

**South Carolina Department of Mental Health
Center Board/Legislative Training**

**Friday, August 24, 2012
10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.**

A training session for mental health center board members and members of the South Carolina Mental Health Commission was held on Friday, August 24, 2012, in room 323 at the SCDMH Administration Building, 2414 Bull Street, Columbia, SC. John H. Magill, State Director of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health, opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. by welcoming everyone to Columbia. Mr. Magill then turned the meeting over to Alison Y. Evans, PsyD, Chair of the South Carolina Mental Health Commission. Dr. Evans introduced two Commissioners present at today's training: J. Buxton Terry and Everard Rutledge, PhD.

Dr. Evans also welcomed everyone to the meeting and told the board members present they did an excellent job this year in working with the General Assembly because the Department has received some new money this year, which was very much needed. She said that all of us have a long way to go. Dr. Evans explained that the Commission is made up of one person from each of the Congressional Districts. The state has recently received a seventh Congressional District, so there will be seven commission members. Under the current and previous structure, there were six Commissioners and one At-Large Commissioner. At the present time, there are openings in the Fourth and Sixth Congressional Districts. She mentioned that she was recently informed that a new Commissioner was selected for District 5, Mrs. Beverly Cardwell. Dr. Evans told the board members that if they have an interest in serving on the Commission, or know of someone who has an interest, to please contact the Governor's Office.

Mr. Magill next reviewed the agenda for the remainder of the meeting and entertained questions. He said that the Agency has begun to recoup some of the funds it has needed to sustain the services it provides. Mr. Magill said that School-based Services and Telepsychiatry remain as priorities for the Department.

Mr. Magill introduced Rep. Brian White, who is Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee. Chairman White relayed some pointers to the board members in working with the General Assembly. He mentioned that the legislators handle many issues and concerns. When an individual contacts a legislator, Chairman White said that they should be honest and straightforward in their dealings. Individuals should also be concise and get to the point. The Chairman mentioned that he appreciates the hand written letter as opposed to blast emails. He tends to pay more attention to a FAX'd hand written letter than an email.

Rochelle Caton, Director of Client Advocacy, spoke next on the Affordable Care Act from a Mental Health perspective. She relayed the Supreme Court's decision on the Affordable Care Act and explained the impact on the states and South Carolina in particular. Ms. Caton said that our state's biggest issue is Medicaid.

Bill Lindsey, Executive Director of NAMI-SC, echoed what other speakers have mentioned, that it was good to receive some money this year from the General Assembly, but we have a ways to go. Mr. Lindsey said that the Flatt legislation was passed this year. This bill requires teachers and counselors to be trained in students' behavior so as to be aware of any suicidal tendencies. He said that suicide prevention is very important, especially since 36,000 people each year commit suicide. Mr. Lindsey mentioned the Employment Conference in January and urged everyone's attendance. He also announced the NAMI Annual Conference on September 28 & 29. The conference will have a panel of persons speaking to, "The Life Behind the Wall" exhibit that will be at the SC State Museum. Mr. Lindsey also mentioned the NAMI golf tournament fund raiser on September 17.

DMH Deputy Director of Administrative Services and General Counsel, Mark Binkley, gave a budget update. Mr. Binkley said that the Department's largest source of revenue is Medicaid. In FY'07-08, total Medicaid revenue was \$77,395,972 and in FY'11-12, it is \$60,093,248, a drop of 11 percent. DMH's largest source of funding for FY'12 is state appropriations at \$132,978,384. Mr. Binkley said the Department has increased its reliance on non-recurring funding in order to support its operations due to significant reductions in State Appropriations and Medicaid Revenue. The agency spent over \$40 million in non-recurring funding in FY'12 compared to less than \$5 million in FY'08. It is now necessary for DMH to decrease its reliance on one-time funding of its operations because the amount of non-recurring funding will decrease significantly in the next two years. Mr. Binkley said the Department needs new money to sustain its operations and services.

After lunch, board members received a presentation from Mark Binkley and Geoff Mason, Deputy Director of Community Mental Health Services, on the roles and responsibilities of board members. Board members then participated in break-out sessions concerning redesign of center access. Closing comments were made by both Dr. Evans and Mr. Magill.

The training was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m. Hand-outs from all presentations are filed with the original of these minutes.

Alison Y. Evans, Psy.D., Chair

Connie Mancari, Recording Secretary