

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

January 3, 2025

Tri-County Community Mental Health Center – Virtual Presentation

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members:

Dr. Elliott Levy, Chair, Dr. Carl Jones, and Mr. Bobby Mann were present. Dr. Crystal Maxwell was virtually present via Zoom.

Staff/Visitors:

Dr. Robert Bank	<u>Present virtually via Zoom</u>	<u>Present virtually via Zoom</u>	<u>Present virtually via Zoom</u>
Dr. Chad Pollock	Janet Bell	Melanie Gambrell	Sylvett Porter
Tracy Richardson	Deborah Blalock	Keith Jackson	Crystal Pressley
Gwen Watson	Lee Bodie	Charice Jones	Vicki Redding
Brett Williams	Jennifer Brush	Bill Lindsay	Eric Turner
	Mary Cauthen	Elinor Lister	Susan von Schenk
	Akiko Dettorre	Kathleen Martin	Lindsay Walker
	Susan Feigin	Allen McEniry	Kevin Woods
	Andrew Fowler	Teresa Meakins-Linn	
	Beth Franco	Margaret Meriwether	

A 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, January 3, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. Chairman Levy welcomed everyone to the meeting and turned the meeting over to Ms. Teresa Meakins-Linn, Executive Director, Tri-County Mental Health Center (TCMHC).

PRESENTATION

Ms. Meakins-Linn welcomed everyone. She said the center's tagline, "small, but mighty," is a very fitting description of the center. She noted that TCMHC is the smallest of the SCDMH mental health centers in terms of staff numbers, patient numbers, and operating budget. A copy of the presentation is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director. Following are highlights from the presentation:

- There are three outpatient clinics located in the counties of Chesterfield, Dillon, and Marlboro.
- FY24 budget: \$5,909,133
- Patients served in FY24: 1,957
- The current number of fulltime employees is 48. They also have contract psychiatrists that work for the center and provide telepsychiatry services for the patients.
- Ms. Meakins-Linn commended Mr. James Pammel, only employee in grounds and maintenance, for his great work taking care of the general maintenance and upkeep at all of the facilities.
- Population
 - Chesterfield County – 44,031
 - Dillon County – 27,698
 - Marlboro County – 25,704
- All three counties have poverty rates that are higher than the State rate of 13.9% (as defined by Census Bureau)

- Chesterfield County – 19.6%
- Dillon County – 30.3%
- Marlboro County – 28.7%
- TCCMHC Programs/Services provided
 - Clinic-based counseling and psychiatric medication services
 - School-based mental health services – currently in 11 different schools throughout the counties
 - Highway to Hope (H2H-Mobile Mental Health Services) – 90 patients received H2H services in 2023
 - Intensive Community Treatment (ICT)
 - Individual Placement and Support (IPS-supportive employment services)
 - Over 55 patients served in 2023
 - Average number of individuals enrolled in program – 38
 - Average number of individuals employed – 29
 - 76% of individuals enrolled in IPS were employed in the communities
 - Peer Support Services (PSS)
 - Mobile Crisis mental health services
- Detention Centers Services
 - Mental health services provided in Dillon and Marlboro County Detention Centers
 - Master's level clinician delivers assessment, therapy, crisis intervention and case management services
 - In 2023, 40 individuals received detention center based services in Dillon County and 30 individuals received services in Marlboro County
 - Ongoing case management services as needed

Ms. Meakins-Linn introduced Ms. Crystal Pressley, Director of Administration, who also serves as the Corporate Compliance Officer, and the Patient Advocate. Ms. Pressley gave a financial overview.

- TCCMHC FY24 carry forward funds: \$86,801
- FY25 approved operating budget: \$5,332,440
- Carry forward funds have been used to fund several building projects:
 - Replacement of the shingles on both Dillon and Chesterfield roofs
 - Parking lot at the Chesterfield Clinic
 - HVAC unit replacements, carpet and vinyl upgrades and access control at all three clinics.

Ms. Meakins-Linn introduced Ms. Miranda Bailey, Clinical Services Chief. Ms. Bailey talked about the mobile crisis program. The goal of the mobile crisis program is to de-escalate the crisis and provide ongoing mental health treatment and other resources.

- Mobile crisis teams provide:
 - Community-based crisis response in all South Carolina counties 24/7/365.
 - On-scene intervention and stabilization services to individuals and families experiencing a mental health crisis.
 - Clinicians that work directly with local law enforcement, probate, and other community partners to ensure immediate access to crisis assessment services and appropriate level of care.
- In 2023, TCCMHC received 163 calls through the crisis center.

Ms. Meakins-Linn shared the following goals for TCCMHC:

- For the patients:
 - Quality of care
 - Accessibility
 - Professional, competent, compassionate providers
 - Clean, welcoming facilities

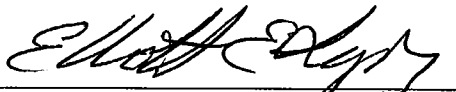
- For the Center:
 - Staff training, professional development
 - Clean, safe work environments
 - Teamwork, Communication, Wellness
 - Balanced Budget
- For the Communities
 - Eliminate Stigma
 - Strengthen Partnerships
 - Outreach and Education


Ms. Meakins-Linn reported the TCCMHC has a Medical Director, Dr. Simi Sachdev, who is the psychiatrist onsite at the Dillon clinic. The center has an advanced practice nurse practitioner who sees patients onsite and also works as part of the H2H program. The center also has a team of contract physicians who provide telehealth services in all three of the clinics. TCCMHC has been providing psychiatric medication services via telehealth prior to the COVID pandemic. The majority of the patients are seen in the clinic in dedicated rooms for telehealth services. New patients are seen within two weeks on average.

Referring back to the earlier reported poverty levels in the three counties, Chairman Levy asked if the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) would be an option for provider loan repayments. Ms. Meakins-Linn said TCCMHC qualifies for the assistance.

Ms. Deborah Blalock, Deputy Director, Community Mental Health Services, said that TCCMHC is a proud center, and for a good reason. She said employees take ownership for the clinics where they work and because the clinics are small everybody jumps in and they help each other, and are willing to do whatever needs to be done. She said the staff does excellent work!

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Levy thanked Ms. Meakins-Linn and her staff for their continued services and for the very informative presentation. The center presentation concluded at 10:05 a.m.


 Dr. Elliott Levy, Chair
 SC Mental Health Commission


 Kim Ballentine, Recording Secretary
 SC Mental Health Commission

