

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

**Catawba Mental Health Center  
448 Lakeshore Parkway, Suite 205  
Rock Hill, SC 29730**

**April 5, 2012  
Center Presentation**

**Attendance:**

**Commission Members**

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

J. Buxton Terry  
Jane B. Jones

**Staff/Guests:**

John H. Magill  
Paul Cornely, PhD  
Yvonne Stewart  
Kim Sconyers  
Susie Harris

Geoff Mason  
Thomas Muller  
Danny Simmers  
Betsey O'Brien  
Steve Sanders

Nadine Lewandowski  
Glen Poore  
Beverly Cardwell  
Stan Coleman  
Shanna Amerson

The S.C. Mental Health Commission met at the Catawba Mental Health Center on Thursday, April 5, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. Dr. Evans expressed appreciation to the center for the courtesies extended to the Commission during its visit. She then turned the meeting over to the center director, Paul Cornely, PhD. Dr. Cornely welcomed the Commission to Rock Hill and Catawba Mental Health Center and thanked DMH senior management and the Commission for the support given to the center. Dr. Cornely introduced several board members present at today's meeting and said that the center's board is key to helping the center keep its focus on the mission of the Department.

Dr. Cornely next introduced Kim Sconyers, Catawba Mental Health Center's Housing Coordinator. She is also Catawba Mental Health's Employee of the Year for 2011.

Ms. Sconyers gave a brief overview of the center's housing properties for the center in Lancaster, Chester and York Counties. She said that there are six individual apartment properties giving a total of 100 available units. These are 84 one bedroom units, six of which are transitional housing rooms. There are ten scattered supportive housing sites through DMH's collaboration with the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS). The Catawba Foundation is a 501(3) C that is the contracts property management company responsible for the hiring of the management company.

Ms. Sconyers showed photos of several of the properties:

- Catawba Place Apartments – Chester, SC. This apartment complex has sixteen, one bedroom units.
- Reynolds House – Chester, SC. Three suite-style units – six bedrooms/three baths.
- Lancaster Landing – Lancaster, SC. Sixteen one bedroom units.
- Carolina Place – Rock Hill, SC. Twenty one bedroom units.
- Holly Ridge Apartments – Rock Hill, SC. Fourteen one bedroom units.
- Clover Commons – Clover, SC. Eighteen one bedroom units.

Ms. Sconyers said that many of these properties are Housing and Urban Development (HUD) supportive housing projects. These HUD properties provide housing for the chronically homeless mentally ill. Many of the clients are homeless and have no income. Catawba Mental Health provides the services and supports.

Michele Murff, DMH's Housing and Homeless Coordinator, said that Congress passed new regulations this year where the housing won't look the same as it currently does. Rather than apartments, future housing may be more the rental assistance type housing. Also, DMH will be working with the State Housing Authority rather than the federal government. Another entity that is now involved is the Department of Health and Human Services. The Commission was very complimentary of what the center has done regarding housing for the clients.

The next presentation was done by Brenda Parker, Director of the Family Center and Yvonne Stewart who is with York County Department of Social Services (DSS). They described the Enhanced DSS/MHC Protocol Assessment, which is a community collaborative. The intent of the protocol is to immediately address the trauma that the child and family members experience at the child's removal. It is a system to bring children and families together with a family other than their immediate family.

It is the intent of all agencies concerned to ensure that the child is placed in the most appropriate setting for his or her own benefit. This new assessment begins with the child within 48 hours, followed by a separate family assessment within five days. This should reduce placement moves by providing the necessary level of support to foster families; reduce the need for therapeutic placements; and will result in children being reunited more quickly by developing better treatment plans and identifying family needs and resources sooner.

Ms. Parker said the center attempts to assess children within 48 hours of removal from the home. A therapist is assigned within one week of the assessment. Therapists utilize evidenced-based trauma assessment forms to capture critical information. Also, the Mental Health system has implemented an electronic medical record that allows for full access of a child's treatment record by centers throughout the state.

York County DSS staffs all children who enter foster care in a weekly meeting that includes all workers, supervisors, and program coordinators involved with the family. York DSS notifies the center of all foster care entries within one business day after removal. Ms. Stewart said that foster parents need training in several issues, such as the necessity of accompanying a child to a doctor appointment and staying to relay critical information to the therapist.

Several challenges identified by Catawba Mental Health Center are:

- Some children have no previous involvement with Mental Health and go directly into a treatment facility or out of the county and do not have a protocol assessment;
- Catawba Family Center does not provide services to children under age 2, and many centers do not provide services to children under age 6; therefore, no protocol assessment is completed;
- DSS workers are sometimes reactive rather than proactive when asked to move a child; and
- There is no DSS funding for front-end support services for the child or family to prevent removals.

Mr. Magill said the new DSS Director, Lillian Koller, is working diligently to keep children in the home. Also, the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is trying to move away from institutional care for adolescents and children.

A complete report of Ms. Parker's and Ms. Stewart's presentation is included with the original of these minutes.

There being no further discussion, the center presentation concluded at 10:00 a.m.

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

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Connie Mancari, Recording Secretary  
SC Mental Health Commission

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