

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

**Charleston/Dorchester Mental Health Center  
2100 Charlie Hall Blvd.  
Charleston, South Carolina 29414**

**May 2, 2014  
Center Presentation**

**Attendance:**

**Commission Members**

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

Joan Moore, Vice Chair  
James Buxton Terry (excused)  
Beverly Cardwell

**Staff/Guests:**

John H. Magill	Tanya Ray	Deborah Blalock	Sonya Jenkins
Jacqueline Kinard-Gordon	Tammy Smith	Amy Cradock	Sabra Small
Kirby Bond	Cindy Cato	David Diana	

The South Carolina Mental Health Commission met at Charleston/Dorchester Mental Health Center, 2100 Charlie Hall Blvd., Charleston, on Friday, May 2, 2014. Alison Y. Evans, PsyD, Chair, opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m., and turned the presentation over to Ms. Deborah Blalock, Executive Director.

Ms. Blalock introduced Tamara Curry, Associate Judge of Probate for Charleston County. Judge Curry heads up the Mental Health Court in Charleston. Today she will talk about the Mental Health Heroes. Ms. Curry has been an Associate Probate Judge for 16 years and is currently on the board of the Mental Health Heroes. Mental Health Heroes is a 5013C organization that allows a board of directors. Membership on the board is very diverse. Some of the items that are handled by the Mental Health Heroes fund are:

- Reimbursement of prescription costs to clients.
- Rental assistance or housing assistance.
- Utilities and electrical bills.
- Training for staff members.
- Christmas party at the mental health center.
- Sponsor reception at Piccolo Spoleto.
- Transportation for clients to the center.
- Client Recovery Conference.

The Mental Health Heroes fund is supported by many individuals in the community who have a connection to mental health.

Judge Curry said there are five mental health courts in South Carolina. Funding for the courts comes through the county appropriations. Individuals have to meet the medical and clinical criteria to be included in a mental health court.

Ms. Blalock next introduced David Diana, Public Education Coordinator, who also handles community outreach. One item that falls under Mr. Diana's purview is the Art of Recovery Program, which really makes a difference is an individual's recovery from mental illness. Mr.

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Diana mentioned that the Art of Recovery will be showcased again at Piccolo Spoleto from May 24 to June 8 in the Circular Church on Meeting Street. There will be a reception on May 25.

Mr. Diana mentioned the Third Annual Low Country Mental Health Conference that will be held on August 7 and August 8 in Charleston. This conference has had tremendous attendance in previous years.

Mr. Diana next showed a video on the Fire Fighters' Support Team. This group renders behavioral health support to fire fighters, police and EMS workers, all first responders. This appeared on the previous day's news station.

Another item that falls under the Public Education/Community Outreach area is the creation of the Recovery Calendar for 2014, and the note cards with Art of Recovery paintings on them. These items are available for a donation made to Mental Health Heroes.

The next item to be discussed was the Highway to Hope RV. This idea started in 2010 and was part of a two-project grant from the Duke Endowment. The first project had to do with psychiatric urgent care to "fast track" patients into services at the mental health center. The second part of the project was the Highway to Hope RV. The center wanted to reach out to individuals in the county who had a problem in getting to the center for services. The RV takes the treatment services out to the rural areas of the county. It is staffed by two Masters level Mental Health Professionals, and a Psychiatrist. The RV travels to St. George, McLellanville, John's Island, Edisto and downtown Charleston. While downtown Charleston doesn't appear to be a rural location, it does serve the needs of individuals who go to the shelters in that area of the city. From 2010 to date, the RV has served 450 walk up contacts requiring all levels of treatment. The RV has an extremely low hospitalization rate. The RV is currently parked outside the center and the Commission was invited to see it if they wanted to.

Dr. Evans remarked that the Commission was very pleased with the center's presentation and congratulated the center on the four highlighted programs, which are quite innovative.

The center presentation concluded at 10:05 a.m.

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

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Connie Mancari, Recording Secretary