

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
Morris Village Alcohol & Drug Addiction Center
610 Faison Drive, Columbia, SC 29203

March 7, 2025

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, March 7, 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.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Levy called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. Chaplain Malcolm Simpson provided the invocation.

INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

Chairman Levy recognized Ms. Valarie Perkins, Director, Office of Internal Audit.

Approval of Minutes

There being no amendments or corrections to the minutes of the September 6, 2024 Internal Audit Report, the minutes were approved as presented.

Internal Audit Report

Ms. Perkins presented the internal audit report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. The Commission expressed appreciation to Ms. Perkins for her good work.

RECESS

At 10:15 a.m. the Commission agreed to take a brief recess. Chairman Levy called the meeting back to order at 10:30 a.m.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mr. Allen McEniry, Director, Patrick B. Harris Psychiatric Hospital, was recognized for sixteen years of service to the Department and his upcoming retirement. Unfortunately, Mr. McEniry was unable to attend today's meeting in person due to illness and joined the meeting via Zoom. Dr. Robert Bank recognized Mr. McEniry and on behalf of the Department of Mental Health and the Commission presented to him a resolution honoring him for sixteen years of service to the Department and congratulated him on his upcoming retirement. Mr. McEniry's resolution read as follows:

- Whereas:** The South Carolina Mental Health Commission and the State Director of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health recognize the retirement of Allen McEniry; and
- Whereas:** Mental health is critical to the well-being and vitality of all South Carolinians; and
- Whereas:** Mr. McEniry has improved the lives of individuals living with mental illness during his 16-year career with SCDMH, serving as administrator of Patrick B. Harris Hospital, a 200-bed acute care hospital with more than 300 employees, from 2008 to 2016 and director of Harris Hospital from 2016 to the present; and
- Whereas:** Mr. McEniry has dedicated his SCDMH career to maintaining a safe environment for patients and fostering a strong therapeutic environment for patients, outperforming the national average for 30-day readmit rates for all behavioral health diagnoses, and maintaining a census within 95% of

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- budgeted beds; and leading Harris Psychiatric Hospital as hospital director through two successful accreditation surveys by The Joint Commission; and
- Whereas:** Mr. McEniry has shown outstanding leadership in advancing suicide prevention at Harris, which joined the Zero Suicide Institute in 2019 and was honored with a Zero Harm Award in the Drive to Zero Suicide area from the South Carolina Hospital Association in November of 2024; and
- Whereas:** Mr. McEniry has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills, and used his broad-based experience in areas including financial management, ancillary services, operational and strategic planning, and others, to plan and execute an annual budget exceeding \$20 million; and
- Whereas:** The South Carolina Mental Health Commission and the State Director of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health recognize and thank Mr. McEniry for his devoted service to the South Carolina Department of Mental Health; and
- Now, therefore:** We express our profound appreciation to Mr. McEniry for his steadfast service to the mentally ill and his invaluable service to the South Carolina Department of Mental Health; offer him our sincere gratitude and best wishes in his retirement; and order that a copy of this Resolution be made a part of the Commission's permanent records.

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Mr. McEniry was also presented the "Order of the Brick" award in appreciation of his dedicated service from 2008-2025.

Mr. McEniry expressed appreciation for the kind words. He said it has been a privilege and an honor to be associated with so many outstanding professionals over the years. He retired from the Army, went into higher education, and then came to DMH. He said that he would be remiss not to mention the mentorship that he had from Mr. John Fletcher and expressed appreciation for Dr. Versie Bellamy and Mr. John Magill for putting their trust in "an old Alabama boy" to move into a position of leadership. He said DMH is blessed to have a bevy of highly dedicated, skilled, and focused individuals throughout the agency. He said it has been an honor to be a part of something that has such a lasting impact on the lives of individuals, their immediate families, their extended families, their neighborhoods, and the community at large. He said he will always have a fond place in his heart for DMH.

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 Morris Village Alcohol & Drug Addiction Center Presentation of February 7, 2025, and the Commission meeting of February 7, 2025, the minutes were approved as presented.

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 there were zero pending investigations for the month of February 2025 for the Office of Public Safety.

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Ms. Hutto reported that as of yesterday there were 15 pending SLED investigations. 3 cases were assigned to SLED, of which the oldest case is from November 2024; 10 cases were assigned to Long-term Care Ombudsman Office of which the oldest case is from May 2024; and 2 cases were assigned to local law enforcement.

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

- 3 calls to patient advocacy in January 2025;
- 74 complaints were resolved in January 2025;
- The number of complaints by category resolved in January 2025 is 82 (*complaints are broken out by category, a single patient complaint may have more than one category*).

2024 Patient Advocacy Review

Mr. Hutto presented a review of patient advocacy reports from 2020-2024, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. A copy of the presentation is filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director.

ISSUE ACTION PAPERS

Easement to City of Columbia for PRTF

Ms. Hutto presented an Issue Action Paper (IAP) requesting Commission approval for an easement and waterline relocation to the City of Columbia Water Department on the Crafts Farrow State Hospital Campus for the purpose of providing water services for the construction and operation of the Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) Building Construction. Construction for the PRTF began in September 2024 and currently has a target substantial completion date of October 2025. The State Department of Administration's Division of Facilities and Property Services will review the easement request and have final authority to approve, amend or decline the request. Copies of the issue action paper had been provided to the Commission.

By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the easement as detailed in the request to be approved by the State Department of Administration.

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

Easement to Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. for PRTF

Ms. Hutto presented an Issue Action Paper (IAP) requesting Commission approval of an easement to Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. on the Crafts Farrow State Hospital Campus for the purpose of providing electric services for the construction and operation of the PRTF building construction. Dominion Energy has requested an easement area 30 feet wide for overhead portion of its infrastructure, 10 feet wide for the underground portion, and 25 feet for transformer pad. The State Department of Administration's Division of Facilities and Property Services will review the easement request and have final authority to approve, amend or decline the request. Copies of the issue action paper had been provided to the Commission

By motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the easement as detailed in the request to be approved by the State Department of Administration.

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

SEMI-ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

Dr. Lynelle Reavis, Director of Quality Management and Compliance, Division of Medical Affairs, gave a SCDMH Compliance Program review for the first quarter FY25, 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. Dr. Reavis noted a correction in the 2nd

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quarter FY25 Compliance Reporting. The total clinical performance should be 22 instead of 20. Following are highlights from the presentation:

- Clinical performance issues during the 1st and 2nd quarters: overutilization, overdue documentation, incomplete documentation, inflated bill time, inappropriate billing, falsifying documentation, cloning, and documentation does not support service billed.
- Three external audits were conducted by Humana, and one external audit was conducted by United Healthcare.
- There were 27 HIPAA related events in the first and second quarter of FY25 of which 20 were for unauthorized access/disclosure.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Robin Crawford, Director of Governmental Affairs, reporting the following:

- S2 – a Senate bill that would create a new agency called the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, was passed by the Senate and sent to the House for consideration on February 27, 2025. The Director of the new agency would be appointed by the Governor and the DMH and Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN) Commissions would be abolished. The newly created Department will have the following component offices: the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities; the Office of Mental Health; and the Office of Substance Use Services. The bill has been assigned to the House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee (3M).
- DMH's Senate Finance budget presentation for FY26 is tentatively scheduled later this month.
- The House will debate the budget starting Monday, March 10, 2025. The House Ways and Means Committee budget included \$12.5 million in new recurring funds for DMH and \$10.1 million in new nonrecurring funds. Funded items include the Berkeley and Orangeburg County jail-based programs, state mandated programs, assertive community treatment, inpatient services, and capital projects. The budget also includes raises for state employees with a goal of raising minimum salaries for certain categories of workers, including law enforcement to \$40,000, clinical staff to \$28,000, technology staff to \$37,200, and general employees to \$24,000 if they are currently making less than those amounts. State employee salaries will either be raised to those new minimum pay levels if they fall into those categories or by 2%, whichever is greater.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Bank talked about the FY26 budget request and noted the following priorities:

- \$20 million recurring funding requested for forensic programming and inpatient services to continue to deliver current services, but also to increase bed capacity.
- \$4.5 million recurring funding requested for the statewide alternative transportation program. The General Assembly provided nonrecurring funding in FY25. Recurring funding would allow the program to continue in its increasing capacity. Currently, there is an average of 500+ transports a month.
- \$2 million recurring funding requested for the Sexually Violent Predator Treatment Program (SVPTP). Referrals continue to increase. Dr. Bank explained that persons committed under this program are confined to DMH's custody for long periods of time, often for decades. SVPTP is a state mandated program and with strict evaluation timelines that must be met per state statute, or DMH could face contempt of court.
- Dr. Bank recognized Ms. Hutto for an update on the United States Department of Justice's (DOJ) lawsuit filed against South Carolina regarding South Carolina's Use of Community Residential Care Facilities to serve adults with serious mental illness. Ms. Hutto reported that with the change in the federal administration, there is an Acting US Attorney for the District of South Carolina. There is a motion to dismiss before the judge, however a decision has not been rendered. In the meantime, both parties have agreed to a 60-day stay of discovery.

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DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

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. The January 31, 2025 budget report reflects a projected deficit balance of approximately \$5.9 million, a decrease of \$3.8 million from prior month. She attributed the decrease to payroll adjustments and the use of non-recurring funds to cover the deficit in inpatient services.

Ms. Calcote announced that effective March 17, 2025, Mr. Patrick Bresman will assume the role of deputy director over DMH's Division of Administration Services. Mr. Bresnan began his tenure with DMH in 2008 as the director of Administration for the Pee Dee Mental Health Center. In March of 2015, he was appointed to his present position as executive director of the Center.

Ms. Calcote reported cubicle installations for DMH staff have begun at the Otarre facility. DMH is scheduled to move in April and May 2025.

The transfer of Stone Pavilion from DMH to the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs (SCDVA) is entering the final stages. Effective July 1, 2025, Stone Pavilion and its operations will transfer to SCDVA. The RFP (request for proposal) was submitted, but the final award decision is pending. DMH Human Resources and State HR are working closely with employees who work at Stone and want to remain with DMH. Ms. Gwen Watson, HR Director, and her team are meeting individually with staff to discuss their particular situation and address questions.

Psychiatric Inpatient Services & Medical Affairs Update

Dr. Chad Pollock, Deputy Director, Psychiatric Inpatient Services & Medical Affairs, presented the Inpatient Services report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. Following are highlights from the report.

- Yesterday, the South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA) hosted a legislative luncheon on the State House grounds. This event afforded an opportunity to dialog with the legislators and SCHA staff regarding issues of concern to the mental health community.
- SCDMH continues to seek out new ways to improve its procedures to enhance the care provided to patients. As such, agency leadership has set goals for improving multiple processes, including, but not limited to, reducing the number of physical restraints used, staff injuries, patient injuries, and escalated incidents that require intervention. To meet these objectives, SCDMH will implement the Mandt System (Management And Non-Disciplinary Training), an evidence-based system for its psychiatric inpatient and long-term care facilities. Mandt is a behavioral crisis interaction training focused on preventing, de-escalating, and intervening in behavioral interactions. ETR (Education, Training, and Research) is taking the lead on this implementation initiative. The training will begin at William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute (Hall).
- Dr. Pollock commended the staff at Hall for growing the average daily census (ADC). The ADC had decreased to 18 over the December 2024 holidays. As of today, the census at Hall is 25.

Morris Village Alcohol & Drug Addiction Center Update

Mr. George McConnell, Director, presented the Morris Village Alcohol & Drug Addiction Center report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. The report included results from the Inpatient Consumer Survey January 2025 and visitors survey. Mr. McConnell referred to the visitors survey as the family survey as it aims to gather information about the experiences and opinions from the patients' family members as well as the patients as they participate in interactive group meetings. Copies of the surveys are filed with the minutes in the Office of the State Director.

Chairman Levy referred to the Inpatient Services Report, ADC. He noted in February 2020 the ADC at Morris Village was 88 and in January of 2025 the ADC was 37. Mr. McConnell explained the ADC dropped during the COVID pandemic. There have been staffing concerns as well as budget concerns. Chairman Levy asked about the bed capacity.

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Mr. McConnell reported MV has a total of 150 licensed beds; the number of functional beds is 42. There was discussion. Mr. McConnell talked about Extended Care at MV, the partial hospitalization/day treatment program with onsite boarding as a step-down. The program will grow as a day treatment/outpatient program and potentially increase the number of patients seen without an increase in the number of hospital-designed beds and have a positive impact on budget through savings and revenue.

Long-Term Care

Dr. Versie 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 her report.

- There are significant efforts going into planning and holding nearly daily staff meetings to facilitate a smooth transition of Stone to SCDVA effective July 1, 2025. Dr. Bellamy reported that HR and budget staff continue to work with her and the nursing home administrators to balance the vacancies, budget, and staffing placement needs. Meetings are conducted weekly with SCDVA, updating any movement or changes to staff, or turnover. There is communication with residents' families.
- A lot of staff are interested in remaining with DMH, but are keeping their options open contingent on who the contract operator will be and whether there would be an interest in going with the operator. Dr. Bellamy said one of the biggest highlights from the town hall meeting conducted in January 2025 that stood out to her was staff are more concerned about what happens to their residents.
- In response to Chairman Levy's question at the February 2025 Commission meeting about the zero admissions at Roddey from February to August 2024, Dr. Bellamy said there was a staffing crisis during that time period, primarily at Stone, and staff from Roddey were helping at Stone, and admissions were on hold for those months. Dr. Bellamy reported the census at Roddey as of today is at 78, with a goal of 84 by the end of the month.
- In an effort to help increase capacity for psychiatric care in the hospitals, Dr. Bellamy reported six patients were identified for possible transitioning to LTC. Five patients were successfully transferred; one patient did not meet the criteria for LTC.

Community Mental Health Services

Ms. Deborah Blalock, Deputy Director, Community Mental Health Services (CMHS), presented the CMHS report, copies of which had been provided to the Commission. Following are highlights from the report:

- On February 28, 2025, representatives from the Duke Endowment met with DMH leadership to discuss the Transitional Housing and Therapeutic Farm grant application. They expressed great interest in the project and suggested DMH seek additional support from around the state to add a financial stake in the project. As a result, DMH decided to withdraw the application submitted in December 2024 and will resubmit later in this year.
- On February 26, 2025, SAMHSA conducted a SC Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) post-visit meeting to wrap up the 2024 Monitoring visit. Ms. Blalock noted some of the programs that SAMHSA highlighted and expressed appreciation for included: RV mobile crisis clinics; ACT (Assertive Community Treatment) teams; access rates; the monthly TMI report; mobile crisis response time; and the use of telehealth.

Strategic Plan 2024-2026 Update

Ms. Blalock gave a quarterly update upon on SCDMH Strategic Plan 2024-2026. Copies of the Strategic Plan 2024-2026 had been provided to the Commission. Below are highlights from the update.

Strategy	
1.1 – Ensure staff are trained in providing evidence-based services and require their use when indicated.	1.1 - Currently off by 2,243 patients but believe the measure will be met by end of FY25.
1.2 – Conduct periodic reviews of each program to identify trends in utilization and efficiency in meeting patient needs.	1.2 - Currently off by 2,243 patients but believe the measure will be met by end of FY25.
1.3 – Continue to increase the availability of restoration treatment services.	1.3 - Not yet met but expect to meet.

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<p>1.4 – Continue to offer new patients’ timely access to community services.</p> <p>1.4.1 – The number of adult patients treated, and adult services delivered by DMH’s mental health centers will be equal to or greater than the average of the previous two fiscal years.</p> <p>1.4.2 – At least 95% of new patients will be offered an appointment within agency standards: Priority 24/Emergent [24 hours]; urgent [2 working days]; routine [one week].</p> <p>1.4.3 – More than 90% of adults receiving treatment will “agree” or “strongly agree” when responding to DMH Patient Satisfaction Survey Question 1 [It was easy to get my appointment.]</p>	<p>1.4.1 - Currently off by 2,243 patients but believe the measure will be met by end of FY25.</p> <p>1.4.2 - Exceeding at 97.1%.</p> <p>1.4.3 - Data will be available at the beginning of the summer.</p>
1.5 – Patients will be able to achieve and maintain productive, meaningful employment.	1.5 - Exceeding – national average is 45%. DMH’s average across all 16 centers is 57%.
1.6 – Seek funding to purchase sufficient access to psychiatric beds in community and private hospitals for indigent patients.	1.6 - 874 approved admissions year to date; total to spend this FY is approximately \$5 million. Approximately \$700,000 not yet committed.
1.7 – Continue to expand the use of technology in providing mental health services to reach patients in need of services regardless of their location.	1.7 - Will not meet. EHR (Electronic Health Record) launch was delayed until July 2025.
1.8 – Partner with other agencies and providers to bring mental health assistance to people in non-SCDMH settings.	1.8 - Currently not meeting; dropped from 28 to 27.
<p>1.9 – Services provided in SCDMH hospitals will minimize the use of seclusion and restraint.</p> <p>1.9.1 – Rates of use of seclusion/restraint will continue to be below national benchmarks.</p> <p>1.9.2 – Every use of seclusion/restraint is reviewed by facility leadership and program improvement staff.</p>	<p>1.9.1 - Exceeding, below national benchmarks.</p> <p>1.9.2 - Meeting, all are reviewed.</p>
1.10 – Increase the number of evidence-based programs that use individualized treatment plans to care for severely mentally ill patients through a comprehensive community approach.	1.10 - Not meeting yet, but 7 are up and running, with the other 3 recruiting and building their teams. Will meet by end of the period.

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:50 a.m. by motion duly made and seconded, the Commission adjourned the business meeting.

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

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ATTENDANCE

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

Mr. Bobby Mann
Dr. Crystal Maxwell

Visitors/Staff
Dr. Robert Bank
Debora Blalock
Debbie Calcote
Robin Crawford
Elizabeth Hutto
Keith Jackson
George McConnell
Wanda McMichael
Valarie Perkins
Dr. Chad Pollock
Dr. Lynelle Reavis
Gwen Watson
Brett Williams

present virtually via Zoom
Janet Bell
Dr. Versie Bellamy
Lee Bodie
Dr. Robert Breen
Pat Bresnan
Jackie Brown
Algie Bryant
Jennifer Butler
Peter Camelo
Leigh Ann Chmura
Gail Cordial
Andrew Fowler
Beth Franco
Melanie Gambrell
Dr. Kelly Gothard

present virtually via Zoom
Jeffery Ham
Dr. Patricia Handley
Dr. Maryjane Hicks
Kathy Hugg
Charice Jones
Tracy Lapointe
Erin Laughter
Bill Lindsay
Sara Main
Allen McEniry
Kathleen Martin
Margaret Meriwether
Michael Montgomery
Tacey Perillo
Vickie Perry

present virtually via Zoom
Sylvett Porter
Lloyd Pratt
Jay Ragin
Rochelle Reeder
Robyn Rubio
Angie Salley
Dr. Eman Sharawy
Chaplain Malcolm Simpson
Donna Strickland
Eric Turner
Susan von Schenk
Lindsay Walker
Bryant Williams
Kevin Woods

Visitors: Visitors present were: Gail Cordial, Director, Policy & Government Relations, Alkermes; Bill Lindsey, Executive Director, NAMI SC; Beth Franco, Executive Director, and Kathleen Martin, Attorney, Disability Rights South Carolina; Wanda McMichael, Program Manager, Liberty Healthcare Corporation; and Susan von Schenk, Capital Information Affiliates (CIA).

APPROVALS



Dr. Elliott Levy
Chair



Kim Ballentine
Recording Secretary