The May 3, 2012, meeting of the South Carolina Mental Health Commission was called to order at 10:30 a.m., by Alison Y. Evans, Psy.D., Chair, in room 320 of the SCDMH Administration Building, 2414 Bull Street, Columbia, SC. Jeff Ham, Program Director in the Division of Community Mental Health Services, delivered the invocation.

Bonnie Pate of SC SHARE introduced Janie Simpson as the new chair of the State Planning Council. Dr. Evans mentioned that at one time a member of the Commission attended meetings of the Planning Council. Dr. Evans requested that a list of upcoming meetings of the Planning Council be sent to the Commission.

The Commission approved the following sets of minutes:

- **On a motion by Buck Terry, seconded by Joan Moore, the Commission approved the minutes of the Dinner Meeting of April 4, 2012. All voted in favor; motion carried.**

- **On a motion by Joan Moore, seconded by Rod Rutledge, the Commission approved the minutes of the Center Presentation of April 5, 2012. All voted in favor; motion carried.**

- **On a motion by Buck Terry, seconded by Joan Moore, the Commission approved the minutes of the Business Meeting of April 5, 2012. All voted in favor; motion carried.**

Mr. Magill presented those items listed under Monthly/Quarterly Informational Reports.

Mr. Binkley said that the information in both Patient Protection Reports’ are in line with the average of past reports. He said that of the 27 pending cases, four are being investigated by the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED), 20 have been referred to the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, and three have been referred to local law enforcement.
Mr. Binkley said that the numbers on the Client Advocacy Report are similarly in line with the average number of complaints that come in monthly. The advocates at the centers and facilities appear to be responding to complaints and concerns in a timely manner.

Dr. Robert Bank reviewed the charts concerning community mental health, for the period July 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012.

1) Admissions & Discharges – Children and Adults – Dr. Bank said that most of the statistics on this chart, with one exception, indicate that we have reached a plateau in the decline in services. There are still approximately 50,000 open cases. This number has remained steady for several years. The ratio between children and adults is about 2/3 to 1/3.

2) Summary of Client Contacts and Billable Units by Service – The total number of client contacts for FY’11 were approximately 1,000,000 and, FY’12 to date, total number of client contacts are 841,000. Dr. Bank said that Clubhouse services are still on the decline. The Department of Health and Human Services has made significant changes in what they expect in terms of documentation, and what they expect in terms of medical necessity. Clients still receive the socialization and go on day trips, but the centers cannot bill for those type of Clubhouse services. Dr. Bank said that physician services have plateaued and said that the Department needs more physicians. Recruitment of physicians is ongoing.
Bonnie Pate said that SC SHARE has mentors available who can help with providing meaningful interactions with clients waiting in the lobby at Charleston Mental Health.

3) Continuity of Care Discharges - Dr. Bank said that the total number of discharges for the period is 335 and the average wait time is 5.4 days. Tri County Mental Health is in the process of addressing its 17.2 day wait time.
Versie Bellamy reviewed the charts concerning the inpatient facilities, for the period July 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012.

4) Admissions & Discharges by Inpatient Program – Admissions and discharges for Bryan Adult Psych have decreased. The facility is averaging 44 admissions per month. Inpatient Services closed a 32 bed unit in December 2011 as part of its implementation of the budget reductions. There are currently two admissions lodges at Bryan, one of which is evolving as an intermediate long term lodge. Morris Village admissions and discharges have increased. Despite the budget cuts, and after discussion by Senior Management, the decision was made to restore six severe co-occurring beds last April to address a clear need. Hall admissions and discharges are fluctuating. The admissions and discharges at Forensics are down. The waiting list has increased. The primary problem is finding appropriate community placements for forensic patients. Admissions to the Sexually Violent Predator Treatment Program (SVPTP) are approximately two per month, and releases are rare. Harris Hospital has had a decrease in admissions and discharges due to losing two psychiatrists, and the loss of a third psychiatrist is anticipated.

Ms. Bellamy said that Inpatient Services has been working on psychiatrist recruitment issues in the Upstate. The Medical Director at Harris is on staff at Greenville Hospital, and has been splitting his time between Greenville Hospital and Harris Hospital. Ms. Bellamy mentioned that there will be renovations to the Stone Pavilion next year and this should increase admissions capacity. Inpatient Services has received word that a grant has been approved that will pay for the renovations. The residents will be moved temporarily to the Fewell Building during the renovations. Mr. Magill said that the VA views Stone as a somewhat inadequate facility from a physical plant standpoint, so the renovations are welcomed.
Mr. Magill said that we’ve reached the point where we need to stop downsizing Bryan as it will impact our admissions. He said the agency has put an emphasis on recruiting psychiatric residents nearing graduation.

5)   Length of Stay – Ms. Bellamy said there has been an increase in length of stay at Bryan and Morris Village in the greater than 90 day patients. Hall Institute has remained consistent. The length of stay in the greater than 90 day patients at Forensics has increased.

Mr. Magill presented those items listed under Departmental Overview & Update.

Mr. Binkley presented the Financial Forecast for FY’12 through March 31, 2012. He said that the state appropriations line was increased $50,000 this month, which reflects the awarding of the last of the crisis stabilization money to the mental health centers. Last month, this item was increased about $600,000 to reflect the apportioning of the crisis monies. Mr. Binkley said it now appears that the billing issues experienced between the Centers and the Department of Health and Human Services are resolved, giving us more confidence in the community Medicaid revenue figures. Overall projected Medicaid revenue has further declined a half million dollars from last month. Approximately $100,000 of that is due to lower projected inpatient revenue, but the majority is lower projected Medicaid revenue in the community mental health centers. Much of that decline appears to relate to some centers not being able to get reimbursed for services still being delivered, such as Rehabilitative Psychosocial Services (RPS). Three centers that have relatively high utilization of RPS are projecting a deficit. These three centers are Piedmont Center for Mental Health, Anderson-Oconee Pickens Mental Health and, to a lesser extent, Waccamaw Mental Health. Financial Services is in communication about the deficits with all of these centers and we have received a proposed budget reduction plan from all three. However, the agency overall, is on track to finish the year in the black.

Mr. Magill said another factor that appears to be contributing to the lower community
Medicaid revenue is related to the psychiatrist shortage. When a mental health center loses a physician, the ability to bill for services is affected and revenues decline.

Mr. Binkley said that the current issue of Legislative News is in the Commissioners’ packets. As far as status of the budget process, the Senate Finance Committee started last week deliberating the budget bill from the House. This week, the focus is on provisos and the agencies’ budgets. The Department feels there is no opposition to the level of funding for DMH passed by the House. The House version of the budget includes over $17 million in recurring funds for DMH which includes funding for the agency’s top two budget requests: full funding for the operation of the Sexually Violent Predator Treatment Program ($7.36 million), and additional recurring funds ($7 million) to maintain existing agency services.

Mr. Binkley said that under the House version, state employees will get a two percent pay increase. Since the agency has relied heavily over the past four years on earned revenue and non-recurring funds, almost half the DMH workforce is paid from funds other than recurring state appropriations. When the Legislature passes a pay increase for state employees, they only provide additional funds to cover the increase for agency employees who are paid from recurring state dollars. State agencies’ have to self-fund the pay increase for those employees who are paid from other or non-recurring funds. Given the make-up of the current funding of employees of DMH, a one percent pay increase represents an approximate $1 million hit to the agency, as DMH will have to self-fund the pay increase for nearly one-half of its employees. So a 2% pay increase would mean DMH must self-fund almost $2 million in funding. Mr. Magill said there is talk of a possible four percent pay increase, which means that the Department will have to come up with $4 million to cover this increase.

Mr. Binkley said that the rezoning process of the property by the City of Columbia has slowed. The property received first reading approval in early April, and DMH expected second reading approval by the end of April. However, Bull Street was removed from City Council’s agenda. In conversations with the developer, it appears
that there continues to be discussions with the City to resolve issues, and until they are resolved, the matter won’t be brought up for a vote. In addition to the terms and conditions of the re-zoning, the other unresolved issue concerns financial participation by the city, which we understood would take the form of a Tax Incremental Finance (TIF). The developer was expecting an announcement about a TIF by the end of March or early April. As of last week, the developer was not optimistic that this would happen any time soon. Mr. Binkley said that those two items – rezoning and the TIF – need to be resolved before the sale will be finalized.

Mr. Binkley said that this Issue Action Paper (IAP) concerns the Bull Street property. He said the Department is currently completing construction of a new water line system for Tucker Center. This is necessary as Tucker Center’s current water line system runs through the State Hospital property. To provide future water service, the City requires the Department to grant the City an easement.

MOTION: On a motion by Joan Moore, seconded by Rod Rutledge, the Commission approved a water line easement for Tucker Center. All voted in favor; motion carried.

Both Mr. Magill and Dr. Bank asked Sandy Hyre to give a presentation to the Commission on all the training that is provided to the Department’s staff. The Division of Education, Training and Research (ETR) is responsible for the scheduling and development of these trainings. Ms. Hyre said that with the rising costs of travel, ETR has had to look at how we provide training. Video conferencing has been instituted and has brought many training sessions to different staff throughout the state at a fraction of the cost of in-person training.

Some of the special staff development/leadership programs that are provided by ETR are:
1. **Mentoring Succession** – This was started in 2005 and targets individuals who have been identified for possible leadership positions in the agency in the future. The program is 10 months long and is held annually. To date, 235 people have completed the program.

2. **Executive Leadership Development** – This program began in 2008 and targets individuals in the agency who may serve in executive leadership positions in the future. To date, 23 individuals have gone through this program. It is held when needed. Two graduates of the 2008 class are now agency Deputy Directors.

3. **Physician Leadership Development** – This program began in 2011 and targets senior physicians and medical directors of the agency. This program was 21 hours in length and ten medical directors completed the training. An additional class is being planned to start in July or August 2012.

4. **Certified Nursing Assistant Training** – This program began in 2010 and is held three to four times per year. It targets individuals who will work at C.M. Tucker Nursing Care Center. It is 120 hours in length – 60 hours are spent in the classroom and 60 hours are spent on the nursing units. To date, four classes have been conducted and 49 individuals have completed the program. Of the 49, there are 34 still employed at C.M. Tucker. This program has yielded a 69 percent retention rate, to date. This program has received a “Recognition of Excellence” by Health and Human Services for having a pass rate of 80 percent or above for 2011.

In addition to the above programs, ETR provides other special programs, such as the Monthly Grand Rounds, Annual Psychiatric Update, On-line Learning Modules and Distance Learning.

Complete details of all these programs and Ms. Hyre’s presentation are included with the original of these minutes.

**SUMMARY & WRAP UP**

Mr. Magill asked Dr. Narasimhan to comment on the public and academic psychiatry
working relationship. She said that the Department and the School of Medicine continues to work together, especially in the area of telepsychiatry. Telepsychiatry has helped tremendously in decreasing costs and in seeing patients more quickly and efficiently. Mr. Magill and Dr. Narasimhan recently attended and presented at the *Administrators in Academic Psychiatry* in Charleston. The conference organizers told Mr. Magill they were very impressed with the level of cooperation and collaboration the Department of Mental Health has with academic medicine in South Carolina. They commented further that this collaboration far exceeds what is happening in most states.

Mr. Magill said the profile interviews have been completed and two-thirds have been printed. The interviews for the Commission and Advocates will begin shortly.

The second round of the community forums have also started. The first forum was at Beckman Mental Health Center in Greenwood. This forum was a huge success with 80-90 attendees. A huge contingent of elected officials attended. The second forum is this evening at Catawba Mental Health Center in Rock Hill.

Jeff Ham reported on the activities of the Living Well Committee. This committee was started to boost employee morale and to present health information. Members on the committee are from different areas of Administration, as well as staff of the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS). Some of the activities of the Living Well Committee include Employee Fun Day, Lunch and Learn sessions, Book Fairs, Blood Drives, and Employee Recognition socials. In connection with the NAMI Walk, Mr. Magill suggested that all walkers have the same tee shirt. Mr. Ham showed the tee shirt to the Commission and told them that shirts are available for purchase.

Comments were received from Janie Simpson, new chair of the State Planning Council, on recovery.

**NOTICE/AGENDA**

A notice and agenda for the meeting were sent out to all individuals and news media
who requested information, in accordance with state law.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*At 11:45 a.m., on a motion by Buck Terry, seconded by Joan Moore, the Commission entered into Executive Session to receive legal advice concerning a contractual matter. Upon reconvening in open session at 12:30 p.m., it was noted that only information was received; there were no votes taken. The business meeting was formally adjourned at 12:30 p.m.*

**ATTENDANCE**

**Commission Members**

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<th>Alison Y. Evans, PsyD, Chair</th>
<th>J. Buxton Terry</th>
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<td>Joan Moore, Vice Chair</td>
<td>Everard O. Rutledge, PhD</td>
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<td>Jane B. Jones (excused)</td>
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**Staff/Guests**

| John H. Magill | Mark Binkley | Robert Bank, MD |
| Versie Bellamy | Sandy Hyre   | Bonnie Pate     |
| Janie Simpson  | Ligia Latiff Bolet | Shanna Amersen |

**APPROVALS**

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<tr>
<th>Alison Y. Evans, PsyD, Chair</th>
<th>Connie Mancari, Recording Secretary</th>
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