moving at a rapid pace. Three mental health centers have ACT Teams in active operation recruiting and serving patients. This program serves patients 18 years of age and older.
- Process has begun to hire the Department's first Episode Psychosis Coordinator for the state. This position will help the mental health centers develop their first episode psychosis team.
- The state's second Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) is on track to open in the fall. The CSU is an outpatient program and will be located on the Morris Village Campus and will provide 24/7 residential stay in hopes of avoiding a psychiatric hospitalization. Ms. Blalock commended Physical Plant Services, and specifically Mr. Michael Montgomery, Project Manager, and his team, for their work on the renovations.
- Mental health professionals are embedded in nine detention centers around South Carolina. The General Assembly appropriated \$400,000 in nonrecurring funds for FY25 which will help with starting a program at the Orangeburg County Detention Center and will continue to benefit the program at the Berkeley County Detention Center. Ms. Blalock emphasized the need for the General Assembly to provide recurring funding to sustain these programs. Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center is proposing a contract with DMH to return to the detention center with one mental health professional staff person.
- The Department has contracts with 13 hospitals to buy admissions for indigent patients in community hospitals across the state. The Department requested \$8 million to fund this program. The General Assembly appropriated \$4 million. Last year, funding was provided for up to 14 days. The average length of stay was 7.83 days. Because of the shortage of funds this year, the number of days will be limited to up to eight days. All the hospitals have been made aware of the change.

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

- Ms. Blalock presented the CMHS Trends and Transparency Monthly Indicators (TMI) spreadsheets, copies of which had been provided to the Commission.

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. She recognized Mr. Lee Bodie, Budget Director, for a review the FY25 budget. Below are highlights from the report:

- As of July 31, 2024, the Department anticipates ending FY25 with a projected deficit balance of approximately \$15.6 million. This projected deficit includes the \$4.6 million surplus forecasted on the community mental health center side and the \$19.1 million deficit for the inpatient services.
- The key hospitals contributing to the deficit are:
 - Harris – approximately \$7 million
 - Bryan Civil – approximately \$5 million
 - Bryan Forensics – approximately \$5.4 million
- The budget office has worked diligently with the LTC and hospital leadership to ensure the accuracy of their reporting and their effective use of the state allocations. Mr. Bodie stated these deficits are not sustainable. Preparations have begun on the FY26 budget requests. If the agency's FY26 budget request is not funded in full or funded partially in needed areas, the agency will be required to review any non-statutorily mandated programs and the funding associated with operation.
- Chairman Levy requested a list of the mandated programs. Ms. Calcote will follow up.
- Dr. Jones asked how the forecasted deficit might impact operations. Dr. Bank said there is very little insurance revenue at the civil and forensic hospitals. Medicaid does not pay for care provided in institutions for mental disease (IMDs). The disproportionate share money the Department receives is not enough to cover the difference. The Department has to be innovated and mindful of spending and figure out ways to get additional state funding, find more efficiencies, and hopefully not have to cut any services that are being provided.

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Levy announced that Dr. Bank will be the recipient of the 2024 Telehealth Pioneer award. This award recognizes an individual champion in the areas of clinical care, education, or policy who has implemented telehealth within a practice, health center, school-based or administrative setting. Palmetto Care Connections will present the award to Dr. Bank at the 12th Annual Telehealth Summit of South Carolina in October 2024.

Chairman Levy reported that he visited Berkeley Community Mental Health Center last month. He expressed appreciation to Mr. Matt Dorman, Executive Director, Berkeley Community Mental Health Center, for hosting and introducing him to many of the frontline staff. He said there is a lot of comradery and cohesiveness among the staff as well as a lot of enthusiasm and interest in innovations and trying new things.

Ms. Blalock said that the deaf services program has functioned as a standalone program. She announced that program will be integrated into the mental health centers to be consistent with other specialty programming and will improve patient access to services. Concerns from the deaf services' staff are being addressed.

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:00 p.m. by motion duly made and seconded, the Commission adjourned the business meeting.

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

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

Dr. Levy announced that he will not be present at the October 4, 2024 Commission meeting. Vice Chairman Jones will moderate the meeting in his absence.

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members
Dr. Elliott Levy, Chair
Dr. Carl Jones, Vice Chair

Mr. Bobby Mann, absent, excused
Dr. Crystal Maxwell

Visitors/Staff
Dr. Robert Bank
Janet Bell
Dr. Versie Bellamy
Deborah Blalock
Lee Bodie
Joycely Bowens
Aria Bozorgi
Dr. Robert Breen
Patrick Bresnan
Jackie Brown
Mirtha Brown
Jennifer Brush
Debbie Calcote

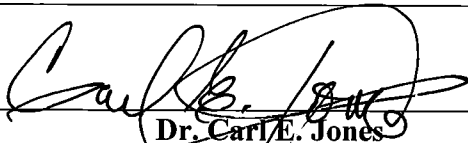
Visitors/Staff
Gail Cordial
Tamara Curry
Matthew Dorman
Tamer Elshennawy
Andrew Fowler
Dr. Kelly Gothard
LaVeda Green
Jeffery Ham
Dr. Maryjane Hicks
Charice Jones
Tracy Lapointe
Linda Palmer
Valarie Perkins

present virtually via Zoom
Dr. Chad Pollock
Bill Lindsey
Ashley Lloyd
Sarah Main
George McConnell
Allen McEniry
Wanda McMichael
Margaret Meriwether
Michael Montgomery
Thomas Moore
Linda Palmer
Valarie Perkins
Dr. Chad Pollock

present virtually via Zoom
Jay Ragin
Dr. Lynelle Reavis
Vicki Redding
Shawnta Reeder-Locks
Angie Salley
Chaplain Malcolm Simpson
Jessica Suber
Eric Turner
Susan von Schenk
Lindsay Walker
Bryant Williams
Grayson Woodham
Kevin Woods

Visitors: Visitors present were: Gail Cordial, Director, Public Policy and Government Relations, Alkermes; LaVeda Green, Operations Manager, NAACP SC State Conference; Bill Lindsey, Executive Director, NAMI SC; Wanda McMichael, Program Manager, Liberty Healthcare Corporation; and Susan von Schenk, Capital Information Affiliates (CIA).

APPROVALS



Dr. Carl E. Jones
Vice Chair



Kim Ballentine
Recording Secretary