CALL TO ORDER

The March 7, 2014, meeting of the South Carolina Mental Health Commission was called to order at 10:30 a.m., at the SC DMH Administration Building, 2414 Bull Street, Columbia, SC. Mr. Jeff Ham, Program Manager in the Division of Community Mental Health Services, delivered the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Commissioner Jane Jones introduced her husband, Mr. Chuck Kent, a guest at today’s meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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 February 6, 2014.*

*On a motion by Jane Jones, seconded by Sharon Wilson, the Commission approved the minutes of the Center Presentation of February 7, 2014.*

*On a motion by Buck Terry, seconded by Sharon Wilson, the Commission approved the minutes of the Business Meeting of February 7, 2014.*

MONTHLY/QUARTERLY INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Mr. Binkley said the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) Report shows an increase in the number of alleged cases of abuse pending investigation, but not in the number of new allegations reported. Per the Office of Client Advocacy (Ms. Rochelle Caton), SLED is likely to be taking longer to complete investigations and appears to be referring fewer cases to the Long-term Care Ombudsman, probably due to new agents being assigned to the unit which conducts investigation of DMH cases. Of the 19 pending cases, ten cases were retained by SLED for investigation; seven have been referred to the Long-term Care Ombudsman; one case has been referred to the Attorney General’s office; and one case was referred to local law enforcement.

Mr. Binkley said there is nothing out of the ordinary to report on the Client Advocacy Report.
Dr. Bank said that only the community reports are being presented this month as the inpatient reports are undergoing several changes in format. These should be ready to present to the Commission at the April meeting. Dr. Bank made the following comments:

Summary of Client Contacts and Billable Services

- Under H056 – Rehabilitation Psychosocial Service – Over the last few years, there has been a decline in these services. One reason for the reduction in number of services delivered is that smaller groups are targeted, but the services delivered are more effective. We are reaching about as many patients, but not in larger groups. The Department feels the patients are receiving a more targeted service, even though it brings in a little less revenue.

- Under H059 – Peer Support Services – We’ve made a special emphasis to increase Peer Support Services and this service is currently in 14 mental health centers. As a result, services delivered have increased.

- H031/H032 – Targeted Case Management/Concurrent Case Management – Dr. Latiff Bolet said that Care Coordination was introduced last January and, as a result, units being provided have increased. Currently, we are at 9,000 units of service being billed. Dr. Bank said that Care Coordination looks at the client in a more holistic manner. For instance, it links the patient with physical problems to a primary care physician. Dr. Bank said that the snow days cost the community approximately $1 million in billing.

- Admissions & Discharges – Dr. Bank distributed a more current report copy than the Commission received. He said that the total open cases at the centers are 50,809. During the course of the year, the Department sees about 85,000 individuals. Cases are being opened and closed. Of the total number of open cases, approximately 25 percent are children.

Prior to the Departmental Overview, Mr. Magill mentioned that the members of the Veterans Study Committee, chaired by Rep. James Smith, decided to visit all three of
our veterans’ nursing homes in the next several months to get feedback on veterans’ issues. First meeting was yesterday at the Stone Pavilion. Unfortunately, the attendance was low. Howard Metcalf and George Goldsmith also attended the meeting.

Ms. Bellamy said that the Department of Mental Health operates approximately 516 beds for veterans. On Tuesday, the Stone Pavilion had its VA survey. There were four surveyors who were at Stone for two days. Ms. Bellamy said it was a very good survey – citation free. Several comments from the surveyors were that the facility was well run, and the staff of Stone Pavilion should be “cloned”. One of the surveyors spoke of the improvements made at the facility. Ms. Bellamy recognized several of the staff who work at Stone that have been instrumental in this excellent survey: Dr. Kimberly Rudd, Medical Director; Frances Corley, Administrator; Sarah Kirchman, Admissions Director; and Stephanie Kemp, Director of Nursing.

Mr. Magill said that if the Commission wants the dates of the other two meetings at Campbell and Victory House please contact Connie.

Bill Lindsey said that Dr. Rudd was instrumental in reviewing the policies and procedures at the Department of Corrections and Corrections’ staff were very appreciative of her work.

Mr. Magill presented those items listed under the section Departmental Overview/Update.

Accreditation/Regulatory Surveys

- On December 12, 2013, the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) surveyed Roddey Pavilion, resulting in three minor citations.
- There was no survey activity at the Columbia hospitals.

Plans for Services/Scope of Services

- Harris Hospital is exploring the potential of having a certified Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) trainer to provide skills training to hospital and center staff interested in working with borderline personality disorder clients.
- Harris Hospital is looking at the possibility for utilizing vacant hospital space to create a day treatment setting for higher functioning patients.
- The renovation of C.M. Tucker Stone Pavilion has begun. In line with the renovations, it was noted that the capacity of Stone would be increased from 70 to 90 beds.
- DHEC approved the transfer of 51 GEO Care beds to the Bryan Hospital license, effective October 15, 2013. This has resulted in a reduction in the forensic waiting list.
- Division of Inpatient Services has undertaken a review of policies and practices related to patient privileges and patient movement within and outside of the facility grounds.

Recruitment and Retention

- Harris Hospital has a new Director of Professional Services, Dr. Theresa Bishop.
- A visitor survey was conducted and for the third quarter of 2013, 92 percent of those surveyed were pleased with the overall care and treatment of the patient; 95 percent agreed the patient is clean and well groomed; 95 percent responded that staff show respect and courtesy; and 92 percent feel the facility is clean.
and well maintained.

Performance Data

- For the period April 2013 to August 2013, Harris Hospital trends above the state and national averages in many of the core measures (timeliness of admission screenings for risk of violence, trauma, substance abuse and patient strengths; timeliness of discharge plan for continuity of care; and multiple antipsychotic utilization). The use of physical restraints trends below the state average. In the area of seclusion, the facility trended slightly above the state and national averages; however, 41 percent is attributed to one patient.
- Hall Institute Child and Adolescent and Bryan Adult Services composite scores for the period April 2012 to March 2013 are well above the Joint Commission’s requirements of 85 percent.
- Effective with January discharges, data must be reported to the Joint Commission and CMS for the number of patients age 18 and older who were screened for alcohol use using a validated screening questionnaire for unhealthy alcohol use; and the number of patients who within seven and 30 days of discharge experienced an outpatient visit, an intensive outpatient encounter, or a partial hospitalization.
- For the period July to December 2013, Roddey and Stone maintained the goal of less than five percent newly acquired pressure ulcers.
- For the period July to December 2013, the use of physical restraints at Stone was below the state rate all six months; Roddey’s rate was above in all six month, due to the use of Broda Chairs and 1:1 observations.
- For the period July to December 2013, Stone and Roddey’s Urinary Tract Infection rate was below the trigger each month.

Patient Injury Rates – July to September 2013

- Harris Hospital reported zero patient injuries.
- For the Columbia hospital system, a total of ten injuries were reported.

**Nursing Staff Injury Rates**

- Harris Hospital reported nine employee injuries for the period July to September 2013. Patient-staff assaults accounted for 78 percent of this total.
- A total of 13 were reported for the Columbia hospitals for the period July/August 2013, as compared to 25 for the previous quarter. Sixty two percent of injuries were at Bryan Adult, while 38 percent were reported at Hall.

*On a motion by Joan Moore, seconded by Jane Jones, the Commission approved unanimously the minutes of the Inpatient Facilities Governing Body Meeting of January 22, 2014.*

Geoff Mason introduced Sarah Main, who is Program Manager at Lexington Mental Health Center and handles client housing. Her presentation concerns better client access to entitlements. Last summer, she heard about the Benefit Bank of South Carolina, which is under the Office of Rural Health. The Benefit Bank of South Carolina (TBB-SC) uses technology and collaborations to improve the financial, health and household stability of South Carolina families. They are not a financial institution. They give people more access to a “bank” of resources. It helps people in completing several different applications, for several different agencies, all in one place and at one time, and during one interview. Ms. Main said she felt this would help the Department’s clients to determine what they are entitled to in the way of different services.

Ms. Main said that as the information is inputted into the application both the client and the center will be able to see what they are eligible to receive. As stated, the application is submitted electronically and multiple applications can be completed in 20-30 minutes.
Ms. Main said that TBB-SC provides training for entitlement staff on how to complete the application. By determining what the client is eligible for, it allows the staff to focus on therapy issues. It gives the client access to health care. She explained that when a client comes into Lexington Mental Health Center for an intake, the program is brought up on the computer to see what the client is eligible for.

Some of the challenges of this program are training of staff, turnover of trained staff, getting the word out and educating people about TBB-SC. She said that since October, 31 Medicaid applications have been completed. It is hoped to share this idea with the other mental health centers.

The Benefit Bank has been in operation for three years and programs are continuously being added to it.

● Bull Street Update – John H. Magill

Mr. Magill said that the Department is close to getting a better idea for what the Developer wants to offer for Hall Institute. He said there’s been many articles in The State paper regarding infrastructure. The Developer is asking between $90 to 100 million for infrastructure. Most of the discussions lately have been regarding the Ballpark. Mr. Magill feels the pace should pick up soon as the City Council has approved the first reading.

● Financial Status Update – Dave Schaefer

Mr. Schaefer said the trend we’ve seen lately is continuing. He feels that the Department is receiving good data regarding Medicaid. The agency is still seeing expenditures lower than projections. As a result, the Department is seeing a surplus. However, this surplus is due to the use of non-recurring funds.

● SCDC Assistance – John H. Magill

Mr. Magill reported on the assistance that DMH is providing to the Department of Corrections (DOC). He said that DMH is providing consultation to the Director and his senior staff. As a result, we have had two meetings with DOC. The first was an exploratory meeting; and the second, DMH provided information about Corrections’ policies and procedures. Mr. Magill sent Ed Spencer to Corrections to provide
consultation on whether they could utilize telepsychiatry in their work, especially as relates to telepsychiatry equipment connectivity. The Department is not offering its psychiatrists to work at Corrections. Without adequate funding, the Department could not assume this added responsibility. Corrections may bring in an outside company to render assistance. Bill Lindsey and Dr. Narasimhan are on the consultative team.

**Legislative Update – John H. Magill**

Mr. Magill had nothing of particular note regarding legislative issues. Mr. Bill Lindsey said that NAMI has been following closely the Corrections’ lawsuit. Mr. Magill has asked Rochelle Caton to provide information on any movement regarding the restructuring bills. Currently, these bills have had no movement out of committee.

**Public Information Effort Update – John H. Magill**

Mr. Magill reported that in the last 13 months, he has spoken to 26 civic clubs around the state; 1,518 individuals have attended these meetings. In addition, three more club presentations are booked, and approximately five additional presentations will be booked in other areas. Mr. Magill explained he meets with center staff before the civic club’s presentation. He has also visited 14 hospitals and met with the CEO and emergency room physicians, ten editorial review boards, and eight legislators. He has also visited some of the local 301’s as well during his visits.

**SUMMARY & WRAP UP**

Mr. Magill reported on the following:

- DMH had its presentation to the Senate Health Finance Committee on Wednesday, March 5. Every member of the committee was in attendance. Mr. Magill took the key staff that were instrumental in the snow days in order to give them recognition and call to the committee’s attention, that DMH is a 24/7, 365 day operation. Staff from Grounds, Maintenance, Hospitals and Nursing Homes were in attendance. Some of the staff who attended were Dr. Breen, Dr. Rudd and Jim Berry. Mr. Magill said that both Senators Pinckney and Lourie attended and asked some very good questions. He said there were a lot of questions on funding for school-based services.

- Mr. Magill said that Dr. Evans attended two of the meetings of the Institute of
Medicine and Public Health (IMPH). She said that there were representatives from the mental health arena. The purpose of these meetings is to review behavioral health issues and make recommendations for improvement.

- Mr. Magill said also that Dr. Evans spoke at the Cross Cultural Conference, which drew many mental health staff.

- Dr. Evans will be the keynote speaker at the 60th Anniversary Dinner of the Mental Health America-SC. It was noted that Dr. Evans has served as Chair of the South Carolina Mental Health Commission for ten years.

- Mental Health Advocacy Day at the State House is Wednesday, March 12, 10:00 a.m. There are many legislators expected to attend, namely, Senators Cleary, Scott, Hayes and Campsen; as well as Rep. James Smith and Leon Howard.

- Mr. Magill said that Sen. Cleary is trying to get his county to pass legislation for the mental health center to receive funds from the millage. Sen. Young and Rep. Taylor were interested in this and are contacting Sen. Cleary to get information to do something similar in Aiken.

OTHER ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS

None noted.

NOTICE/AGENDA

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:40 a.m., on a motion by Buck Terry, seconded by Jane Jones, the Commission entered into Executive Session to receive legal advice concerning a contractual matter. Upon convening in open session at 12:30 p.m., it was noted only information was received; no votes or actions were taken. The business meeting was formally adjourned at 12:30 p.m.
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