

**S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING**  
**SCDMH Administration**  
**2414 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201**  
**Called Meeting**  
**December 4, 2024**

A called meeting of the South Carolina Mental Health Commission was held virtually via Zoom at the S.C. Department of Mental Health Administration Building on December 4, 2024, at 11 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.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Elliott Levy, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the Agenda for today's Called Meeting.*

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

**GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR A PROPOSED THERAPEUTIC FARM PROGRAM**

Dr. Robert Bank, Acting State Director, said the proposal being presented for consideration today, if approved, will be submitted as part of a grant application for a therapeutic farm program.

Ms. Deborah Blalock, Deputy Director, Community Mental Health Services, presented an Issue Action Paper (IAP), copies of which had been provided to the Commission, requesting approval for additional expenditures from the Bull Street property sale proceeds to partially fund the development of a therapeutic farm for the treatment and housing of patients. The farm would be a transitional independent living skills and employment program to help individuals transition effectively back into society and continue their recovery journey. A copy of the IAP is attached to these minutes. There was discussion.

Dr. Jones stated that South Carolina State University (SCSU) is one of two land-grant universities in South Carolina, with Clemson University being the other. He said SCSU would be a great partner to consider or have as a resource for this project as the University features a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness and has a nationally renowned rehabilitation counseling program.

Dr. Jones noted a discrepancy in the Bull Street funds listed on page 4 of the IAP. The correct balance of unallocated Bull Street funds should be \$6,403,962.65. Mr. Pate provided the following correction:

If approved, the balance of unallocated\* Bull Street funds would be \$6,403,962.65:

\$18,353,962.65 (total proceeds from Bull Street parcel sales)
- \$4,500,000 (Housing Program, authorized August 2015)
- \$2,000,000 (Housing Program, authorized August 2020)
- \$3,500,000 (Nutritional Services equipment, authorized August 2020)
- \$500,000 (up to) (Olmstead Bridge Funds, April 2023)
- \$750,000 (up to) (BPH Patient Bathroom Refurbish, July 2024)
- \$700,000 (proposed purchase for Terry Field of Dreams homes)
<b>\$ 6,403,962.65</b>

\*The balance as of 11/19/2024 is \$8,353,963, but includes funds allocated but not yet expended.

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DECEMBER 4, 2024

*By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the expenditure of additional proceeds from the Bull Street property parcel sales in the amount of \$700,000 to partially fund the development of a therapeutic farm for the treatment and housing of patients. The grant proposal for the therapeutic farm is funded by the Duke Endowment. The disbursement of \$700,000 is dependent upon SCDMH being awarded the grant by Duke Endowment.*

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

Ms. Blalock said that the IAP as presented today referred to the therapeutic farm program as the "Terry Field of Dreams." She said former longstanding Commissioner James "Buck" Terry pushed for the Bull Street money to be used for housing programs in particular. She noted that state law provides that SCDMH has the authority to name its facilities and asked the Commission to be thinking about a name should SCDMH be awarded the grant.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Chairman Levy wished everyone a great holiday season. The next scheduled Commission meeting is on Friday, January 3, 2025.*

*At 11:30 a.m. by motion duly made and seconded, the Commission adjourned the Called Meeting.*

**ATTENDANCE**

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

Mr. Bobby Mann  
Dr. Crystal Maxwell

**Staff present virtually via Zoom**

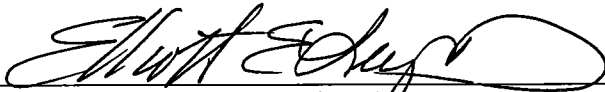
Dr. Robert Bank  
Deborah Blalock  
Janet Bell  
Dr. Robert Breen  
Debbie Calcote  
Peter Camelo  
Deborah Chan

Kathy Hugg  
Elizabeth Hutto  
Sarah Main  
Alex Pate  
Dr. Chad Pollock  
Eric Turner  
Lindsay Walker  
Brett Williams

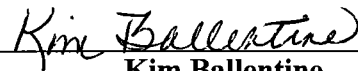
**Visitors present virtually via Zoom**

Kathleen Martin, Attorney, Disability Rights S.C.  
Wanda McMichael, Program Manager, Liberty Health Care Corp.  
Susan von Schenk, Capital Information Affiliates (CIA)

**APPROVALS**



Dr. Elliott Levy  
Chair



Kim Ballentine  
Recording Secretary