

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

**Columbia Area Mental Health Center  
2715 Colonial Drive  
Columbia, SC 29203**

**December 6, 2012  
Center Presentation**

**Attendance:**

**Commission Members**

Alison Y. Evans, Psy.D., Chair (excused)	Beverly Cardwell
Jane B. Jones (excused)	Sharon Wilson
Joan Moore, Vice Chair	Everard Rutledge, PhD
James Buxton Terry	

**Staff/Guests:**

John H. Magill	Robert Bank, MD	David Jameson
John Brown	Julius Jones	Monica McConnell
Coretta Kea	Rhonda H. Sims	John Hays
Kathy Hugg	Stephen Hattrich	Bill Lindsey
Gene Green		

The S.C. Mental Health Commission met at the Columbia Area Mental Health Center on Thursday, December 6, 2012. In Alison Y. Evans' absence, Vice Chair Joan Moore called the center presentation to order at 9:00 a.m. David Jameson, chair of the Columbia Area Mental Health Center board, welcomed the Commission to the center. Mr. Jameson gave credit for the center's success to the Executive Director, Dr. Robert Bank. Mr. Jameson acknowledged several other board members who were present today: Gene Green, Bill Lindsey and John Hays.

Dr. Bank explained today's center presentation. He introduced Julius Jones, Coordinator at the Richland County Detention Center. Mr. Jones' supervisor is John Brown, Director of Crisis and Forensic Services. Mr. Jones has worked at the Detention Center for about six years. Services are provided on-site seven days a week, 365 days/year. Over 800 mental health services are provided each month.

In addition to Mr. Jones, the Detention Center is served by two full time Mental Health Professionals, and it is hoped to add a third position in the near future. There is also a part time Psychiatrist on site. There is a 24 hour medical department to do assessment and screening. Mental Health patients are identified at intake. Continuity of care has become easier with the introduction of the Electronic Medical Record (EMR).

Mr. Jones said that eligible inmates are screened for referral to the Mental Health Court. Discharge plans are made for inmates when they are released to the community. The Detention Center is the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center. It functions as a contract with Correct Care Solutions, Inc., which is funded by Richland County Council. There are approximately 950 to 1,000 inmates at the Detention Center. If a patient can be stabilized in the Detention Center, he/she can be sent to one of the psychiatric hospitals, such as Bryan Psychiatric Hospital. From January to November 2012, 1,805 inmates were seen at the Detention Center.

One of the other two Mental Health Professionals in the program, Coretta Kea gave an overview of a typical day at the Detention Center. She also explained that the Special Needs Program is for

individuals with a diagnosis of mental retardation and mental illness and may also be on suicide watch.

Mr. Brown mentioned that this program at the Detention Center began on May 6, 2006 and Julius Jones has been involved since the beginning. He explained that there are some mentally ill persons in jail because they have committed serious crimes. However, there are many more mentally ill persons in jail for other less serious offenses, such as homelessness, littering, and loitering. He said that the Detention Center and the work of the staff in this program have made a big difference in the treatment of these patients. An individual previously had to wait for six months to obtain admission to a hospital. After a few weeks working with these patients, the Detention Center could obtain an admission much quicker.

Mr. Brown also explained the term “courtesy drop-off.” After a person is released from jail, he/she is dropped off at the bus station in Columbia. In many instances, these people may not have anywhere to go or any relatives to live with and they end up on the street again and, ultimately, back in jail. The Detention Center identifies those persons who may encounter this problem after release and ask that this person not be dropped off at the bus station. They request the person be brought to the emergency services crisis services center at Columbia Area Mental Health. The staff tries to fill in the gaps and they provide all the services necessary to each individual. Mr. Brown urged the Commission visit the local jail to see what the mentally ill encounter while incarcerated.

Dr. Bank said there has been a dramatic decrease in suicides at the jail with this program. The Homeless Outreach program began with a federal PATH grant and reaches out to those in the community who are mentally ill and could end up in jail.

The Commission questioned the difference between Just Care and being in jail. It was explained that those inmates who have committed a crime but may be mentally ill go to Just Care. A lot depends on the crime and the level of illness the patient has. If no crime has been committed, the person could go to Bryan Psychiatric Hospital. DMH provides the psychiatric and clinical staff at Just Care; Just Care has the remainder of the responsibilities at the facility. DMH provides the experts in forensics evaluations. Currently, there are 160+ patients at Bryan Forensics; approximately 100+ patients at Just Care.

Mr. Jones and Mr. Brown said that in any given year, approximately 300 patients are seen per month. Clinical contacts are between 40-50,000 per year.

Lexington/Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council (LRADAC) works jointly at the Detention Center with DMH to ensure continuity of care for these patients. While an individual is at the Detention Center, the medications provided are free to the patient. These are covered by the contract.

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

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Joan Moore, Vice Chair  
SC Mental Health Commission

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Connie Mancari, Recording Secretary  
SC Mental Health Commission