

**SC MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION  
SC DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**

**Greenville Mental Health Center  
124 Mallard Street  
Greenville, SC 29601  
864-241-1040**

**June 4, 2009**

**Center Presentation**

**Attendance**

**Commission Members:**

Alison Y. Evans, PsyD, Chair  
Joan Moore, Vice Chair  
Jane Jones

Everard Rutledge, PhD  
J. Buxton Terry

**Attendance**

**Staff/Guests:**

John H. Magill	Al Edwards, MD	Neil Caldwell	Gayle Peek
Kim McColl	Judy Bishop	Denny Young	Clint Bryant
Mary Kay Campbell	John Fletcher	Geoff Mason	Michele Murff
Kevin Hoyle	Julia Mullen	Debra Dinolfo	Lu Rogers

The S.C. Mental Health Commission met at the Greenville Mental Health Center, 124 Mallard Street, Greenville, SC, on Tuesday, June 4, 2009. The center presentation was called to order by Alison Y. Evans, Psy.D, Chair, at 9:05 a.m. Dr. Evans turned the meeting over to Dr. Al Edwards, Center Director.

Dr. Edwards thanked the Commission for coming to the Greenville area, and thanked the board of the Greenville Mental Health Center for their participation in the meeting. Dr. Edwards introduced the DMH state-wide Employee of the Year, Mary Kay Campbell, who is from Greenville Mental Health. Dr. Edwards said that in his time at Greenville Mental Health the center had three employees who were DMH Employees of the Year. Dr. Evans expressed the Commission's congratulations to Ms. Campbell on her award, and the Commission's appreciation and thanks for her work at the center

Dr. Edwards said that there will be two presentations today that may be slightly different from what the Commission is used to seeing. He said that the center does not use community residential care facilities (CRCFs) for adults. Currently, all adult clients are mainstreamed into the community. There are no children in CRCFs. The center has developed some creative intensive programs for children, and for adults, there are many types of housing options, such as apartments.

Debra Dinolfo gave a presentation on the *Gain Something More* Program for children. She said that this is a wrap around, community support program for children that are at risk for out of home placement. This program would also benefit children who have been incarcerated or were in the hospital, and helps both the child and the parent. Ms. Dinolfo said there is research that supports this program. The *Gain Something More* Program encompasses therapeutic approaches (cognitive behavioral therapy, martial arts) and art therapy, which is a more person-centered approach. Ms. Dinolfo said this program is for children ages 5-18, with one parent included to

attend sessions. Siblings can also attend. Sessions are bi-weekly for six weeks. The therapy offered covers two dimensions; expressive therapy and visual education with group discussions. Each dimension is 50 minutes in duration. The expressive therapy includes martial arts and visual arts. Each Psycho-educational discussion group has five child participants and two facilitators, and is targeted to the specific topic of discussion for that group. Topics for discussion in the group would include building self esteem, setting limits, and boredom. Ms. Dinolfo said that many good comments have been received on this program from clinicians, parents and the child clients.

Ms. Julia Mullen next gave a presentation on Housing for the Mentally Ill in the Greenville area. Ms. Mullen said that when she began her career at DMH, she was employed at Crafts Farrow State Hospital in Columbia in 1977. At that time, Crafts Farrow was serving the elderly mentally ill, and prior to that, the patient population was solely African-American. As a Social Worker, the primary goal was to get people out of the hospital and into the community. During the 1970's, this was very difficult in that there weren't many community placement options available for the mentally ill. When Ms. Mullen came to Greenville in 1984, there were still not many housing options available for the mentally ill. There was one large, 100 bed, CRCF which was not very luxurious. As time went on, more funds were coming into the center and services were expanded. Ms. Mullen said that housing is a very important part of a person's recovery, and all individuals should have the opportunity to have safe, decent housing. The center could not accomplish this feat alone; it was accomplished in collaboration with the Upstate Homeless Coalition and Homes of Hope.

The Upstate Homeless Coalition has been in existence for 10 years, and provides housing for the homeless, but focuses on those that are also low income. There are 53 clients of Greenville Mental Health Center currently in housing from the Upstate Homeless Coalition. There will be 22 additional units available in the next six months, resulting in 75 clients that live in housing made available from the Upstate Homeless Coalition. Hopes of Hope, a faith-based organization, focuses on providing housing for low income individuals. Presently, there are 22 clients of the center living in housing owned by Homes of Hope. There are four additional units being planned for completion in the next four months, resulting in a total of 26 clients that will be housed in units owned by Homes of Hope. Ms. Mullen said that the center provides the case management services to the clients; the Upstate Homeless Coalition and Homes of Hope provide the shelter.

Ms. Mullen showed the Commission a picture of Reedy Place I, which has 15 apartments, and is a safe-haven model. Clients housed in Reedy Place cannot use alcohol or drugs in the individual units. A new unit, Reedy Place II, is being built, which will have 8 apartments.

Another housing option is the Toward Local Care (TLC) Program, which has provided housing for 74 clients in the Greenville area. Also, the Shelter Plus Grant helps to pay the rent on many of the apartments of the clients. The Department of Mental Health provides PATH funding for Greenville Mental Health Center's homeless utilization. In federal fiscal year 2008, Greenville received \$117,275 in federal PATH funds. Greenville is one of five centers that receive PATH funding. Funds are used to help pay for staff salaries and other expenses. Ms. Mullen said that Homes of Hope provides houses for mentally ill clients; they also have homes available for strictly homeless individuals.

Dr. Edwards said that the center is very fortunate to have housing available for its clients as safe, decent housing is essential to a client's recovery. Ms. Mullen said that the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has a rule that they cannot give housing to a convicted felon. The fact that a person was incarcerated will not disqualify a person from housing. It is the nature of the offense that disqualifies a person. Records are checked over a ten year period. The Upstate Homeless

Coalition has two exemptions: no one can have a record as a sex offender and no one can have a record of being convicted of arson. Homes of Hope regulations are not as strict, probably because it is a faith-based organization. A convicted felon could be in an individual unit.

There being no further information, the center presentation concluded at 10:30 a.m.

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Alison Y. Evans, Psy.D., Chair

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Connie Mancari, Recording Secretary

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