

SOUTH CAROLINA MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
SCDMH Administration
2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201

November 1, 2024

Berkeley Community Mental Health Center – Virtual Presentation

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members:

Vice Chairman Dr. Carl Jones and Mr. Bobby Mann were present. Dr. Crystal Maxwell was absent excused. Due to traffic conditions, Chairman Elliott Levy was late, arriving at 9:51 a.m.

Staff/Visitors:

Dr. Robert Bank	<u>Present virtually via Zoom</u>	<u>Present virtually via Zoom</u>	<u>Present virtually via Zoom</u>
Debora Blalock	Jessica Barnes	Dr. Kelly Gothard	Jay Ragin
Lee Bodie	Stacy Bowman	Heidi Hoogstraal	Dr Lynelle Reavis
Andrew Fowler	Pat Bresnan	Louise Johnson	Vicki Redding
Dr. Chad Pollock	Jackie Brown	Charice Jones	Shawnta Reeder-Locks
Gwen Watson	Jennifer Brush	Tracy LaPointe	Angie Salley
Brett Williams	Jennifer Butler	Sarah Main	Susan von Schenk
	Lamar Butler	Kathy Martin	Lindsay Walker
	Matthew Dorman	Allen McEniry	Kevin Woods
	Matt Dugan	Teresa Meakins-Linn	
	Tamer Elshennawy	Sylvett Porter	

A meeting of the S.C. Mental Health Commission was held in Room 323 at the S.C. Department of Mental Health Administration Building on Friday, November 1, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. Vice Chairman Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting and turned the meeting over to Mr. Matt Dugan, Clinic Director, Berkeley Community Mental Health Center (BCMHC).


PRESENTATION

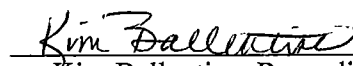
Mr. Dugan welcomed everyone. He along with Mr. Lamar Butler, Interim Executive Director, and Ms. Stacy Bowman, Director of Emergency and Forensics Services, gave a presentation on Berkeley Community Mental Health Center, a copy of which is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director. Following are highlights from the presentation.

- The bridge crossing a creek and leading to the front of the BCMHC was damaged during a bad storm last spring and had to be replaced. The final inspection on the construction of the new bridge, named *Walkway to Health*, is expected to take place next week. The BCMHC Team and Board members dedicated the recovery bridge in honor of Mr. Matt Dorman, retired Executive Director.
- BCMHC is staffed with board certified psychiatrists, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, and medical assistants who work alongside the clinicians as part of an interdisciplinary team. Often the patients benefit from medication therapies, and the behavioral health medical specialists prescribe and monitor their effectiveness as a component of their treatment plan.
- One of the fastest growing counties in South Carolina. 23% of Berkeley County's residents are under the age of 18, compared to the state average of 21%.
- 8.8% of residents speak a language other than English at home, compared to state average of 7.6%

- From FY14 to FY24, BCMHC averaged an increase of 5,730 contacts each year. In FY2024, the Center saw 2,462 unique patients with 19,169 total contact hours.
- As of July 2024, BCMHC had clinicians in 26 schools delivering services to the students and their families who have mental health needs. In FY24, BCMHC was involved in over eight times more schools than in FY14. In the last three years, BCMHC has treated 760 different students per year on average.
- BCMHC's Emergency Services Division works closely alongside the community's law enforcement agencies, the judicial system, and detention center as partners to help those with mental illness in the community.
- BCMHC's Mobile Crisis Team is staffed 24/7 and responds with law enforcement officers to provide on-site assessments, screening and referrals for anyone experiencing a mental health crisis.
- BCMHC began taking mobile crisis calls in 2015. Since inception, Mobile Crisis averages 487 calls per year.
- Agency collaborations:
 - Wake Up Carolina – a nonprofit, recovery community organization promoting awareness, education, and hope for those touched by substance use. Support services include harm reduction, 24/7 on calls services, and support groups.
 - First Responders Support Team (FRST) – launched in August 2024, FRST is a specially trained clinical team that provides brief solution-focused care to first responders.
 - Hill-Finklea Detention Center – BCMHC began serving individuals within the detention center in October 2022 via a legislature-funded program. Incarcerated patients have received on average four interactions with the mental health team during their stay at Hill-Finklea.
- Specialty Services provided include:
 - Individual Placement and Support
 - Housing Services
 - Peer Support Services
 - Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) and Multi-dimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) programs.
 - Highway 2 Hope (H2H) provides services via RV in rural areas of Berkeley County.
- Ms. Bowman shared a success story about a patient who was arrested in early 2022 due to threats of violence and burglary, and was incarcerated and acutely psychotic for 10 months in solitude. The patient engaged with the BCMHC mental health team. He ultimately was released to the public with NGRI (not guilty by reason of insanity) status. Since incarceration, the patient has been compliant with treatment recommendations, had trespass notices removed, continues to work on steady employment, and actively participates in individual group therapy.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Levy thanked Mr. Dugan and his staff for their continued services and for the informative presentation. The center presentation concluded at 10:20 a.m.


 Dr. Elliott Levy, Chair
 SC Mental Health Commission


 Kim Ballentine, Recording Secretary
 SC Mental Health Commission