

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

**Friday, September 6, 2013  
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, September 6, 2013, 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 introduced those members of the Commission who were attending today's training: Sharon Wilson, Joan Moore, Rod Rutledge and Beverly Cardwell. Dr. Alison Evans, Commission Chair, was unexpectedly late and will join the meeting a little later.

Mr. Magill said that the purpose of the training is to insure that the boards have as much information as possible to work effectively with the legislature. He said the Department treats approximately 100,000 people per year, in addition to 40-50,000 people daily in the emergency departments across the state.

Mr. Magill next introduced Rep. Bill Taylor, who serves House District 86 which consists of about two-thirds of Aiken County. Rep. Taylor serves as First Vice Chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee, as well as serving as a Whip for the House Majority Caucus. He is a former radio and television reporter, news director and anchorman. Rep. Taylor also served as a consultant to the George H.W. Bush White House in 1992. Rep. Taylor spoke to the board members on how to work with elected officials.

Rep. Taylor said that it is important to build on the relationship a person has with his/her legislator. It is important for your legislator to know all he or she can in order to serve the constituents better. He told the board members that through various sources, he's learned about the telepsychiatry program and how well it works in seeing patients in a timely manner. Some suggestions given by Rep. Taylor on connecting with legislators were:

- Obtain your legislator's cell phone number;
- Be sure you have your legislator's email address;
- Follow your legislator on social media; e.g. Face Book and Twitter;
- Sign up to receive their monthly newsletter;
- Send them news about the community or center where you live;
- Invite them to special meetings; e.g. delegation meetings, community forums;
- Visit the State House and engage your legislator in a meeting, if possible.

Alison Evans, PsyD, Chair, of the Mental Health Commission spoke briefly after Rep. Taylor. She also welcomed everyone to the meeting and said it was good to hear Rep. Taylor express his thanks for all Mr. Magill's efforts at the Department of Mental Health.

Rochelle Caton, DMH Legislative Liaison, next spoke on the topic of Sustainability. She explained that even though the Department received funding this past year, it needs even more funding for FY'15. One reason for additional funding is the broad scope of the Department's mission, which includes three nursing homes, a Sexually Violent Predator program and a Forensic Program. She explained that in previous years, DMH was able to rely on non-recurring funding that it received from cost settlements. Ms. Caton explained that the non-recurring funds are dwindling and the Department cannot continue to rely on these funds. Ms. Caton's hand-outs are included with the original of these minutes.

Next on the agenda was the panel of Mental Health Advocates who gave a brief overview of their organizations and the services offered. The panel was comprised of:

- Diane Flashnick, Executive Director, Federation of Families, South Carolina
- Joy Jay, Executive Director, Mental Health America, South Carolina
- Bill Lindsey, Executive Director, National Alliance on Mental Illness, South Carolina
- Bonnie Pate, Executive Director, SC SHARE

Some of the highlights from each overview were:

- Mental Health America's 50<sup>th</sup> year in South Carolina is 2014.
- April 3, 4, 5 of 2014 there will be a celebration on the Bull Street Campus, that will include the mental health advocates.

Mark Binkley, Deputy Director of Administrative Services, explained the DMH budget process and where the sources of revenue lie. He said that the message that DMH received enormous cuts got through to the Legislature last year resulting in the Department receiving recurring funds. Mr. Binkley's hand-out is attached.

After lunch, there was a presentation by Geoff Mason, Deputy Director of Community Mental Health Services, and Mark Binkley, as to the center boards' roles and responsibilities. Several good scenarios were presented. This presentation is filed with the original of the minutes.

Several board members also gave their tips and suggestions on working successfully with elected officials. These board members were:

- Calep Brown, Waccamaw Mental Health Center
- Carol Burdette, Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Mental Health Center
- David Jameson, Columbia Area Mental Health Center
- C. Rauch Wise, Beckman Center for Mental Health Services

Break-out sessions were held where board members could strategize on a local level with other board members, members of the Mental Health Commission, DMH Deputy Directors and DMH Center Directors. Mr. Magill closed the training at 2:30 p.m.

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Alison Y. Evans, Psy.D., Chair

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Connie Mancari, Recording Secretary