

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

**Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Mental Health Center
Daybreak Center for Recovery
515-B Camson Road
Anderson, SC 29625**

**August 2, 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	Geoff Mason	Mark Binkley	Kevin Hoyle
Mary B. McIntyre	Bob Nash	Michelle Ready	Daniel Craft
Tracy Richardson	Vaso Vasiliki	Dale Hullander	C.A. Latimer
Jonnie Murphy	Chuck Wilson	Willie Jenkins	Grayson Kelly
John Fletcher	Paul Keller	Julie Miller	Hannah Kelly
Shanna Amerson	Joan Reina		

The S.C. Mental Health Commission met at the Anderson-Oconee-Pickens (AOP) Mental Health Center on Thursday, August 2, 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, Kevin Hoyle. Mr. Hoyle said the mental health system and the center have gone through a lot of changes. Previously, the center had 162 staff; currently at 125. AOP's budget was close to \$12 million in 2008, and currently it is slightly over \$8 million. AOP has tried not to eliminate any programs that are provided in the three county area.

Mr. Hoyle said that there are 60 residents that the center serves in its high management group. AOP has outstationed staff at both DJJ and DSS. School-based services are offered in 20 schools throughout the catchment area. The center continues to work with the hospitals to reduce the waiting times in the emergency rooms. Mr. Hoyle said that the biggest challenges to the center are recruitment and retention of clinical positions.

Mr. Hoyle said that today's presentation will highlight the Co-Occurring Disorders Treatment Program. The program is led by Tracy Richardson as Program Coordinator. Ms. Richardson will give a brief overview of the program and let her staff explain how the staff serves a very difficult patient population.

Ms. Richardson said that the Co-Occurring Disorders Program began in 2007 as part of a RFP for crisis intervention. The program was also a part of the COSIG initiative. The program is offered in the three county catchment area. There are four clinicians in the Co-Occurring Disorders Program: one LPC, one LPCI, one LPCS and one Care Coordinator. Ms. Richardson explained that the term "Co-Occurring Disorders" includes addictions issues, drug and/or alcohol, along with mental illness. Treatment is provided by group treatment, case management, and specialized services, such as women's services and trauma services. There is also a Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT)

Program in Pickens County with a plan to expand this program into Anderson and Oconee Counties. Approximately 90 clients are served in the Co-Occurring Disorders Program, and none of these clients go to the emergency room. Staff provide these clients with at least two groups per month, along with individual home visits. Also, zero percent of this client population are in the jails, and less than one percent enter the State Hospital. Staff use a drug screen as a diagnostic tool.

Ms. Richardson next introduced several of the staff in the Co-Occurring Disorders Program who explained how the services are provided and the results obtained. Paula Keller, who works primarily in the Pickens Clinic, said that the program provides structure for the clients. They also receive individualized services, if necessary. The program provides specialized services to women, women's trauma services, and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT). Ms. Keller said that the staff help the clients gain their self-esteem. It is a constant battle fighting the stigma attached to this disease.

Clients in this program also have health care needs, such as Diabetes. Staff follow up with clients to ensure they are in contact with their primary health care physician. Staff noted that this population of clients are more physically sick, and it is difficult to find a physician who will treat new patients. Other issues facing this population are housing, vocational needs, and everyday living needs, such as helping the clients in getting their utilities turned on. Motivation of the client is important; they are not forced to do anything.

It was noted that the self-help groups, such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous are not much help with this population. It was also mentioned that staffing is done regularly with the local 301 system. The center's staff work closely with the Upstate Homeless Coalition regarding housing for the clients.

Other staff who presented along with Ms. Richardson and Ms. Keller were Jonnie Murphy, Julie Miller, and Vaso Kutelis. Mr. Hoyle expressed his appreciation to the staff for their passion and commitment to the program.

Mr. Magill inquired about the Access Health program offered through the SC Hospital Association. It was mentioned that the center has some flexibility with Access Health, but only in Oconee County through Oconee Hospital. It was also mentioned that dental issues are a concern. Approximately two years ago, there was a free dental clinic in Greenville that provided free dental services to clients. This clinic was closed for a time, but has since reopened, and it is hopeful the free dental care will resume.

Board member, Michele Ready, mentioned that she attended the NAMI national convention recently. She described a program that was presented concerning a new type of therapy aimed at clients with Schizophrenia. She will forward Mr. Magill the literature on this new therapy. It appeared to have good outcomes; however, it was felt that something like this needs further evaluation.

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

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

Connie Mancari, Recording Secretary
SC Mental Health Commission

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