

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

**Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center  
250 Dewey Avenue  
Spartanburg, SC 29303**

**December 13, 2013  
Center Presentation**

**Attendance:**

**Commission Members**

Alison Y. Evans, Psy.D., Chair  
Jane B. Jones  
Everard O. Rutledge, PhD  
Sharon L. Wilson – excused

Joan Moore, Vice Chair  
James Buxton Terry  
Beverly Cardwell – excused

**Staff/Guests:**

John H. Magill	William Ferrell	Celesta Frum	Elizabeth Nuto
Laura Mason	Pat Mahan	Nikki Compton	Betsy Boaze
Dee Richardson	R. Dewitt Clyde	Robert Bank, MD	Lindsay Jackson
Roger Williams	William Powell, MD		

The South Carolina Mental Health Commission met at the Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center, 250 Dewey Avenue, Spartanburg, on Friday, December 13, 2013. Alison Y. Evans, PsyD, Chair, opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m., and turned the presentation over to Dr. Powell, Executive Director.

Dr. Powell welcomed the Commission to Spartanburg and said that today several staff members were going to present on a few of the programs that the center is doing. Some of these presentations are how the center coordinates with other agencies to provide mental health and primary care services, relationships the center has with the inpatient facilities in the upstate, and recruitment of psychiatrists.

Bill Ferrell, Supervisor of the Intake Department at Spartanburg, spoke about the challenges facing the center with the Future Is Now (FIN) program. Mr. Ferrell said that Spartanburg came in at number 17 out of 17 centers in meeting the minimum intake requirements set forth in FIN. He has tried to structure things in order to meet the demands during intake. Mr. Ferrell said that during triage, staff determines if the individual needs to be at Mental Health, and if so, are they receiving the services they need. If a person doesn't meet the criteria for receiving mental health services, the chart is closed and they are referred. Mr. Ferrell said the center does approximately 50-55 intakes per month, and currently has 30-35 appointments per month. Total contacts as of the end of October were approximately 300. Each person is seen and evaluated to determine what services are needed.

Betsy Boaze, Assistant Director, mentioned that several years ago, a task force was created to look at the large number of psychiatric admissions to the hospital's emergency rooms. It was determined that there were over 1,000 psychiatric admissions to the hospital's emergency rooms; however, it was not clear how many of those individuals were alcohol and/or drug abuse admissions. It was decided that there had to be a way to re-direct these individuals into a proper level of service rather than sending them to the emergency room. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was developed with Mental Health, Spartanburg Regional, and Access Health, which also created and funded a position for this purpose. Spartanburg Mental Health currently has a good

**Center Presentation**  
**Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center**

Page 2

relationship with Spartanburg Regional, which wasn't always the case. It was also noted that the use of telepsychiatry has helped greatly with the problem of overcrowding in the emergency rooms. Mr. Magill said he may have a presentation on Access Health at a future Commission meeting.

The next presentation was from Nikki Compton regarding handling crises in the schools. Ms. Compton reported that all schools are encouraged to contact Mental Health in the event of a crisis, even if there is no Mental Health Counselor in the school. Currently, the center is in every school in Spartanburg's catchment area, except for District 7. The center also offers risk assessment to identify possible crisis situations. Ms. Compton said that the center has 17 School-based counselors. There are, however, 63 schools where a counselor is assigned. These counselors cover more than one school.

Celesta Frum reported that area colleges are encouraged to send students to the center to help with clinical counseling. One of these schools – The Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine – has started their rotation of students through the center providing services to clients. These students work with the center's doctors and clinicians to provide needed services to clients. Ms. Frum coordinates where the students are needed in the center. The center also works with MUSC, Limestone College, Capstone and Mary Black.

Dr. Powell said that the Osteopathic students are quality students. Edward Via College's purpose is to develop family practice doctors for the needy population. Edward Via College in Virginia was developed for this purpose. This program provided \$15,000 worth of services to the center last month.

Elizabeth Nuto, Toward Local Care (TLC) Coordinator, reported there are 57 clients currently in four TLC sites—apartments and community residential care facilities (CRCFs). Ms. Nuto said that there was concern that CRCFs would be closing. This is currently on hold. Ms. Nuto said the main goal for the TLC program is to transition the client on into a different level of living environment. She sees approximately 15 clients each year at Harris Hospital, and tries to get the client into a different level of care. Clients are also seen by a clinician once they leave the hospital and are placed into an apartment or CRCF.

The center presentation concluded at 10:00 a.m.

---

Alison Y. Evans, Psy., D., Chair

---

Connie Mancari, Recording Secretary