

**S.C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
S.C. Department of Mental Health**

**Pee Dee Mental Health Center
900 South Fourth Street
Hartsville, SC 29550**

**October 6, 2011
Center Presentation**

Attendance:

Commission Members

Alison Y. Evans, Psy.D., Chair
Joan Moore, Vice Chair
Everard Rutledge, PhD (excused)

J. Buxton Terry
Jane B. Jones

Staff/Guests:

John H. Magill
Brenda Hart
Chris Blackman
Kengi Stevenson

Mark Binkley
Stuart Shields
Christopher Moore

Geoff Mason
Angela Moses
Ella Johnson

Robert Bank, MD
Lettice Glenn
Hope Moore

The S.C. Mental Health Commission met at the Pee Dee Mental Health Center, Darlington County Clinic, on Thursday, October 6, 2011. Alison Y. Evans, Psy.D., Chair, called the center presentation to order at 9:00 a.m. Stuart Shields, Executive Director of the Pee Dee Mental Health Center, welcomed the Commission to the center. Mr. Shields introduced Leesa Campbell, the Director of the Darlington Clinic. He said that he is very hopeful of good things for the center and the Department. Mr. Shields said that today's presentations are directed at the future of Pee Dee Mental Health Center, with two very innovative programs. He began by introducing Hope Moore, who is in charge of the Shelter Plus Program.

Ms. Moore said the Shelter Plus Program targets those clients who are chronically homeless and have a serious mental illness. It is designed to help these clients "get on their feet." Ms. Moore said the Shelter Plus Program provides a stable home environment. There are many advantages that the Shelter Plus Care Program provides. For example, all homes are furnished and income is not a pre-requisite for entering the program. In addition the program provides support to help persons get on their feet and remain stable during their recovery process.

At the present time, there are 11 units serving 13 clients. Three of these clients entered the program from a shelter and ten entered the program from a homeless situation. Staff of the program have been able to get the clients at least one non-cash income source, such as food stamps, Medicaid, and/or Medicare. An income source, such as SSI, or SSDI, was obtained for 11 clients. Ms. Moore said that 92 percent of the clients remain in the program for six months or longer. Many of these clients are now employed and earning a living. Clients served were between the ages of 25 and 61.

The next presentation was by Kengi Stevenson, who is in charge of the Youth-In-Transition Program. Ms. Stevenson said this program targets those youth in the 17-26 age bracket, who do not have a degree, have no income, were in foster care, have no family support and no home. Ms. Stevenson said the ages of 17-26 are the foundation years for adulthood. These years can be very difficult especially for those who have a mental illness. Employment services and treatment are provided to the clients by the program's staff. Ms. Stevenson said that many of the clients don't understand what is wrong with them. No one has taken the time to explain their mental illness to them.

Ms. Stevenson said this population has unique needs. These youth are considered risk takers. Many have outside influences such as gangs. At the present time, there are 35 clients in this program, and Ms. Stevenson said she has 25 referrals. A lot of the referrals are due to drug and/or alcohol abuse.

Ms. Stevenson said the staff in this program work with the youth first to treat their mental illness, then they try to help them with their medical needs. Job and/or employment services are offered. What the staff does for the youth results in them becoming useful and productive members of the community.

Mr. Shields said that these two programs will give the Commission a snapshot of what staff is doing for the clients of Pee Dee Mental Health Center. He introduced the other staff of the center present at the meeting, and Central Office staff introductions then took place.

Dr. Evans said that the Mental Health America of Darlington County will be having a dance on October 25 with special guests being clients of Pee Dee Mental Health Center. Dr. Evans will be taking 40 children from the Governor's School to show them the particular needs in the community.

There being no further business, the center presentation concluded at 9:50 a.m.

At 9:50 a.m., on a motion by Buck Terry, seconded by Joan Moore, an executive session was entered in order to receive legal advice concerning a contractual issue. Upon reconvening in open session at 10:15 a.m., it was noted that only information was received, and no votes were taken.

Alison Y. Evans, Psy.D., Chair
SC Mental Health Commission

Connie Mancari, Recording Secretary
SC Mental Health Commission

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