The October 6, 2011, meeting of the South Carolina Mental Health Commission was called to order at 10:20 a.m., by Alison Y. Evans, PsyD, Chair, at the Pee Dee Mental Health Center, Darlington County Clinic, Hartsville, SC. Dr. Evans thanked the center again for the courtesies extended to the Commission and complimented the staff on the presentations made during the morning session. Dr. Evans also thanked Frances Feagin for all her help both yesterday and today. The Rev. Phillip Thrailkill, Pastor of St. Luke’s United Methodist Church in Hartsville; and Marshall Ivey, Human Services Specialist at Pee Dee Mental Health Center, delivered the invocations.

Dr. Evans acknowledged the Commissioner of the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, Barbara Hollis; and Shanna Amersen, Capitol Information Affiliates.

Dr. Evans asked Leesa Campbell, Clinic Director, to say a few words about the center and what services are done here. Ms. Campbell said that adult and children services are provided at the Hartsville office. The staff provides outpatient services and intense group services for adult patients. Both mental illness and alcohol and drug services are provided. School based services are in 11 schools in the county. Services to children are also provided in the home and at the clinic. Ms. Campbell said the center consolidated the present building from two buildings; the clinic has been in operation in this facility since January 31, 2011.

The Commission approved the following sets of minutes:

On a motion by Buck Terry, seconded by Jane Jones, the Commission approved the minutes of the Legislative/Board Training of August 25, 2011. All voted in favor; motion carried.

On a motion by Jane Jones, seconded by Buck Terry, the Commission approved the minutes of the Dinner Meeting of August 31, 2011. All voted in favor; motion carried.
On a motion by Joan Moore, seconded by Buck Terry, the Commission approved the minutes of the Center Presentation of September 1, 2011. All voted in favor; motion carried.

On a motion by Buck Terry, seconded by Joan Moore, the Commission approved the minutes of the Business Meeting of September 1, 2011. All voted in favor; motion carried.

MONTHLY/QUARTERLY INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Mr. Magill presented those items listed under the Monthly/Quarterly Informational Reports section.

Patient Protection Reports (2)/Client Advocacy Report – Mark Binkley

Mr. Binkley reported that communication with the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) is going very well, and obtaining written resolution of cases of abuse and neglect referred to local law enforcement agencies has recently improved. Mr. Binkley said of the open 46 cases of alleged abuse and neglect, eight have been assigned to SLED, 26 to the Long Term Care Ombudsman, 11 to local law enforcement, and one to the Department of Social Services Adult Protection Services.

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW/UPDATE

Mr. Magill said that Brenda Hart is leaving DMH and will be taking a position as Deputy Director of the State Budget office. Dr. Evans mentioned that she enjoyed working with Ms. Hart and thanked her for her contributions. Ms. Hart has been working as Deputy Director of Administrative Services at DMH for the last five years.

Financial Status Update – Brenda Hart

Ms. Hart said that the report that the Commission has is through August 31, 2011, and does not include the $1 million the agency has received for crisis stabilization. Ms. Hart said that health insurance premiums have increased and the disproportionate share (DSH) is higher this year at $39.5 million. The Patient Fee Account is presently at $10.7 million and this, too, is higher. The Medicaid forecast at this time is $64.9 million and is still decreasing. As of the end of August, expenditures are on target agency-wide.
As everyone is aware, there was a conference call the end of September to discuss the FY’13 budget request. The Department is requesting a total of $16.2 million in operating requests. This will be targeted at four specific areas:

1. $7,280,841 – Sexually Violent Predator Treatment Program. DMH will be requesting full funding of this program, and will try to get the program directly funded as a line item request.
2. $7,000,000 – Sustainability. DMH will try to request three years of additional State Appropriations, $7 million per year, for a grand total of $21 million for the three year period.
3. $1,230,761 – Recruitment & Retention. The Department will focus on the lowest paid employees, Licensed Practical Nurses and Mental Health Specialists.
4. $750,000 – Uncompensated Care. This will be an increase in the present contract the agency has with Palmetto Health. These funds are needed in order to address the cost of necessary outside medical services of the patients in our hospitals and nursing homes.

Ms. Hart said that total capital requests are $57,806,630, $13 million of which is for deferred maintenance at our inpatient and support buildings, and the community mental health center buildings. Also included in the request were some one-time needs, such as for the inpatient electronic medical record, and replacement of vehicles used to transport clients.

Bill Lindsey, Executive Director of NAMI-South Carolina, mentioned there is a class action suit against the Department of Corrections, which is scheduled to occur by the end of October. When this occurs, there will be much press coverage about the deplorable conditions in our prison system. Mr. Lindsey said if the State and the Department of Corrections doesn’t address this issue directly, he fears DMH may be adversely impacted.
Dr. Evans feels this budget request is very conservative. The Department is merely requesting the additional State funds needed to maintain operations at current levels, and not see further cuts in services.

Ms. Hart said the Department submitted its Accountability Report this year as has been done in previous years. DMH made an effort to highlight our agency’s achievements, such as the community forums, our efforts with supported employment and housing. Also highlighted was:

- The telepsychiatry system and the resultant decrease in the number of people waiting in the emergency rooms;
- The Department signed a contract for the sale of the Bull Street property;
- The Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS) was moved into the Administration Building;
- Implementation of a Nursing Assistants Training Program;
- Four mental health centers are operating under the auspices of two center directors – Aiken-Barnwell & Lexington and Tri County and Waccamaw;
- Closure of one center’s clinic office (Saluda – Beckman) while continuing to serve the Saluda clinic’s clients out of the Lexington Mental Health Center Batesburg office;
- The very innovative use of a mobile van in Charleston to deliver services to rural areas;
- Supported employment has increased by five percent;
- The number of Worker Compensation Claims has fallen to an all time low.

Mr. Magill said that the Department has passed the 8,000 mark in telepsychiatry emergency room consultations.

Mr. Mason said that with the many closures in residential care facilities, center staff has worked diligently to place clients into appropriate housing. Dr. Bank said that based on the effectiveness of the telepsychiatry program, the Department is now
looking at expanding use of the technology to link doctors in main mental health centers to its rural clinics, with the goal of reducing physician travel time while increasing the number of patients seen.

Mr. Magill said that the Long Range Planning effort is also included in the Accountability Report. Mr. Mason will begin to assign staff responsibility for completion of the various items.

Mr. Magill said that our federal block grant review this year was excellent. It was mentioned that our system was very good and the Department’s web page received high praise. They were complimentary of the community forum activity.

Mr. Magill introduced Barbara Hollis, Commissioner of the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR). He said that DMH works closely with many entities, but has always had a special partnership with VR. Ms. Hollis said that the partnership between DMH and VR has been in effect for many years; it probably goes back to the early 1960’s when VR had a strong component at State Hospital. Counselors were on site to help assess patients and transition them into the community.

Ms. Hollis said that the relationship between DMH and VR has worked as a family relationship. Counselors were also located at Bryan and Harris Hospital to give assistance with employment, housing and other needed services. Much of this activity occurred before 2000 and prior to the budget cuts. Vocational Rehabilitation continues to have staff available at the hospitals to help during discharge.

In 2001, an opportunity arose through funding received from Johnson and Johnson by way of a grant that resulted in the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) model for supported employment. This program matches individuals to the jobs that are available to them. This partnership continues today.

As a result of this grant, South Carolina was chosen as the pilot site by Johnson and
Johnson because of the close working relationship between the two agencies. Ms. Hollis said that the budget continues to be a challenge, but the partnership continues.

Other areas where the two agencies partner are:

- Co-Occurring State Infrastructure Grant (COSIG);
- South Carolina Returning Veterans Policy Academy;
- Representation on the DMH State Planning Council; and,
- Disability Determination Services – helping clients apply for assistance.

Ms. Hollis expressed her appreciation to the DMH staff and the agency. She looks forward to the partnership continuing.

Mr. Magill noted that VR, in addition to its employment-related duties, operates two addictive disease residential treatment facilities; Holmesview Center in Greenville and Palmetto Center in Florence.

A detailed report of Ms. Hollis’ presentation is filed with the original of these minutes.

Mr. Binkley said that at the present time there is not much activity for DMH concerning the property. Most of the activity is being done by the purchaser of the property, Hughes Development. Hughes is actively trying to finalize their plans for the rezoning of the property with the City of Columbia. The Department will be meeting with Hughes in the near future for an update on their progress.

Mr. Binkley said that the City’s re-zoning approval process takes around three months. As soon as we have an indication that the Hughes plan will be approved by the City, DMH will need to prepare to engage with Hughes concerning the valuation of the identified parcels in the plan. It will be incumbent on DMH to ensure that the $15 million sale price is apportioned properly among the parcels. An appraiser will, in all likelihood, be engaged by the agency in this process.
Ms. Hart said this concerns the per diem for nursing home care of the veterans. Currently, when a veteran was admitted as a patient in a VA or other hospital, the Department would not bill the VA for the days the patient was not in the nursing home facility; would not bill the family portion for the days the patient was not in the nursing home facility, but would bill Medicaid, if the veteran had such coverage, but would not collect the recurring income, which determines the net amount due from Medicaid. When a veteran was absent from the nursing home facility, the Department would not bill the family portion for the respective days of absence even though the bed was being held for said veteran, and would not bill the VA if the veteran was absent from the home due to hospitalization. The Department is requesting a change to this so that when a veteran is absent from the nursing home either due to hospitalization or some other purpose, all appropriate sources of revenue will be billed. Therefore, when a veteran is admitted as a patient in a VA or other hospital, the Department will bill the VA, will bill the family portion and will bill Medicaid, if applicable, including collecting the associated recurring income, for the days the patient is not in the nursing home facility up to the allowable number of days; in this instance ten days. When a veteran is absent for purposes other than receiving hospital care, DMH will bill the VA and will bill the family portion for the days the patient is not in the nursing home facility up to the allowable number of days; in this instance, 12 days.

Ms. Hart said this would only pertain to that time beyond the ten or beyond the 12 days. Mr. Terry said that with the budget problems at present, we have fiscal responsibility to explore increasing the agency’s revenue. Mr. Magill feels there may be resistance from the veterans groups, but he is planning to meet with the Director of the Office of Veterans Affairs regarding this.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Buck Terry, seconded by Joan Moore, the Commission approved the above change to the per diem for veterans in our nursing homes. All voted in favor; motion carried.
On a motion by Jane Jones, seconded by Joan Moore, the Commission approved the following schedule for 2012 meetings. All voted in favor; motion carried.

January 5 – SCDMH Administration Building
February 2 – Piedmont Center for Mental Health Services
March 1 – SCDMH Administration Building
April 5 – Catawba Mental Health Center
May 3 – SCDMH Administration Building
June 7 – C.M. Tucker, Jr., Nursing Care Center
July 12 – SCDMH Administration Building
August 2 – Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Mental Health Center
September 6 – SCDMH Administration Building
October 4 – Waccamaw Center for Mental Health Services
November 1 – SCDMH Administration Building
December 6 – Columbia Area Mental Health Center

Mr. Magill gave the following update:

- October 16 is the Out of the Darkness Walk in Columbia.
- The NAMI Annual meeting is on October 28-29 in Columbia. Mr. Lindsey said it will be a good meeting. Col. Steve Shugart will speak on PTSD in the military, and Dr. Ken Rogers from Greenville Hospital will also speak. One of the Vocational Rehabilitation staff will be doing a break-out session, and several DMH staff will also present.
- Two weeks ago in Charleston was the National School Based Services Conference. South Carolina was recognized as a leader in School Based Services.
- The profiles are continuing. Mr. Magill is also attending board meetings at the centers doing a state-of-the state report.
- The Department has been notified that the fund raiser for the Bull Street documentary will not occur as Lilly has decided not to fund this.
On a motion by Buck Terry, seconded by Jane Jones, the Commission would like to have a Resolution adoption expressing appreciation to Ms. Hart. All voted in favor; motion carried.

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

There being no further business, on a motion by Joan Moore, seconded by Buck Terry, the business meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Alison Y. Evans, PsyD, Chair  J. Buxton Terry
Joan Moore, Vice Chair  Everard Rutledge, PhD (excused)
Jane B. Jones

John H. Magill  Brenda Hart  Robert Bank, MD
Geoff Mason  Mark Binkley  Angela Moses
Lettice Glenn  Chris Blackman  Bill Lindsey
Christopher Moore  Barbara Hollis  Ella Johnson
Shanna Amersen  Stuart Shields  Frances Feagin

Alison Y. Evans, PsyD, Chair  Connie Mancari, Recording Secretary