

CALL TO ORDER

The April 3, 2008, meeting of the S.C. Mental Health Commission was called to order at 10:30 a.m., in room 320 of the SCDMH Administration Building, 2414 Bull Street, Columbia, by Alison Y. Evans, Psy.D., chair. Dr. Evans welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked vice chair, Joan Moore, for chairing the meeting last month during her illness. Chaplain Charles Clary, C.M. Tucker, Jr., Nursing Care Center, delivered the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The following guests were recognized: Sandy Hyre introduced ten members of the current DMH Mentoring Program; present also were several concerned parents and members of the Autism Society; Brenda Hart introduced Tammy Orr, the new Grants Manager in her division. Also present were the members of staff who have been nominated for the Louise Hassenplug Award.

PRESENTATION OF NOTABLE STATE DOCUMENT AWARD

Mr. Magill said that every year in March, the South Carolina State Library recognizes certain state government publications that are notable for their service to the public. All state agencies and state universities submit documents. Among the 2007 winners is the Department of Mental Health for its statistical manual entitled, *People Working Together To Help People in Recovery. Community Mental Health Services Statistical Annual Report*. This report is compiled, produced and distributed by our Division of Evaluation, Training and Research. Mr. Magill presented the award to Ms. Sandy Hyre. Acknowledged, too, were all the employees who worked on this project.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Buck Terry, seconded by Joan Moore, the Commission approved the minutes of the Center Presentation/Mental Health Commission Meeting of March 4, 2008. All voted in favor; motion carried.

MONTHLY/ QUARTERLY INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Dr. Evans asked if there was anything in this month's reports that the Commission should be especially aware of. Mr. Binkley mentioned the Patient Protection Report contains both good and bad news. In previous months' meetings, it was reported that the pace of completed investigations was lagging behind the number

of newly reported cases. The good news is that 25 cases of alleged abuse investigation have been completed, and there was a gain of only seven new cases. However, of the 25 allegations, 23 were from the Long Term Care Ombudsman. Mr. Binkley said that when the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) receives a case of abuse and neglect they do not always investigate the case themselves. SLED refers a number of cases they feel are not criminal in nature, do not indicate abuse or neglect, or that an individual is being held involuntarily, to other agencies. Mr. Binkley distributed a hand-out showing the types of cases that SLED assigns to other agencies for investigation. For example, in the case of Medicaid fraud, the case would be referred to the Attorney General's office. The Department believes that even though the length of time for completion of investigations of abuse and neglect allegations has significantly increased since SLED was given the responsibility to conduct such investigations, patient protection within the agency has remained a high priority and management conduct prompt and timely administrative reviews of all such events. If personnel actions or some clinical or administrative measures are indicated, those actions are initiated without waiting for the results of the SLED investigations.

Dr. Evans expressed her appreciation to Mr. Binkley for his thorough explanation of this process for the Commission.

Legislative Update

Brenda Hart updated the Commission on several bills that the Department has been following.

H.3797 Licensure of Health Facilities – This bill relates to definitions used in connection with the licensure of health facilities, to add a definition for an in-home care service provider, and to amend the requirements for licensure of a health facility so as to make the requirements applicable to an in-home care provider. Ms. Hart said that some amendments have been approved in sub-committee. It has passed the Senate and is now back in the House.

H.4737 Restructuring of the Department of Mental Health – Ms. Hart said that a meeting of the House Judiciary ad-hoc sub-committee was held yesterday. The committee voted to amend the current bill to consolidate the functions of the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS) into the Department of Mental Health, thereby creating one agency under the cabinet. This bill with the amendment will be reported to the full Judiciary Committee next week.

S.1011 Joint Citizens and Legislative Committee on Children – This bill has been amended to include the Superintendent of Education and the Director of Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN). This bill has passed the Senate and the House Judiciary committee.

S.392 South Carolina Illegal Immigration Reform Act – This bill is still in conference committee.

Ms. Hart mentioned one bill that is not included in the recent issue of Legislative News. This is H.4899, which is a joint resolution that would create a study committee on the delivery of services for behavioral health. It has received two readings in the House and should go to the Senate today. It creates a ten member study committee with a report due on January 1, 2009. The committee will review all the delivery of behavioral health services in South Carolina, to include emergency services.

Mr. Magill said he has received many questions regarding the fit of DAODAS and DMH as one agency under the cabinet. The last bill mentioned by Ms. Hart having to do with the study committee is something that the South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA) is interested in as it concerns how DMH partners with them in addressing the emergency room situation.

Dr. Evans mentioned her testimony in front of the committee regarding the

restructuring bill.

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW & UPDATE

• Financial Status Update

Mr. Magill introduced those items listed under the Departmental overview.

Ms. Hart said that, in looking at the state general funds, DMH has spent 62 percent of its funds, at 67 percent through the year. Overall, the Department is approximately at 58 percent of other operating revenue. In comparing this forecast to December's forecast, DMH is projecting a deficit of \$1.3 million and for the end of the fiscal year a deficit of \$207,000.

Next year's budget has passed the House, where the Department received \$5.4 million for its maintenance of effort, and received a base reduction of \$278,000; however, DMH received nothing for deferred maintenance or capital. Ms. Hart said that there is some discussion about possible reductions in agencies' budgets; however, it is not certain at this time. This should happen at the Senate level. Ms. Hart is of the opinion that this will, in fact, occur. She said that several old provisos were discussed, such as the voluntary furlough for employees.

• Bull Street Update

Mr. Magill said that the Department is making some progress on the Bull Street property sale and Mark Binkley would provide an update.

Mr. Binkley said the Request for Proposal (RFP) has been issued to secure a realtor for the agency to give DMH advice as to timing of when to sell or how to sell the property, and whether the property should be rezoned. April 1 was the date these proposals were due to be returned. The exact number of responses received is not for public information at this time. An evaluation panel will meet next week to review the proposals. The panel will be instructed on the rules involved about confidentiality. This information cannot be shared with the agency until an award is made. Mr. Binkley said the final evaluation and award should be made near the end of April. The unsuccessful bidders may choose to

protest the award; however, Mr. Binkley feels that a broker should be in place in approximately a month.

Dr. Evans mentioned that Commissioner Terry has been requested to participate on the Evaluation Panel as he has a lot of experience in this particular area. She said it is a process that will involve a lot of time on everyone's part.

Ms. Hart said that there is a proviso that has been approved by the House and Senate that would allow the agency to enter into a pre-funding option for construction of the children's hospital. This would allow the Commission to borrow the required funds to construct the hospital. The State Treasurer's office recommends the lease-back proposal.

- **Grant Requests**

Geoff Mason updated the Commission on several grant applications that are being submitted. Mr. Mason said that DMH is looking to seek outside foundation support as was done with the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Foundation. Mr. Mason's staff developed a list of the top 44 giving foundations in South Carolina. Some of these organizations focus on specific areas of the state, and others focus on state-wide initiatives. He mentioned that the Department is involved in the Individual Placement/Support (IPS) Program. This is a very successful program and there are eight in the state. The program provides competitive employment for clients in the community in conjunction with the SC Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. This is accomplished through a grant from Johnson & Johnson/Dartmouth. Mr. Mason said that over 55 percent of the individuals who are in the program have been placed in jobs.

Mr. Mason said that one of the two applications the Department has submitted for grant funds is the Sunoco Foundation. This is to seek funding in support of the IPS program in the Pee Dee and Tri-County areas of the state. The request submitted is for \$400,000. The second application was made to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to run an IPS program, state-wide.

Mr. Mason said that DMH was notified on Tuesday that the Charleston/Dorchester Mental Health Center was awarded one of two national awards for an IPS program by Johnson & Johnson/Dartmouth, in the amount of \$10,000.

**• Crisis Stabilization
Update**

Dr. Ratliff distributed several reports for the Commission's review. One of the reports listed the new funds awarded in November, 2007 for crisis stabilization. The total award for crisis stabilization initiatives at 16 mental health centers was \$1.5 million. This money is used for various mental health center programs aimed at keeping clients out of the emergency rooms. The other reports distributed were updated Monday morning Snapshot Reports. Dr. Ratliff said that these tracked the various clients in the emergency rooms over an eight week period. She said that she noticed that for each of these eight weeks, a child was waiting in the emergency room, and at one time, there were as many as seven children waiting.

Dr. Ratliff mentioned that the Department needs to address the people who are presenting in the emergency room that have never been seen previously by the Department of Mental Health. She said that the Duke Endowment grant of \$3.7 million, which was awarded to DMH last December, will establish telemedicine in the emergency rooms throughout the state. Dr. Ratliff said that Ed Spencer is the Project Director for the grant, and Ralph Strickland is the Administrative Coordinator. Mr. Spencer is currently advertising for the five physicians needed for the grant, as well as for four Information Technology (IT) positions.

Dr. Ratliff said that Health Sciences of South Carolina (HSSC) received \$21 million in grant money from The Duke Endowment, some of which will be spent on telemedicine. The Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) applied to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and was awarded \$5 million to develop a Light Rail, which is a fiber optic system that will run from Charleston to Columbia to Greenville/Spartanburg. This Light Rail will be able to accommodate many things, not just telemedicine.

Dr. Ratliff explained there is a project called REACH, which is designed to help get patients through the emergency rooms more efficiently. This project also received grant money from The Duke Endowment. The Department has been working with the staff of this project to ensure that the same equipment used for telemedicine is in each emergency room. The chairs of the Departments of Psychiatry at MUSC, Medical College of Georgia (MCG) and the USC School of Medicine are meeting to work together on this endeavor.

Dr. Ratliff mentioned that the committee that has been established regarding the telepsychiatry project has determined that fiber optic lines are better than T1; however, to avoid any delay in implementing the project, it is proceeding with the use of T1 lines. She also said there is a committee involving HHS to develop an electronic health record to implement through this process. Dr. Ratliff said that a briefing of all emergency room physicians would be needed as implementation proceeds. Dr. Prier said that the Department needs to increase the efficiency in its hospitals. DMH needs to be sure that people are placed appropriately in the hospital according to each person's treatment needs.

Mr. Howard said that the Department needs to look at prevention programs to keep people from coming to the emergency room. Dr. Prier said that everything needs to be done to determine why citizens are appearing in the emergency room. DMH needs to determine who these people are and why they are coming to the emergency room. Dr. Prier said that the first training class for Mental Health Specialists was held yesterday involving 30 people. Mental Health Specialists are the front line staff who deals with the clients. This training will provide college credit for the staff. Mr. Terry stated that the population of the state has grown by approximately one million people and that care needs to be provided for these people. Also, thought needs to be given to the vacationing population who visits the state.

Dr. Ratliff next mentioned the grant received from the Blue Cross/Blue Shield

Foundation. This grant provided funding to place school-based services in ten rural schools. She mentioned that the grant is proceeding. Orangeburg MHC and Coastal Empire MHC have hired counselors; Tri County, Pee Dee, Waccamaw and Santee Wateree are currently advertising for school-based counselors.

- **Hall Institute
Outpatient Clinic**

Dr. Prier said that for many years, DMH delivered outpatient care at Hall Institute. The majority of the clients seen at the outpatient clinic are DDSN clients. DMH has done the best it can to provide services, but the agency is somewhat limited in its resources. DMH has been working with the staff of DDSN, with some degree of success, to provide these services. DDSN recognizes the quality of the services that have been delivered at this clinic and has decided to fund those services, even during these tough budget times.

Dr. Prier said that most of these services are outpatient/community issues. In the long term, the Department will be partnering with the mental health centers to deliver these services. Effective July 1, these services will continue to be delivered at Hall Institute, but the program will be administratively handled from Columbia Area Mental Health Center. The Department is hoping to grow those services in future years.

Dr. Prier said that Hall Institute also houses the Assessment Resource Center (ARC) which serves children that are victims of abuse. Hall Institute has the only program of this type, which is funded by DMH. The Program Director has started to work with community leaders to determine how DMH could better partner with these resources.

It was mentioned that all clients of both the ARC and the Autism program will continue to be seen at Hall Institute, but administratively handled out of Columbia Area Mental Health Center. Commissioner Jones said that everyone should understand that the Mental Health Commission will keep Hall Institute in tact in a new facility when DMH vacates the Bull Street property. Neither DMH nor the

Commission are fragmenting services.

Dr. Evans said that she is encouraged that DMH is involving DDSN in the delivery of these services. She wanted to know about out-of-area children who will require these services. Dr. Bank said everyone in the program will be served, and Mr. Magill said DMH will do all it can to serve every client. Dr. Evans assured everyone the program is not going away. She is well aware of the valuable services being delivered by Hall Institute.

**Presentation of the
Louise R. Hassenplug
Award**

Dr. Evans said that the next item of business is one that the Commission looks forward to every year, the presentation of the Louise R. Hassenplug Award. She then introduced Mrs. Hassenplug, for whom the award is named.

Mrs. Hassenplug said that this award is in its fourteenth year. The award recognizes people who serve the mentally ill. Mrs. Hassenplug was on the Mental Health Commission from 1987 until 1993.

The nominees for this year's award are:

Tamara Smith – Aiken-Barnwell Mental Health Center
Greg Smith, MD – Aiken-Barnwell Mental Health Center
Wendy A. O'Day – Beckman Center for Mental Health
Ray Hodges, MD – Berkeley Community Mental Health
William T. Patterson – Charleston/Dorchester Mental Health
Linda Whitfield – Charleston/Dorchester Mental Health
Alfare Fields – Coastal Empire Mental Health
Omega Smalls-Francis – Coastal Empire Mental Health
Modestine Brody – Pee Dee Mental Health Center

Congratulations were extended to this year's winner, Alfare Fields.

**Comments from Parents
Regarding Hall
Outpatient Clinic**

Dr. Evans extended congratulations to everyone who was nominated on behalf of all the Commission. She asked that everyone who was nominated and the winner stay for a few minutes after the meeting as the Commission wanted to speak to them as a group.

Dr. Evans asked some of the parents present at the meeting if they would like to make any comments regarding the Hall Outpatient Clinic or the Department's plans regarding it. Following is a brief summary of the comments:

- One parent whose daughter was diagnosed with Aspergers at age 14, well after the initial diagnosis of Autism, was concerned because Aspergers is not grouped as a disability under Autism and the costs for treatment of Aspergers are exorbitant.
- Hall Institute treats the Aspergers patient behaviorally; DDSN does not recognize Aspergers.
- Hall Institute's staff are understanding and caring; DDSN does not appear to want to serve these children.
- Parents are concerned about the number of children that can be treated in the program.
- Parents expressed a desire to be a part of any discussions that DMH will have with DDSN.

Dr. Evans thanked the parents for their comments. She said there is much work that needs to be done by DMH staff and the staff of DDSN. This is a beginning. She wanted to stress again that the Commission is committed to keeping Hall Institute in tact when the Department vacates the Bull Street property. When a new children's hospital is built, all programs presently at Hall Institute will move into the new hospital. The Department needs to work with DDSN as that agency has access to more funding than DMH. The Department is only reimbursed about one third of what it provides in services to Autistic clients.

The Commission appreciates any input from the parents as it goes forward with this program. Dr. Evans also said she appreciates the support that parents can give on behalf of the Autistic population at the legislative level.

NOTICE/AGENDA

A notice and agenda of the meeting were posted, and notification of the meeting was sent out to all individuals and news media who requested notification, in accordance with state law.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:50 p.m., on a motion by Buck Terry, seconded by Jane Jones, the Commission entered into executive session to receive legal advice about a pending claim, and to receive legal advice about Medicare appeals. Upon reconvening in open session at 1:25 p.m., it was noted that only information was received and no votes were taken. The business meeting was formally adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members

Alison Y. Evans, Psy.D, Chair
Joan Moore, Vice Chair
H. Lloyd Howard

J. Buxton Terry
Harold E. Cheatham, PhD
Jane B. Jones

Staff/Guests

Linda Whitfield
Wendy O'Day
Greg Smith, MD
Mark Binkley
Carol Niederhauser
Valerie O'Neal
Blaire Rentz
William Patterson
Sarah Kirchman
Jeff Ham
Bessie Abraham
Omega Smalls-Francis

Arlene Austine
Angela Forand, PhD
Robert Bank, MD
Dan Wuones
Amy Mayne
Pat Nnadi
Kirby Bond
Debbie Blalock
David Stooksbury
Robert F. Gay
John Hutto
Barry Lloyd

Melanie Gambrell
Valarie Perkins
Geoff Mason
Renee L. Eauger
Alfare Fields
Steve Miller
Jenifer Roberts
Susan Monagan
Modestine Brody
Mikki Gay
Leigh Ann Chmura
Sandy Hyre

Kathy Jenkins
Cassandra A. McCray
Mallory Miller
Kechia Marsh
Ron Prier, MD
John Young

Dorothy Chelton
Monica McConnell
Robert Morgan
Tammy Orr
Jac Upfield
Delilah Bonner

Cathy L. Timms
William Wells
Michele Murff
Richard Harding, MD
Shirley Furtick
Brenda Ratliff, MD

APPROVALS

Alison Y. Evans, Psy.D, Chair

Connie Mancari, Recording Secretary